



# **UN Workshop on the Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Revision 3, for Caribbean Countries**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**

**1- 4 December 2015**



# **Overview of CR VS recent and current activities in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**



## OVERVIEW

- CARICOM Regional Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Workshop for Statisticians and Registrars;
- Initiatives by Member Countries post the CR and VS Workshop – Some recommendations from the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians ( SCCS)
- Other Key Workshops/ Training
- Data collection/Data dissemination



# CR VSWorkshops for Statisticians and Registrars

## **Workshop on Strengthening Capacity of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in CARICOM Member States- Improvement of Statistics on Fertility and Mortality:**

- Convened in April 2005, in Guyana
- Target: personnel from the National Statistical Organisation and persons engaged in operating and maintaining Civil Registration Systems as well as in the production of vital statistics
- Funded by the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and the United Nations Development Programme Project – Collection of Social Data for Poverty Reduction and Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals



# CR VSWorkshops for Statisticians and Registrars

## Objectives of the workshop:

- To strengthen the capacity of Member States to operate, manage and maintain Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems;
- To enhance Member States understanding of the elements, principles, concepts, definitions and techniques recommended internationally for the development, operation and maintenance of reliable Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems;
- To promote the use of harmonised concepts and definitions;
- To strengthen the capacity of participants to produce and disseminate timely, reliable and accurate statistics and indicators on fertility and mortality including relevant indicators to measure the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- To provide a forum for the exchange of experience among Member States; and
- To draft a plan of action to support the continuous strengthening of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems and the effective compilation of pertinent statistics at the national and regional levels.



# CR VS Workshops for Statisticians and Registrars

**Some of the Topics covered included the following items:**

- An Overview of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Essentials of an Efficient Civil Registration System, Essentials of an Efficient Vital Statistics System, Data Quality Control for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, Social Statistics and the MDGs, Cause of Death Statistics and Public Health.
- One of the **critical outputs** from that Workshop was a **Plan of Action** for the development of civil registration and vital statistics in Member States.
- The plan of action contained several **actions** nestled within nine recommendations to be implemented in the short, medium and long-terms.
- The **nine recommendations** were formulated in the areas of co-ordination/collaboration, infrastructure, data dissemination, legislation, data quality, harmonization, advocacy, use of outputs, and establishment of a forum.



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

The 2005 workshop stimulated efforts to improve statistics in this area at both the national and regional level- some of these initiatives are:

### CARICOM Follow-up- Survey:

- A survey was conducted in 2006 to monitor the implementation of the plan of action arising out of the 2005 Workshop on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems;
- Questionnaires were sent to all the Member States and Associate Members that attended the 2005 Workshop. Seventeen (17) countries participated in the Workshop and of this number 13 responded to the follow-up survey yielding a response rate of approximately 77%;
- The countries that responded to the Questionnaire or provided information included: **Antigua/Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St.Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Anguilla, Bermuda, and Turks and Caicos Islands.**
- Only one (1) member state reported that there was no follow-up in implementing the action plan of the 2005 regional Workshop while all other countries reported that some aspects of the short-term plan of action was undertaken and/ or are planned for implementation;



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

Some of these initiatives (continued):

### Audit undertaken in Jamaica;

- Over the past years, several reviews have been conducted by national and international agencies to improve the health information systems in Jamaica, with specific reference to the collection of mortality statistics. PAHO has supported several consultancies, including technical and administrative assessments with recommendations in collaboration with the United States National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS), and Centre for Disease Control (CDC).
- An audit of vital Statistics for 2006 data was done with the assistance of PAHO. Births and Deaths were captured up to 2007





## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

**Some of these initiatives (continued):**

**Audit undertaken in Jamaica;**

- Bedside registration by the staff of the Register General Department (RGD) in all major hospitals enabled the capturing of 90-98% of all births.
- The RGD has become more commercially oriented and offers free birth certificates to registrants of 2007 who registers within a certain period.
- Doctors are now registering the primary cause of death and training in this area has been schedule with the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus.
- RGD staff in all hospitals also enabled the capturing of neonatal deaths.
- The Coroner's Act was amended and deaths are now recorded even before the Coroner's inquest is completed. Prior to this amendment these deaths were only available after the inquests were completed.
- Data sharing agreements have been put in place between (i) STATIN and the RGD and (ii) STATIN and PAHO.
- STATIN provides the data format and structure in which the data is required



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

**Some of these initiatives (continued):**

### **Work put in place in the Bahamas;**

- the Central Statistical Office (CSO) does the coding of death data and conducted a parallel study with the Ministry of Health. CSO recognised that there was duplication of effort but took steps to reduce this duplication. Health code deaths- registrar general submit information to be coded by Statistics- Problem with differences in coding by Health and Statistics to be sorted out.
- Registrar births are automated and easily available but deaths are still problematic



## Initiatives post-CR & VS Workshop 2005

**Some of these initiatives (continued):**

### **Anguilla work put in place:**

The registry, a branch of the judicial department has responsibility for registering vital and civil events. Registering of these events in Anguilla date back to 1800's. Consequently, concerns about preserving records arose.

- Anguilla decided to capture their old records in **an Automated Civil Registry System**
- As a consequence the 31<sup>st</sup> SCCS received a presentation from a representative of KE Vitalware with respect to a software package for the management of vital statistics.
- The key emphasis of Vitalware's Processing: **1) Ensuring all and only actual events are accurately recorded; 2) Ensuring only valid certificates are issued to authorised applicants; 3) Verifying certificate details after certificates have been issued.**
- The system was designed with the inputs from all stakeholders in order to meet the need of a number of departments.



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

- The **main findings** of the follow-up survey include the following:
  - There has been **substantial progress** made by Member States in implementing the plan of action;
  - **Co-ordination and collaboration** is still a major challenge in several Member States even though there were some attempts to revive SIMDG committees;
  - **Review of legislation** which is critical to the entire process of strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics is needed in the majority of Member States [in recent years an overarching **Statistics Model Bill** has been developed and is being implemented];
  - Good progress has been made in **documenting procedures** at the national level in compiling civil registration information and vital statistics;



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

- The **main findings** of the follow-up include the following:
  - There is still a need **to adopt international standards** in compiling vital statistics in several Member States;
  - 
  - Strengthening of capacity is required in the area of **data quality assessments and system audits**.



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

- Based on the findings the following are some of the **main recommendations**:
- Given the importance of legislative framework for the collection of statistics and to enable data quality between the two critical agencies, Member States should seek funding to **review the legislation** surrounding the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system;
- A **procedural manual** should be produced for use in all Member States and should contain modules on mechanisms to enable the accurate completion of all forms used in the recording of births and deaths, the core data items required on birth and death certificates, critical issues on the coding of death certificates, implications for the compilation of rates and indicators including MDGs etc. This should be a collaborative effort between the CARICOM Secretariat, PAHO, CAREC , UNFPA and other agencies.
- **Technical assistance** is required by Member States to enhance their ability to conduct *data quality assessments* using standardized demographic and statistical techniques.

## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

### 2. Recommendations based on discussion and Thirty-First and Thirty-Second - Meetings of the Standing Committee of the Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) – second key initiative:

- **Recommended** that those countries should perform an internal audit to monitor the systems and to assess data quality at a periodicity to be specified;
- **Also recommended** that countries should prepare a procedural manual to enable the accurate completion of all forms used in the recording of births and deaths;
- **Recommended** that data-sharing agreements should be executed among partners in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems, including the format, structure and the frequency with which data were collected to enable the data to be transmitted to NSOs , (i.e., Data Submission Protocols be prepared under this Agreement);



## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005:

- **2. Recommendations based on discussion and Thirty-First and Thirty- Second - Meetings of the Standing Committee of the Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) – second key initiative:**
- **Also recommended** that training by organisations (PAHO) in the coding of deaths for Health personnel should also include Statistics personnel particularly, but not only, when there are changes in the classification systems;
- **Further recommended** automated coding system exist as a solution to coding challenges;
- **Recommended** that PAHO be informed that training in death coding should include personnel from statistics (this was with particular reference to the change from ICD9 to ICD10);
- **Also recommended** collaboration and appropriate timing the reintroduction of new classifications so that comparability is not affected;





## Initiatives post- Follow Up- CR & VS Workshop 2005

### 2. Recommendations based on discussion and Thirty-First and Thirty- Second - Meetings of the Standing Committee of the Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) – second key initiative:

- **Further recommended** that the vehicle of attachments be continued where these are in use in the Region and within countries;
- **Recommended** that assistance be made available for the training of line ministries in data collection and data presentation;
- **Also recommended** that the definitions of live births and still births be applied by all, to avoid challenges due to under-reporting.



## Other Key Workshops/Training

### CARICOM Training on Basic Statistics focusing on Fertility and Mortality Statistics:

- Convened on July 28- August 1, 2008 in Grenada
- Funded by the World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building Phase II
- Was a Follow-Up of the Workshop on Strengthening Capacity of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems in 2005
- Target: Staff from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Civil Registration and Vital Statistics and Health Departments.
- Attended by 15 participants from various ministries and other governmental organisations from 4 Member States i.e. Grenada, St.Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Dominica.



## Other Key Workshops/Training

### CARICOM Training on Basic Statistics focusing on Fertility and Mortality Statistics:

- The **main objectives** of this activity were to:
- Strengthen the capacity of Member States who were identified to produce and disseminate timely, reliable, and accurate statistics and indicators on fertility and mortality, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- Promote the use of harmonized concepts and definitions; and
- Provide a forum for the exchange of experience



## Other Key Workshops/Training

### CARICOM Training on Basic Statistics focusing on Fertility and Mortality Statistics:

- The participants visited the Civil Registry and Health departments in Grenada to get hand -on experience. Staff from the Health department demonstrated how Grenada uses ICD-10 for completing the medical certificates of death.
- The participants also did exercises with the data sets that they had to bring to the training.



## Other Key Workshops/Training

### CARICOM Training on Basic Statistics focusing on Fertility and Mortality Statistics:

- **Main Achievements**
- The training provided the participants with the following basics:
- Knowledge and understanding of basic indicators and methodology used in defining them, in the area of Fertility and Mortality Statistics;.
- Ability to utilise an excel spread sheet with formulas to automatically calculate the indicators;
- Generation of updated core indicators using updated input information.



## Other Key Workshops/Training

### CARICOM Training on Basic Statistics focusing on Fertility and Mortality Statistics:

- **Main Outcomes**
- Among the **major outcomes** are:
- The Strengthening of the Health Information Systems in the participating countries;
- Improvement in the civil registration process;
- In general strengthening of capacity in the national statistical systems, medical records systems and in Health surveillance.



## Other Key Workshops/Training

Convened Social/Gender Statistics and Indicators CARICOM Regional Workshops and MDGs/Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals Workshops in the following countries:

- Antigua and Barbuda (2009)
- Suriname (2010)
- Guyana (2011)
- Dominica (2013)
  
- **Focus** also placed on **health indicators** in Millennium Development Goals/Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals (MDGs/CSMDGs)
  
- Funded by the **9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF)**



# Other Key Workshops/Training

## CARICOM Social/Gender Statistics and Indicators Workshops and MDGs/Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals Workshops:

- The **objectives** of the Workshops were to -
- **review** existing data gaps based on Statistics and indicators submitted by countries;
- **identify** methods that can be used in filling these gaps;
- **review** the methodologies used in the production and compilation of CSMDG statistics; and
- **identify** existing data gaps and the challenges in collecting the data and how these can be filled.





# Other Key Workshops/Training

## Social/Gender Statistics and Indicators Workshops and MDGs/Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals Workshops

- **Main focus** was the issue of comparability of the data within and across Member States of the deliberations of the Workshop in an effort to continue the process of harmonisation of Social/Gender Statistics.
- Member countries were encouraged to have Inter-Agency Committee Meetings of key stakeholders involved in the area of the Social/Gender Statistics and from which core data could be obtained



# Data Collection/Dissemination

## Data collection/dissemination at the Regional Statistics Programme in the CARICOM Secretariat:

- Regional Statistics Programme collects Vital Statistics and other health statistics from Member States and updates the tables, some of which can be found on the website.
- The following slides show **examples** of the data availability matrices in Vital Statistics by CARICOM Member countries and years.







THANK YOU