GENERAL
LC/CAR/G.776
22 January 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS OF THE MDGs: AN EXAMINATION OF SELECTED SOCIAL STATISTICS FOR FOUR CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPMENT STATES

This document was prepared under project NET/00/035 "Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States". The project is funded by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Foreword

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean and secretariat to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is pleased to make available to policy makers, statisticians and researchers this, the third document of social statistics, entitled: Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): An examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Through the MDGs, governments in attendance at the fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly reaffirmed their commitment to working towards a world in which sustaining development and eliminating poverty would have the highest priority. It is the mandate of the regional commissions to assist governments in the fulfilment of these development goals. This document is not meant to provide an assessment of the status of any member State *vis-à-vis* the MDGs, but is designed to add to the stock of information in the subregion, which would assist in the effective production and management of social data required in the monitoring process. Because the MDGs have time-bound targets with measurable indicators, they require a robust set of social data to support the monitoring process. The difficulties faced by producers and users of social statistics that affect the monitoring process and recommendations for strengthening capacity in the social statistics field are discussed. This publication is meant to contribute to the ongoing efforts in the subregion, to bring social statistics in line with its economic counterpart.

The data presented in this compendium are drawn from the social statistical database housed at the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, from data sets available in the subregion and from the United Nations system. The secretariat wishes to acknowledge the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in the subregion for their continued support, without which, this publication and the database would not be a reality. The social statistical database forms part of the project: Development of Social Statistical Databases and a methodological approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States, within which the MDGs are being addressed, at the secretariat.

The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for its most gracious support in making this project possible.

Daniel Blanchard
Director a.i.

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Abstract

Challenges in meeting the monitoring requirements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): An examination of selected social statistics for four Caribbean SIDS, is the third document on social statistics to be produced by the Social Development Unit of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat.

This document seeks to characterise the challenges faced by Caribbean countries in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs. An examination and analysis of infrastructural capacity and key data issues are presented. Requirements for capacity building in the field of social statistics in the subregion are also explored. Selected social indicators of the MDGs, accompanied by technical notes, definitions and relevant discussions on the indicators are detailed.

The sources of data are the 1990 and 2000/2001 population census of the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Saint Lucia, housed at the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat social statistical database, and social statistical data sets drawn from databases of relevant, subregional and international agencies.

CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) THROUGH AN EXAMINATION OF SELECTED SOCIAL STATISTICS FOR FOUR CARIBBEAN SIDS

Introduction

This publication is the third document on social statistics to be produced by the Social Development Unit of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean/Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (ECLAC/CDCC) secretariat.

The first, entitled: *Digest of Selected Demographic and Social Indicators 1960-1994*, (LC/CAR/G.456) was published in December 1995, and sought to bring together a wide range of social, economic and demographic data with a view to promoting an understanding of the nature of these linkages and encouraging the integration of population in development planning. The primary sources of the material were the 1960-1990/1 censuses and the national statistical reports of member States.

The second publication entitled: *Quality of Life: A Compendium of Selected Social Statistics of Five Caribbean Countries (1995-2001),* (LC/CAR/G.680) was published in December 2001 and had as its primary source of material, the Surveys of Living Conditions (SLCs) of member States. These data sets were made available by the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of the member States and are housed in the social statistical databases at the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat. The purpose of the compendium was to form part of the tools in the subregion for the strengthening and furtherance of evidence-based social policy formulation processes. In that regard, it sought to demonstrate that "even with the limited data sets which exist in the subregion, a significant amount of information can be gleaned about the quality of life of persons".

The purpose of this, the third publication, is to make known the challenges facing the countries in the subregion as it attempts to meet the monitoring requirements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The sources of materials are the 1990 and 2000/1 population census, housed at the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat social statistical databases and social statistical data sets drawn from databases of relevant subregional, regional and international agencies. Data regarding the infrastructure for social statistics in the Caribbean are based on responses to a survey conducted by the ECLAC/CDCC Social Development Unit among the NSOs.

The second and third publications form part of the project entitled: *Development of Social Statistical Databases and a Methodological Approach for a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) for Small Island Developing States*, also called

the Social Statistical Databases Project and is supported by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

This document begins, in Section 1, with an overview of the ECLAC/CDCC social statistical databases project, within which the MDGs will be addressed, as well as a contextual discussion of the MDGs. This is followed in Section 2 by an examination of challenges in meeting the requirements of the MDGs. The two main challenges addressed are those of infrastructural capacity and data issues of quality, suitability, comparability, availability and documentation. Because monitoring the MDGs requires a robust set of social data, a survey of the infrastructure that supports social statistics in the subregion was undertaken and the findings presented and discussed.

Section 3 addresses some of the requirements for and solutions towards building social statistical capacity in the subregion and Section 4 provides supporting data for four countries in the Caribbean subregion and presents 33 of the 48 indicators of the MDGs, considered to be social indicators, along with technical notes for each of these.

SECTION 1

BACKGROUND TO THE DOCUMENT

1.1. An update of the Social Statistical Databases Project

At the center of monitoring the MDGs, is the need for a robust body of social statistics. The Social Development Unit of the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, in responding to the mandates arising out of the preparations for the various United Nations conferences which were held in the mid-1990s such as:

(a) The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD);

(b) The Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW); and

(c) The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD),

sought the most beneficial manner in which to respond to the governments' recognised need for an improved quality of social statistics and analysis of data.

The secretariat heard member States reiterate their commitment to the need for robust, social statistics in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the WSSD, 6-12 March 1995, when they called for reliable statistics and statistical indicators to be used to develop and assess social policies and programmes "so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively" (Commitment 9d). More directly, in Commitment 10, member States called on regional commissions, in cooperation with regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and banks, inter alia, to "pursue such mechanisms and measures as are necessary and appropriate to assist governments in meeting their commitments".

In an attempt to develop such mechanisms, in August 1999, the Social Development Unit, ECLAC/CDCC secretariat, formally submitted a project outline for the development of subregional social statistical databases and the construction of a methodology for the construction of a social vulnerability index (SVI), for Dutch funding, through an ECLAC mechanism. Funds became available in January 2001.

Over the last two years (2001-2002), the ECLAC/CDCC project accomplished its objective, which was the establishment of fully searchable databases. This was done in collaboration with the NSOs and regional institutions such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, and the University of the West Indies (UWI). The databases include Surveys of Living

Conditions (SLC), Population Census Data, and Labour Force Data, as detailed in Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 below.

Table 1
Survey of Living Conditions

Country	Year(s)	Format
Barbados	1996-97	Summary tables (excel)
Belize	1995	IMPS
Grenada	1999	DBF
Guyana	1994	SPSS
Jamaica	1990-1999	SPSS/SAS
Puerto Rico	1999-2000	Summary tables (excel)
St. Kitts and Nevis	2001	SPSS
Saint Lucia	1995	SPSS
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	1995	SPSS

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Report LC/CAR/G.702, 22 October 2002

Table 2
Labour Force Survey

Country	Year(s)	Format
Belize	1993-1999	IMPS
Saint Lucia	1994-2000	SPSS

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Report LC/CAR/G.702, 22 October 2002

Table 3
1990/1991 Population Census

Country	Format	Country	Format
Antigua	IMPS	Jamaica	IMPS
Bahamas	IMPS	Montserrat	IMPS
Barbados	IMPS	Puerto Rico	Summary tables –excel
Belize	IMPS	St. Kitts and Nevis	IMPS
British Virgin Islands	IMPS	Saint Lucia*	IMPS
Dominica	IMPS	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	IMPS
Grenada	IMPS	Trinidad and Tobago	IMPS
Guyana	IMPS		

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Report LC/CAR/G.702, 22 October 2002

Table 4
2000/2001 Population Census

Country	Format
Bahamas	Data files in ASCII format
Barbados	SPSS
Belize	IMPS
Netherlands Antilles	HTML files
Saint Lucia	SPSS

Source: ECLAC/CDCC database

Governments that have completed the 2000/2001 round of the population and housing census have agreed in principle to deposit same with the database and have begun to do so. The databases currently hold the 2000/2001 population and housing census for Belize, the Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Lucia. Aggregated census data has also been received from the Netherlands Antilles.

Administrative arrangements are being made for the Project to access existing data that can be found in other databases such as those held by the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC), the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The databases collected by the Project are to be mirrored in two other locations: the CARICOM Secretariat and the Derek Gordon Data Bank, UWI, Jamaica.

Researchers will be able to query the databases via a web interface, subject to the process put in place for approval granted by the NSOs. The first phase of the work is underway to enable this process.

The process of data collection continues and, through the series of technical meetings which have been held, data comparability and quality issues have been brought to the attention of the data managers at the national level for resolution. The development of a metadata dictionary is near completion and will be available to the users of the databases. Maintenance and updating of the databases is a continuous process.

Apart from the collection and harmonization of the data sets, the ECLAC/CDCC Project contains a training component. Forty-five persons from 20 member and associate member States were trained in 2002. These were social planners, social policy analysts and statisticians with responsibility for socio-demographic data. The training had as its objective the enhancement of the skills of senior technocrats in the field of social development in evidence-based social policy formulation and the workings of the Caribbean social statistical databases.

The other significant component of the Project was the development of a methodological approach for a SVI for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The lead consultant's paper on the methodology has been completed and sent out for peer review. Scholars, who have been engaged in the development of other vulnerability indices, environmental and economical, have been perusing the ECLAC/CDCC document and submitting responses. An expert group meeting is planned to arrive at a consensus on the best construction of the methodology by mid-year. This will be followed by the development of a manual for the construction of the SVI and testing in a number of Caribbean

SIDS. All publications regarding these developments are expected to be published and widely disseminated.

It is the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat's intention that the database will act as the overarching mechanism that will facilitate the more efficient use of social statistics in the subregion, thus strengthening the capacity for monitoring the MDGs.

1.2 The Millennium Development Goals

"The combination of extreme poverty with extreme inequality between countries, and often also within them, is an affront to our common humanity."[1]

In September of 2000, in resolution 55/2, 189 member States, of which 147 were represented at the level of heads of State and government adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration in which they agreed to spare no effort in fulfilling the global development objectives designated as the MDGs. In the Millennium Declaration, governments outlined what they considered as fundamental values and principles, essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and to the achievement of the objectives of development and peace. In so doing, they reaffirmed their faith in the Organization and its Charter and accepted a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. These fundamental values and principles included:

(a) **Freedom -** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice;

(b) **Equality -** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured;

(c) **Solidarity -** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice;

(d) **Tolerance -** Human beings must respect one another, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences with and among societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted;

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[1] "We the peoples", The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century: The Report of the Secretary General.

(e) **Respect for nature -** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development; and

(f) **Shared responsibility -** Responsibility for managing world-wide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role. [2]

Governments also reaffirmed their commitment to working towards a world in which sustaining development and eliminating poverty would have the highest priority. The MDGs grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organized by the United Nations in the past decade. The significance of the goals is that they have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress. The MDGs have time-bound targets with measurable indicators which speak to improvements in people's lives. Through the process of working towards achieving the goals, greater policy coherence and cooperation is expected to be achieved amongst the United Nations, its agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as multilateral bodies.

The MDGs consist of eight goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators. It is important to note that the goals as stated in the MDGs are not intended to undercut any agreements on other goals and targets which were reached at the global conferences of the 1990s[3]. The first seven goals are mutually reinforcing and are directed at reducing poverty in all its forms. The last goal, global partnership for development, deals with the means to achieve the first seven. For the poorest countries many of the goals seem far out of reach. It has been suggested that even in better-off countries there may be regions or groups that lag behind.

Caribbean countries, which in the main are middle income countries, will need to carefully consider if additional targets and indicators might be required to assist them in monitoring the achievement of their development goals.

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat derives its mandate to report on the progress towards the MDGs, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations Secretariat, which has been given the mandate to coordinate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the report on the progress towards the MDGs at the global and

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[2] Resolution 55/2 adopted by the General Assembly

[3] In the Annex to the Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General, paragraph 2 states that the list of goals "does not undercut in any way agreements on other goals and targets reached at the global conferences of the 1990s".

country levels. The goals, targets and their indicators are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Millennium development goals

Goals and targets		*Indicators*	
Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger			
Target 1.	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1.	Proportion of population below $1 per day
		2.	Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty)
		3.	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 2.	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	4.	Prevalence of underweight children (under five years of age)
		5.	Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education			
Target 3.	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	6.	Net enrolment ratio in primary education
		7.	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5
		8.	Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women			
Target 4.	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015	9.	Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education
		10.	Ratio of literate females to males of 15-to-24-year-olds
		11.	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
		12.	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality			
Target 5.	Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	13.	Under-five mortality rate
		14.	Infant mortality rate
		15.	Proportion of 1-year-old children immunized against measles
Goal 5. Improve maternal health			
Target 6.	Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	16.	Maternal mortality ratio
		17.	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Table 5: Millennium development goals ...cont'd

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
Target 7.	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	18. HIV prevalence among 15-to-24-year-old pregnant women 19. Contraceptive prevalence rate 20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
Target 8.	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course
Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability[a]		
Target 9.	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	25. Proportion of land area covered by forest 26. Land area protected to maintain biological diversity 27. GDP per unit of energy use (as proxy for energy efficiency) 28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) [Plus two figures of global atmospheric pollution: ozone depletion and the accumulation of global warming gases]
Target 10.	Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water	29. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source
Target 11.	By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	30. Proportion of people with access to improved sanitation 31. Proportion of people with access to secure tenure [*Urban/rural disaggregation of several of the above indicators may be relevant for monitoring improvement in the lives of slum dwellers*]

Table 5: Millennium development goals ...cont'd

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development[a]		
Target 12.	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally	[*Some of the indicators listed below will be monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked countries and small island developing States*] **Official development assistance** 32. Net ODA as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs)
Target 13.	Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPCs and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	33. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 34. Proportion of ODA that is untied 35. Proportion of ODA for environment in small island developing States
Target 14.	Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	36. Proportion of ODA for transport sector in landlocked countries **Market access** 37. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas 38. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing
Target 15.	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	39. Domestic and export agricultural subsidies in OECD countries 40. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity **Debt sustainability** 41. Proportion of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled 42. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services 43. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief 44. Number of countries reaching HIPC decision and completion points
Target 16.	In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth	45. Unemployment rate of 15-to-24-year-olds
Target 17.	In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 18.	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	47. Telephone lines per 1,000 people 48. Personal computers per 1,000 people [Other indicators to be decided]

[a] The selection of indicators for goals 7 and 8 is subject to further refinement.

Source: Fifty-sixth session, Item 40 of the provisional agenda, Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit. Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration Report of the Secretary-General (A/56/326)

SECTION 2

CHALLENGES IN MEETING THE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS OF THE MDGS

2.1 The context for social statistics

Social statistics have been defined as those areas of statistics relating to people, either as individuals or in various groups, and their living conditions. Social statistics have a very diverse nature because they describe social conditions, which encompass a wide array of occurrences. This diversity results in a complex pattern of data sets. In addition, the very broad spectrum of the coverage of social statistics allows for the inclusion of certain elements of what are commonly considered economic statistics, such as labour, income distribution, consumption and wealth, housing and costs of social services (United Nations, 1979). The main components of social statistics, however, usually include aspects of demography, health, education and training, food and nutrition, social protection and cohesion, mobility, culture and leisure, crime and justice, of which domestic violence forms a part (Banda, 2003).

It has been suggested that the production of statistics has a plural role: to service the needs of government for efficient administration, management and policy-making; to service the needs of the public to monitor the activities of the government; and to assess the changes in public well-being (World Bank, 2003). Although social policy formulation is a complex process that requires a number of inputs, it is recognised that just as economic statistics are the heartbeat of economic policy, so too are social statistics an essential input into the process of social policy formulation.

The globalizing process has created a certain dynamism in the social conditions of Caribbean countries. It has been argued that small size and openness of the economies and the vulnerabilities inherent in these factors may be reasons for the swift response of these societies to both the positive and negative impacts of globalisation. However, what is agreed upon is the fact that the scale and complexity of the changes, be they political, economic or social, require description in such a manner that pertinent and relevant information is available to stakeholders for the decision-making process. This dynamic situation has led to an increasing demand for policy-relevant statistics on a vast number of social issues.

It is no secret that this demand has not always been met across the region with the same degree of rapidity and accuracy. There are some historical reasons for this current situation. Among them is the greater emphasis, in the past, that had been placed on the value of economic statistics and demographic statistics over and above other social statistics.

In the Caribbean this is evident in the central role of economic statistics in the elaboration of development plans, particularly during the first and second decade following independence. This planning process, which centred on production data, strengthened the link between economic statistics and the formulation of development policies and subordinated the role of social statistics. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has historically acted as a strong influence on the strengthening of economic statistics in the subregion. Currently, through its General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), which began in 1995, a set of agreed upon standards have been put to use by its members in the dissemination of their economic and financial data. This has continued the Fund's influence on the quality of economic data produced. The GDDS has three main purposes: to encourage member countries to improve data quality; provide a framework for evaluating needs for data improvement and setting priorities in this respect; and to guide member countries in the dissemination to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible and reliable economic and financial statistics. Only recently, in 2001, did the Fund approve a newly articulated socio-demographic component of the GDDS.

The emphasis on economic statistics in the past has resulted in what Olenski (2003) refers to as the relative underdevelopment of social statistics. St. Bernard (2001) suggests that in the Anglophone Caribbean, there has been a tardiness in the initiation of programmes for the systematic development of social statistics. Another factor has to do with the manner in which many social statistics are generated. Banda (2003) suggests that social statistics are often produced in an ad hoc manner, inconsistently and by line ministries as by-products of administration. He further argues that administrative records for many social programmes are not well developed, resulting in the unreliability of the data produced and a limited applicability, mainly for record keeping and administration. In most Caribbean countries the health and education sectors, which have well-established administrative structures, have made considerable independent progress in the production and processing of data in a consistent and timely manner, while other sectors such as social services, crime and the judicial system, have lagged behind.

A fundamental problem of social statistics identified by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in 1978 was the lack of its internal comparability. This had been attributed to the multiplicity of agencies with differing definitions, all functioning in a 'self-perpetuating and piece-meal manner', that had formed the social statistical framework. It would seem that in some areas of social statistics nothing much has changed. St. Bernard (2002) in a study undertaken for ECLAC/CDCC to develop data collection systems for domestic violence, described systems for the collection of data in which many agencies had initiated their own internal processes of data collection, functioning in an uncoordinated manner and producing agency specific data. He concluded that the process resulted in concerns about quality and reliability of the data.

Where social statistics are derived from censuses and sample surveys, it is expected that these would be less disjointed and thus present higher quality and more reliable data. In addition there are other benefits to be derived from the collection of data via the census. The micro level data captured is an excellent source for the generation of custom-based or designed indicators, as well as a verification of sample data. This is not meant to suggest that more information should be solicited from the census process. There have been recommendations which suggest the contrary, that less is better and agreement exists on the necessity for other household sample surveys to obtain the varied nature of social information such as is captured in the surveys of living conditions.

The impetus for the production or development of different aspects of social statistics has often come from external sources. The ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the United Nations FWCW, 1995, are two of the better examples of external factors leading to a demand at the national level for specific social statistics. In this particular example, the demand was for gender disaggregated statistics and the collection of new data to capture issues such as women's involvement in decision-making. Similarly, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the World Summit for Children held in 1990, and the year 2000 goals established at the Summit, have gone a long way in strengthening the demand and production of social statistics, which describe the changing position of children.

One of the major factors currently pushing the demand for social statistical data at the national level is the global agreements by governments to identify indicators that would allow countries to measure and monitor development goals. The MDGs are one such set of indicators.

2.2 The infrastructure for social statistics in the Caribbean

What then is the infrastructure for the production (collection and processing) and dissemination of social statistics in the Caribbean and how will that infrastructure impact on the Caribbean's capacity to meet the requirements for monitoring the MDGs? To answer that question, the ECLAC/CDCC Social Development Unit conducted a survey among member States; information about both producers and users of social statistics was solicited from the NSOs; all 23 member and associate member States of the CDCC were sent questionnaires. The survey set out to assess the readiness of the social statistical infrastructure at the national level to accept the challenge of monitoring the MDGs. In that regard it sought information on the institutional structures of the NSOs that would permit fulfilment of this obligation; the capacity of the social function in the NSO; its role and relationship with other producers of social statistics at the national level; and its role and relationships with users of social statistics.

Table 6
Title of persons filling out questionnaire by number of years of service

Country	Title of person filling out the questionnaire	Number of years working with the NSO
Anguilla	Chief Assistant Secretary	10
Antigua & Barbuda	Senior Statistician	12
Bahamas	Head of Socio-Demo Unit	23
Barbados	Senior Statistician	12
Belize	Head of Socio-demo Unit	6
Dominica	Chief Statistician	16
Grenada	Chief Statistician	14
Montserrat	Senior Statistician	20
Netherlands Antilles	Head of Socio-Demo Unit	8
St. Kitts and Nevis	Statistical clerk	3
Saint Lucia	Chief Statistician	15
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Chief Statistician	29
Suriname	Not stated	3
United States Virgin Islands	Chief Economist	1
Mean number of years with NSO		12.29

Source: ECLAC/CDCC administered survey on the Social Statistical Infrastructure in the Caribbean 2003

The survey was self administered and 60% of the NSOs responded[4]. From the administrative data collected regarding title of the respondent, sex and years of service, it was possible to ascertain that females outnumbered males almost two to one, (see Table 6). The general impression is that in the 'hard' areas of the public sector, that is, those still having to do with finance and statistics, there would be a higher proportion of males than females, in comparison to what is regarded as the 'soft' areas, such as nursing and teaching. For all respondents the mean number of years working with the NSO was approximately 12.

[4] The response to one country questionnaire had technical difficulties so it could not be fully analysed.

Table7
Human resource capacity of NSOs

	Total number of persons working in NSO	Number of persons in the NSO that staff the Social Statistical unit (SSU)	Proportion of persons in social statistical unit to no. of persons in NSOs
Anguilla	6	1	16.7
Antigua & Barbuda	32	4	12.5
Bahamas	81	13	16.0
Barbados	72	8	11.1
Belize	31	5	16.1
Dominica	18	4	22.2
Grenada	25	3	12.0
Montserrat	6	0	0.0
Netherlands Antilles	35	4	11.4
St Kitts and Nevis	13	0	0.0
Saint Lucia	40	4	10.0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	14	3	21.4
Suriname	92	23	25.0
United States Virgin Islands	6	0	0.0
Total	471	72	15.3

	Type of training received by staff in the social statistical unit							
	University trained		Technical Institute		In–house training		Other	
	No.	% of SSU	No.	% of SSU	No.	% of SSU	No.	% of SSU
Anguilla	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
Antigua & Barbuda	1	25	0	0	0	0	3	75
Bahamas	8	62	1	8	4	31	0	0
Barbados	0	0	0	0	8	100	0	0
Belize	5	100	0	0	5	100	0	0
Dominica	3	75	0	0	1	25	0	0
Grenada	1	33	1	33	1	33	0	0
Montserrat	….	…	….	…	….	…	….	…
Netherlands Antilles	4	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Kitts and Nevis	….	…	….	…	….	…	….	…
Saint Lucia	2	50	1	25	1	25	0	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	33	0	0	2	66	0	0
Suriname	2	9	3	13	10	43	8	35
United States Virgin Islands	….	…	….	…	…	…	…	…
Total	27	38	6	8	33	46	12	17

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Table 7 presents a varied picture of the human resource capacity of the NSOs in the subregion. Of those NSOs which responded to the questionnaire, Suriname had the largest number of persons working in the NSO and the largest proportion of persons working in the social sector. As was expected, Anguilla, Montserrat and the United States Virgin Islands had the smallest number of staff due to their small population size. Proportionately, however, Anguilla was on equal footing with the Bahamas and Belize with approximately 16% of their staff working within the social sector. Three countries, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis and the United States Virgin Islands had no staff so identified.

Trinidad and Tobago, which had not responded to the questionnaire, in its report to the twenty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS), indicated that it had a staff of 476, making it one of the largest NSOs in the subregion followed by Jamaica with 370. There was no information available, for either of these NSOs, about what proportion of its staff worked in a social division or unit.

With regard to training, more than half of the staff in the subregion who worked in the social sector were university trained; a little over 10% had received training at the technical level and well over 50% received training in-house. This overall picture augurs well for the sharing of expertise across the subregion. However, the disparity among NSOs in this area is also large. Belize and the Netherlands Antilles can boast that 100% of their staff working in the social sector were University trained, followed by the Bahamas, 62%, and Saint Lucia with 50%. Grenada's staff in the social sector although small, three, had an equal spread of one person having been trained in each category. In-house training was utilised almost everywhere, as 33 persons or 46%, of those who worked in the social sector across the subregion had participated in such training. Where training and use of statistical software was concerned, Table 8 suggests that the NSOs in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Saint Lucia have received training in and do use appropriate statistical software to manage social statistical data. All other NSOs appear to be in a capacity-strapped position where use of appropriate statistical software is concerned.

Table 8
Training in and use of statistical software

Country	Number of persons in the NSO that staff the Social Statistical unit (SSU)	TRAINING RECEIVED IN THE FOLLOWING SOFTWARE PACKAGES											
		SPSS		SAS		REDATAM		GIS		IMPS		EPI	
		Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train
Anguilla	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antigua & Barbuda	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bahamas	13	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	8	10	0	0
Barbados	8	4	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
Belize	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Dominica**	4	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grenada	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montserrat**	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Saint Lucia**	4	6	6	0	0	3	0	4	4	7	0	0	0
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suriname	23	1	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	1
United States Virgin Islands	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	72	32	28	7	7	4	6	10	10	31	11	0	1

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

** Higher numbers of persons trained over number of persons in the social statistical unit may be due to other personnel in the NSO having received training.

Table 8:
Training in and use of statistical software … cont'd

Country	Number of persons in the NSO that staff the Social Statistical unit (SSU)	TRAINING RECEIVED IN THE FOLLOWING SOFTWARE PACKAGES											
		ACCESS		WORD		EXCEL		LOTUS		TELEFORM		CSPRO	
		Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train	Use	Train
Anguilla	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Antigua & Barbuda	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bahamas	13	4	5	0	0	13	13	0	0	0	0	4	0
Barbados	8	0	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belize	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dominica	4	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grenada	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Montserrat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Saint Lucia	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	3	0	1	10	1	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0
Suriname	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	72	4	14	18	9	34	34	10	10	5	1	5	0

Code: **Use** – use the following software; **Train**- received training in the following software
Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Table 9, which sought to capture the areas of social statistics in which the NSOs were involved, presents an interesting picture. Most NSOs are involved in the collection, processing and dissemination of demographic data via the population and housing census which is a central responsibility of all NSOs. Labour force data, likewise is the business of most NSOs except in the case of St. Kitts and Nevis whose labour force data is managed by its Ministry of Labour. In all the other areas there was a mixed response, and rightly so, as one expected the primary responsibility for the management of the specific data sets to reside with line ministries. Some NSOs qualified their responses to this particular question with the note that they managed these data sets in so far as they were collected through the population and housing census. In other instances the qualifier was that the management of a particular data set resulted from one of the surveys undertaken by the NSO. This was particularly true in regard to poverty and distribution of income data sets.

Table 9:
Areas of social statistics that are collected, processed and disseminated

Country	Child Labour*			Crime			Consumption & Accumulation		
	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.
Anguilla	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Antigua & Barbuda	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-
Bahamas	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	X
Barbados	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belize	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X
Dominica	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
Grenada	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
Netherlands Antilles	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X
United States Virgin Islands	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	X
Country	Demographic			Education*			Health & Nutrition *		
	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.
Anguilla	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Antigua & Barbuda	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Bahamas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbados	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belize	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dominica	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Grenada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montserrat	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X
Netherlands Antilles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
St. Kitts and Nevis	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	X	X
Saint Lucia	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-
Suriname	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
United States Virgin Islands	X	-	X	X	-	X	X	-	-
Country	Housing*			Labour Force			Poverty/Distribution of income		
	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.	Coll.	Pro.	Diss.
Anguilla	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-
Antigua & Barbuda	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Bahamas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbados	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-
Belize	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dominica	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Grenada	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Montserrat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Netherlands Antilles	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Suriname	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
United States Virgin Islands	X	-	X	X	-	X	X	X	X

*** These surveys are conducted on an ad hoc basis.**

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Table 10
Methods of analysis and interpretation of data collected by NSOs

Country	HOW IS DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION UNDERTAKEN?			
	In house alone	In collaboration with governmental experts	In collaboration with other experts	By others alone
Anguilla	-	X	X	-
Antigua & Barbuda	-	-	X	-
Bahamas	-	X	X	-
Barbados	-	-	X	-
Belize	-	X	X	-
Dominica	-	X	X	-
Grenada	X	-	-	-
Montserrat	-	X	X	-
Netherlands Antilles	-	-	X	-
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	-	X	-
Saint Lucia	-	X	X	-
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-	X	X	-
Suriname	-	X	X	-
United States Virgin Islands	-	X	X	-

Legend: X = Yes; -=No
Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

It is interesting to note that in most cases, data analysis and interpretation were reported to be undertaken in collaboration with government and external experts and not by others alone or in house alone. Table 10 presents the results to the question as to how data analysis and interpretation were undertaken by the social division of the NSO. If the reported results are accurate then it augurs well for building mechanisms for collaborative work between and among producers and users. The fact that no data analysis and interpretation was undertaken by others alone, however, may point to some distrust on the part of the producers, for the users, either as researchers or the general public. This distrust may be well founded as anecdotal stories are circulated in the subregion about misinterpretation of data or misused data. The distrust of users may however lead to entrenched feelings and practices of protectionism and exclusion, by producers of social statistics, pitting researchers, policy analysts, and the general public as foes of the producers of the data instead of partners.

Table 11 presents the data in response to the question, “how many publications has the Social Statistical Unit produced in the last five years”. For those countries that responded, a total of 66 publications have been noted. This averages about five publications per NSO. Once again, however, the picture is varied with some countries producing none, such as Barbados and the United States Virgin Islands, and others, such as Suriname, producing well above the average, 12. The Bahamas, Netherlands Antilles and Saint Lucia reported a higher than average level of output, indicating nine, nine and eight publications, respectively. Belize also produced above the average indicating six

publications. See Table 12 which details the outputs from the NSOs in the social field, detailing publications, the surveys that have been undertaken and their periodicity.

Table 11
Number of publications produced by NSOs and users

	NUMBER OF PUBLICATIONS AND USERS				
	Number of statistical publications	Main user	Second-ranked user	Third-ranked user	Fourth-ranked user
Anguilla	3	Government/Policy makers	Regional/International Orgs.	-	-
Antigua & Barbuda	1	Regional/ International Orgs.	Students	General Public	-
Bahamas	9	Researchers	Statistics Division/ Line Ministries	Regional/ International Orgs.	Labour Unions
Barbados	0	Government/Policy makers	Regional/International Orgs	Researchers	General Public
Belize	6	Statistics Division/ Line Ministries	Regional/International Orgs.	Researchers	Students
Dominica	3	Government/Policy makers	Students	General Public	Regional/ International Orgs.
Grenada	5	Government/Policy makers	NGOs	Researchers	Regional/ International Orgs.
Montserrat	5	Government/Policy makers	Regional/International Orgs.	Students	Researchers
Netherlands Antilles	9	Government/Policy makers	Private Sector	Labour Union	NGOs
St. Kitts and Nevis	3	Students	Private Sector	Regional/International Orgs	-
Saint Lucia	8	Statistics Division/ Line Ministries	Govt./Policy makers	Regional/International Orgs.	Students
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	2	Government/Policy makers	Students	Researchers	Regional/ International Orgs.
Suriname	12	Government/Policy makers	Regional/International Orgs.	Students	-
United States Virgin Islands	0	Govt./Policy makers	Private Sector	Researchers	-

- **= Not Stated.**

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Table 12
Social Statistical Infrastructure in the Caribbean

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PUBLICATION	YEAR PUBLISHED	TYPE OF SURVEY	PERIODICITY
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Social Statistics Digest 2001 Edition	March 2003		
ANGUILLA	Labour Force Survey	1999	Consumer Price Index	Quarterly
	Poverty Assessment Survey	2002		
	Census	2001		
BAHAMAS	The Household Survey Report 1999	2000	Household (Labour Force & Household Income)	Annual
	Report of the 2000 Census of Population & Housing	April 2002	Living Conditions	First and only one done in 2001. Periodicity undecided – perhaps every three or five years
	Bahamas in Figures (1999, 2000, 2001)	2000, 2001, 2002	Occupation and Wage Survey	Ad Hoc Plans are to conduct it biennially
	Statistical Abstract 1999	2000		
	Vital Statistics Report (1998, 1999, 2000)	2000, 2001, 2002		Annually
BARBADOS			Continuous Household Sample Survey	Quarterly
BELIZE	1999 Family Health Survey – Males	2002	Labour Force Survey	Annually
	1999 Family Health Survey – Females	2002	Belize Family Health Survey	Ad Hoc (1991, 1999)
	2000 Population and Housing Census: Major Findings	2001	Living Standards Measurement Survey	Ad Hoc (1995, 2002)
	Child Labour in Belize – A Statistical Report	2003	Population and Housing Census	Every 10 years
	Child Labour in Belize – A Qualitative Study	2003	Child Activity Survey	Ad Hoc (2001)
	Child Labour and Education in Belize – A situational and In-depth Analysis	2003		
DOMINICA	Statistical Digest No. 9	Oct 1999	Labour Force Survey	Every 2 years
	Demographic Statistics	Dec 2002	Population Census	Every 10 years
	Labour Force Survey	Nov 1999		
GRENADA	Gender Statistics (Women & Men)	2001	All surveys are conducted by the surveys section within the office	
	Vital Statistics Report	2002		
	Facts & Figures	2001		
	Environmental Statistics	2001		
	Abstract of Statistics	1998		
MONTSERRAT	Participatory Poverty & Hardship Assessment	Jan 2001	Census	Decennial

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PUBLICATION	YEAR PUBLISHED	TYPE OF SURVEY	PERIODICITY
	Vital Statistics	2001	Household Income & Expenditure	Every 5 years
	Census 2001	Jan 2003	Hardship Assessment	Decennial
	Social Policy Guidelines	Oct 2002	Labour Force	Every 5 years
	Statistical Brief	Sept 2003		
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	First results of Labour Survey: Curacao & Bonaire	2002	Labour Survey Curacao	Annual
	Fourth Population & Housing Census Netherlands Antilles 2001 Vols. 1&2 and CD-ROM	2002	Labour Survey Bonaire & St Maarten	Bi-annual
	Registered crimes by the Court Registry 1998/2000		Population & Housing Census	Every 10 years
	Vacancy survey 1998	June 2001	Victim Survey	Occasional
	First results of sport survey	Sept 1999		
ST KITTS & NEVIS	St Kitts & Nevis Demography Digest 2002	2003		
	St Kitts & Nevis Statistical Review 2002	2003		
	Annual Digest of Statistics 2001	2002		
SAINT LUCIA	Annual Vital Statistics Report	Sept each year	Saint Lucia Labour Force Survey	Quarterly
	Labour Force Report	1998, 2000	Earnings Employment & Hours worked	Yearly
	Preliminary Census Report	2000	Fertility	1998, 2000
			Poverty Survey	1995
			Ad Hoc Social Surveys	Regularly
			- Farmers	“
			- Fishers	“
			- Mothers & Children	“
			- Relocation	“
SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Vital Statistics Report 1999	2001	Labour Force Survey	1997, 1998, 1999
	Vital Statistics Report 2000	2003	Household Budget and Expenditure Survey	1996
			Poverty Assessment Survey	1995
SURINAME	Households in Suriname: 1993-1997	May 1998	Household Survey in the urban districts of Paramaribo and Wanica	Usually quarterly, on a continuous basis
	Annual Statistics Traffic and Transport: 1985-1997	Aug 1998		

COUNTRY	TITLE OF PUBLICATION	YEAR PUBLISHED	TYPE OF SURVEY	PERIODICITY
	Statistical Yearbook 1997 of Suriname	Nov 1998		
	Demographic data up to 1997	May 1999		
	Statistical Yearbook 1998 of Suriname	Nov 1999		
	Annual Statistics Traffic and Transport: 1990-1998	Dec 1999		
	Population Dynamics in Colonial Suriname Consolidated Midyear Population (free, non-free population and migrants) 1872	May 2000		
	Statistical Yearbook 1999 of Suriname	Nov 2000		
	Poverty Lines and Poverty in Suriname (in collaboration with Economic Statistics Division)	May 2001		
	Child Indicators Monitoring System Suriname Report 2000 -CIMS (in collaboration with the UNICEF)	Sept 2001		
	Statistical Yearbook 2000 of Suriname	Nov 2001		
	Traffic and Transport Annual Statistics 1995-2000	May 2002		
	Statistical Yearbook 2001 of Suriname	Nov 2002		
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS	Economic Indicators; Tourism Indicators	Yearly	Visitors Exit Survey	5 years
	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic Plan	Every 5 years		

Table 11 also presents data on the users ranked in order of priority from one to four. Nine country NSOs ranked government policy makers as their main users, while regional and international organizations were the largest group to receive second ranking. Researchers were the major users receiving the third ranking and no single group received the fourth ranking among the countries.

To be noted are the uncommon users such as statistics divisions in line ministries which were ranked as main users in at least two countries, Belize and Saint Lucia, and private sector users ranked as second main users in countries such as the Netherlands Antilles, St Kitts and Nevis and the United States Virgin Islands. When trying to ascertain the frequency of use by different categories of users, it was interesting to note, that although policy makers were ranked by nine NSOs as main users from Table 11, as many as five NSOs identified them as being not frequent users and four NSOs listed them as very frequent and frequent users (see Table 13).

All countries listed regional and international agencies as either very frequent or frequent users of social data. This seems to support the informal comments made by NSO staff regarding the extent of services provided to external partners. Social planners were identified across most countries as frequent users. It is a good sign that in 10 of the 14 countries that responded, civil society organizations were reported to be either frequent or very frequent users of social statistical data. What is not such good news is that six out of the 14 countries that responded had a web site and of those four reported that social statistics were accessed via the site, (see Table 14). Most social statistics are reported to be accessed via traditional methods of publications and/or via special requests.

Table 13
Frequency with which data from NSOs are accessed/requested by selected users

Country	FREQUENCY OF USE			
	Policy makers	Social Planners	Civil Society Organisations	Regional/International Agencies
Anguilla	Frequently	Frequently	Not Frequently	Frequently
Antigua & Barbuda	Not frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
Bahamas	Not frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
Barbados	Frequently	Frequently	Not Frequently	Very Frequently
Belize	Very Frequently	Frequently	Not Frequently	Frequently
Dominica	-	-	-	-
Grenada	Very Frequently	Very Frequently	Very Frequently	Very Frequently
Montserrat	Not frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
Netherlands Antilles	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
St. Kitts and Nevis	Not frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Very Frequently
Saint Lucia	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Very Frequently	Very Frequently	Frequently	Very Frequently
Suriname	Not frequently	Not Frequently	Frequently	Frequently
United States Virgin Islands	Very Frequently	Very Frequently	Very Frequently	Very Frequently

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

Table 14
Website availability and method by which users access social statistics of NSOs

Country	DOES NSO HAVE A WEBSITE	HOW ARE SOCIAL STATISTICS GENERALLY ACCESSED		
	Yes	Publications	Special Requests	World Wide Web
Anguilla	X	X	X	X
Antigua & Barbuda	-	-	X	-
Bahamas	X	X	X	-
Barbados	-	X	X	-
Belize	X	X	X	-
Dominica	-	X	X	-
Grenada	X	X	X	X
Montserrat	-	X	X	-
Netherlands Antilles	-	X	X	-
St. Kitts and Nevis	-	X	X	-
Saint Lucia	X	X	X	X
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	-	X	X	-
Suriname	-	X	X	-
United States Virgin Islands	X	X	X	X

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Survey for Social Statistics Infrastructure in the Caribbean

The survey sought, through a series of open-ended questions, to ascertain the nature of the relationship, if any, between NSOs and statisticians in line ministries from the social sectors. For a number of NSOs very little or the barest relationship existed. In those cases it involved, in the main, the processing and publishing of data, mainly vital statistics which were submitted by the line ministry to the NSO. Where a more substantive relationship existed dynamic interactions were reported as taking place on the ground. Usually, the collaboration was reported to be strongest where the line ministries had greatest capacity – such ministries being the ministries of health and/or education.

In the case of Belize, there was close collaboration between the NSO and the line ministries for the purpose of writing statistical publications, such as sharing authorship with experts from line ministries on the Living Standard Measurement Survey. Other NSOs regularly published administrative data, helped build databases or published line ministry data on their web site, as in the case of Saint Lucia. Still others integrated the data collected from line ministries into the calculation of indicators such as in the case of the crude death rate where the population data comes from the NSO, but the number of deaths comes from the Ministry of Health. In the case of Suriname, regular consultations between the NSO and public health, justice and police and the civil registry were reported to have taken place, for collaboration on publications and information sharing.

Some attempts were being made by the NSOs to directly influence the quality of social statistics produced outside of their ambit. In one instance such action was taken through a mechanism of a Social Indicators Committee, through which the NSO had been able to assess the quality and the data collection systems in the line ministries and make recommendations for improvement. In another instance, a modified coding manual of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and the International Classification of Industry (ISIC) was produced and made available to various agencies which collected related data. There is room for much more action in this area.

Most NSOs indicated that they had not been a provider of training for line ministries, but some had coordinated such training. Saint Lucia had, for instance, been a provider of training in areas of its competence such as the Geographical Information System (GIS), general statistical processes, data management and questionnaire design and data capture. Likewise, Suriname reported providing elementary and mid-level statistical training in the past to its own staff and the staff of line ministries and had coordinated computer training, particularly in the management of child-related data.

When asked, “What initiatives has your office pursued to increase use of social statistics”, NSOs reported on a variety of initiatives. Some had opened a

library; others reported placing monthly articles in the press; making use of statistics week to present social statistics; hosting workshops and national seminars; and building links with various stakeholders such as the University, independent researchers and NGOs. In one instance, an NSO reported that it had lobbied for an additional post in the area of social statistics and had been successful in acquiring same.

There would be little disagreement that NSOs faced varied and significant problems as they addressed the issues of production and management of social statistical data. As the response to the survey indicates, NSOs have not been passive in the face of these new challenges. Attention can now be turned to the data issues.

2.3 Data issues in meeting the monitoring requirements of the MDGs

A number of data issues have arisen regarding the indicators that would monitor the MDGs. In order to address these issues it was felt that a practical approach would be best suited. The discussion which follows is presented with reference to tables and technical notes that appear in Section 4. Through this discussion, it is intended to assist NSOs in their engagement with holders of various data sets at the national level and strengthen the national process for monitoring the MDGs. This discussion is also designed to support ongoing work being undertaken by CARICOM, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and others in the subregion to build capacity for monitoring the MDGs.

Among the data issues most prominent in the discussions on monitoring the MDGs is the overarching one that speaks to the suitability of certain indicators to SIDS of the Caribbean. More directly however are those issues that speak to data quality, comparability, availability and documentation. All of these make formulation of the MDG indicators a worrisome task. This document is not intended to present a comprehensive discussion of either of these two areas, as it is obvious that each can form the basis of independent studies. Instead, it is hoped that, through the presentation of the data and their definitions and by highlighting a select number of cases, further dialogue would be encouraged and remedial action taken where possible.

2.3.1 Suitability of indicators

Concerns have been raised regarding the suitability of a number of the indicators for Caribbean SIDS. In some instances the scale of measurement is at issue, in others it is definitional and yet others may have to do with the usefulness of the indicator in describing the status of social development in Caribbean SIDS.

Researchers have for some time now expressed their dissatisfaction with indicators that called for the unit of measure based on 100,000 persons. As is presented in the technical note for goal number five, indicator number 16, the calculation of maternal mortality is not recommended for countries with an estimated annual number of live births less that 10,000. This recommendation speaks to approximately 18 member and associate member States of ECLAC/CDCC and altogether some 21 SIDS in the wider Caribbean. Although, by using this measure a figure is derived that is comparable to the international standards, as presented in Table 25, the result would be virtually meaningless as a tool for policy makers at the national level. It is noteworthy that indicators that address access to telephones, cellular lines, personal computers and internet access, whose data are presented in Tables 32-35, are computed using a unit of measure based on 1000 people. This of course augurs well for countries with small populations.

Another concern has been expressed regarding the indicators for poverty, particularly for indicator number one, under goal one, which speaks to the proportion of population living below $1, purchasing power parity (PPP), per day. Questions have been raised regarding the adequacy of this indicator for describing the extent of poverty, or varying levels of hardship across countries and its usefulness as a tool to guide policy makers at the national, subregional or international levels. Technical note number 1.B refers to a study by Verschoor and Kalwij which critiques the $1 PPP. In that study the authors suggest a preference for the infant mortality rate as a 'second response variable' since a high rate captures more fully the material hardship which the monetary measure cannot capture. Pogge and Reddy (2003) argue that the use of the PPPs is inappropriate for poverty assessment because the international poverty line, which it creates, cannot be said to identify people facing similar circumstances of poverty regardless of where they live. As a tool for policy makers it may therefore distort the picture of the proportion of poor in a country, making it appear lower than it actually is. Researchers in the Caribbean have joined their voices in the debate and have suggested that while the concept and goal of the PPP are laudable and necessary, the "continuing theoretical and methodological difficulties are sufficiently serious as to question its usefulness" (OECS, 2002).

For social statistical data to be useful, it is usually necessary to disaggregate by various characteristics. One of the characteristics that often creates a dilemma in Caribbean SIDS is that which seeks to describe rural and urban. This occurs because the conceptual line between the two attributes can become blurred. Currently four indicators require a rural/urban disaggregation of data. One is a subset of indicator 18, which speaks to "HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 in major urban areas"; another is indicator number 30, which seeks to address the "proportion of the population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural"; indicator

number 31, which seeks to define the "proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation"; and indicator number 32, "proportion of households with access to secure tenure". One study[5], in describing the situation in a Caribbean SIDS, suggested that in light of the shifting population, small size of the country and improved communication, the rural/urban divide was not very hard and fast. The International Labour Organisation (ILO)[6] in discussing the rural/urban divide suggests that the distinctions between them are not amenable to a single definition that would be applicable to all countries, due to the national differences in the characteristics that distinguish urban from rural areas. They go on to recommend that in the absence of an international standard definition, the data for the indicator should be based on national definitions of urban areas established by countries in accordance with their own needs. Usually this definition takes into account the size of the locality. The question of whether Caribbean SIDS should include issues of accessibility to the centre, as part of its conceptual definition of rural/urban or only population size, and agreement on this issue at the conceptual level would enhance the meaningfulness of the indicator at the national, subregional and international levels.

The gender indicators also give rise to issues of their suitability for Caribbean SIDS. The indicators have been pitched at the global minimum level so they may not provide a useful measure for gender equality in the subregion. Two of the indicators speak to equal access to educational opportunities these indicators, by and large, have achieved in the subregion. The third indicator, "share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector" which is expected to measure women's economic equality and empowerment may not adequately do so. The United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has suggested that for most of the world's women this may be true. They have recommended that new indicators should be considered which track women's participation in informal waged work; measure women's involvement in "decent work"; and measure disparity in wages.

2.3.2 Availability

The issue of data availability not only speaks to data that is absent but addresses the issue of the usefulness of proxy data that does exist. As was mentioned in Section 2 of this study, social statistics are derived from two main sources, administrative data and surveys. In the subregion the key survey that is undertaken by all countries continues to be the census of population and housing, conducted once every 10 years. However, many of the indicators for monitoring the MDGs require information that is drawn from either administrative data in combination with population data, or data

[5] St. Kitts/Nevis Poverty Assessment Report , March 2001
[6] Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) ILO www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/kilm/ind_9.htm

captured through household surveys. For example, the "poverty gap ratio" and the "share of the poorest quintile in national consumption", both require data that is drawn from surveys of living conditions (see Tables 15 and 16). In most countries, except Jamaica, the conduct of SLCs has been one-off surveys.[7] Box 1, details a listing of the full set of household and income surveys undertaken in the subregion from 1994 to current.

Box 1:
Caribbean countries with household and income surveys 1994-2002

- Country poverty assessments for Belize (1995, 2002), Grenada (1999), St Kitts/Nevis (2001), Saint Lucia (1995), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (1995) and Turks & Caicos Islands (2001);
- Living standard measurement surveys for Guyana (1994) and Trinidad and Tobago (1993/94) sponsored by the World Bank;
- Survey of living conditions for the Bahamas (2001) and Jamaica (1989-2001) by the Planning Agency of Jamaica;
- The survey of social and income inequality in Barbados, sponsored by the IDB;
- The survey of poverty in the Dominican Republic, Fundacion Economica y Desarrollo, Inc (1994);
- Food security and living standards survey in Haiti, conducted by the USAID, 1995; and
- Poverty assessment in Suriname (1999), sponsored by the UNDP

Source: ECLAC LC/CAR/G.609, 29 February 2000 and ECLAC Survey (2003)

It is evident that gaps exist in the data for poverty, such as for indicators which present data on underweight children and the population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (see Table 17). Data for under-weight children are usually drawn from anthropometric surveys, which are not regularly undertaken in the subregion.[8] Education data also have gaps as is made clear in Table 18, which presents data regarding survival to Grade 5. The data, which is used to create the indicator, is gathered through administrative attendance records. Although this data exist at the level of the school, they are unavailable at the national and subregional levels. The gender indicators, as presented in Tables 20, 21 and 22 demonstrate that data that may be unavailable in one period can be brought into the mainstream, a process which may be ascribed to the efforts to meet the reporting requirements for Beijing and Beijing +10. The same can be said about the environmental data that appears in Tables 38 through 41. Only two sets of data are missing: use of solid fuels and energy use. Data for infant mortality and under five mortality, presented in Tables 23 and 24, although available, require proper examination as they are based on administrative records, supported by survey data. Their reliability is not always at the level that is desirable, making the data available, but questionable. The same argument can be raised for data presented in Table 25 – Proportion of children one year old, immunized against measles. Once again the primary source of

[7] See Box 1 in Section 2 of this paper, which speaks to the current publications, produced by social sectors of NSOs and the surveys in which they have been involved.

[8] Anthropometric surveys are not regularly undertaken in most countries. Height and weight measurements are collected primarily from schools and clinics. In clinics, the data that are most consistently obtained is for children 0-6 months of age. Data for children aged 5-18 are generally obtained at school and this is not done in a regular and consistent manner. Also where there is a school nurse reporting such data, these data are often transmitted to the Ministry of Education rather than the Ministry of Health. As a result most countries in the Caribbean are unable to report, at the country level, on the indicators that speak to prevalence of underweight children. The Chief Medical Officer's report may provide data on this indicator for children under five years of age.

those data are administrative records, and the count may not always be reliable.

Utilising approximate data or proxy data can relieve the unavailability of existing data. In the case of data that speaks to the prevalence rate of pregnant women as required for indicator number 18 "HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women", which is unavailable, alternative data may be presented. In this case, data for women in the reproductive age group 15-49 is available and is presented in Table 27. Sentinel surveillance[9] was undertaken among pregnant women, and should be available in the health system, but does not appear on the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) web site. Indicator 19 – "condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate" seems unavailable. Data on condom use in the past came from demographic and health surveys or what are currently called in some countries family health surveys and/or from contraceptive use surveys which were conducted by the family planning associations. Tables 28, 29 and 30 present data from the most recent Family Health Survey of Belize, which best approximates the sub-indicators of indicator 18 that treat with condom use. Table 31 also presents such data. It is assumed that the data could be further disaggregated by age to allow for a better fit with the indicator requested. NSOs will have to mine the available data to construct the required indicator. In regard to the two sub-indicators which speak to HIV knowledge, Table 30 presents data drawn once again from the Family Health Survey of Belize to illustrate what may be the best approximation to the required data. Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behavioural (KAPB) studies on HIV/AIDS, which are usually conducted through ministries of health, however would best meet the data requirements as the questions asked are a perfect fit to the data required.

In regard to goal number 8, indicator 45, data for youth unemployment rates, as presented in Table 47, are available. However more timely employment and unemployment data ought to be produced and disseminated by more countries in the subregion. In addition standardization of variable definitions would enhance the comparability of the data at the subregional level.

2.3.3 Comparability

Banda (2003) has posited that achieving comparability of statistical data over a period of time is one of the major challenges facing the social field today. This is particularly so when different sources are combined in order to arrive at a particular indicator. At the heart of the discussion around comparability of

[9] Data collected from a sample (random or non-random) of sites instead of the universe of sites. "Sites" may be health facilities, population groups (pregnant women), households, animals, etc Sentinel surveillance may have multiple objectives: Estimate disease burden and trends for entire population; Early warning of epidemics, if in epidemic-prone areas; Operations research to assess efficacy or effectiveness and are often used for policy decisions.

social statistical indicators are the conceptual and definitional issues and, to some extent, methodologies for data collection and analysis. Because many of the indicators require the aggregation of data across differing data sets, comparability of the data sets at the national level becomes essential.[10]

In the case of administrative data, it became even more important to ensure that definitions regarding the phenomena for which data are being collected are clearly understood by those with the responsibility for collecting/recording the data. The protocols for collection of the data, as well, have to be standardized and known to all, otherwise the data, which describes the social phenomenon, loses its reliability. In the case of Table 25, which looks at "maternal mortality ratio", there are concerns, not only with how the indicator is computed (as discussed in the section on suitability), but also with the reliability of the actual count. It was not clear if the data presented includes deaths caused by illegal abortions, or as a result of more adherence to the data collection protocols. See the definitions in the annex on maternal mortality. This same question might also be in relation to the "number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS". In the Caribbean where stigma of death from HIV/AIDS is still high and therefore underrecorded, it is expected that the count of children orphaned from HIV/AIDS would also be low.

At the national level, very few member States have produced standard definitions, classifications and question modules for commonly surveyed social phenomenon. This lack of standardisation at the national level makes harmonisation at the subregional level near impossible. Where standards were agreed upon at the international level for particular variables, such as in the case of some variables captured in labour force data – unemployment, employment - or others captured in health and education data, efforts at harmonisation becomes less difficult. Where those standards have not been agreed upon, or are not adhered to, many problems arise with the comparability and usefulness of the resulting data. The indicator that addresses the "Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural" provides an opportunity to examine the issue of possible harmonisation of data at the subregional level. It is obvious that the four countries share a core data set and add additional variables to suit their peculiar circumstances. What is required, however, is consensus at the subregional level in terms of what combination of variables constitute "access to improved water source", as the international definition, which is presented, is very broad and might not best describe "improved" circumstances for Caribbean SIDS. Table 42 presents the data as computed for placement in the millennium data site. How useful those data sets are to national level policy makers would be questionable. Data presented in Tables 44, 45 and 46 (access to sanitation and housing), require the same treatment as data in Table 43 (access to safe drinking water), that is, arriving in the subregion at a

[10] This discussion was also explored in ECLAC/CDCC document LC/CAR/G.702.

consensus on which variables would be included in the calculation of the indicator for improved access.

Comparability over time also needs addressing in the subregion. Table 52 which presents data from the four countries under review, for indicators 48 and 49 (telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 1000 persons and personal computers in use and Internet users per 1000 persons, respectively), reinforces the need for consistency in questionnaire design and ensuring comparability over time at the subregional level.

2.3.4 Quality

Many references, from the tables presented, can be made to data quality in the subregion. Table 19, for example, which addresses indicator 8 – Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, speaks pointedly to one of the major data issues in the subregion currently under discussion - that of data quality. The UNESCO definition of a literate person is one who "with understanding, can both read and write a short simple statement on his (her) everyday life"[11]. In the OECS Human Development Report, the question was raised as to the accuracy of literacy data in the subregion which is based on the number of years of primary schooling achieved (OECS: 95). In most countries the number of years schooling considered to achieve literacy is five or more. Harvey (2000), in speaking to the need for continuing education noted that some 20-30% of those who enrol and 15-20 % of those who stay in primary school leave without the required mastery in mathematics, reading and writing. In essence the discussion in the subregion raises questions about the definition of literacy and the methodology for ascertaining same. Quick consensus on this issue is necessary in order to present reliable data for Table 6. Another issue regarding the quality of the data has to do with whether or not all the sub population groups in a country are included. This is exemplified in the case of literacy data in countries like Guyana, or Belize where inclusion of the indigenous populations could result in lower rates than presently obtains, given the current definition of literacy.

2.3.5 Documentation

Another area of concern in the discussion of data issues is the lack of adequate documentation, in the form of the production of national data dictionaries for social phenomena being measured. This becomes even more worrisome when collecting data from various sources. Tables 34 and 35 present data for indicator number 24 "proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course Direct Observation Treatment System (DOTS) WHO". Firstly, the data speaks only to detection and

[11] This definition is taken from a Literacy on line – Papers from the 2nd Asia Regional Literacy Forum. http://www.literacyonline.org/products/ili/webdocs/riet.html

because of the lack of definition for the method of detection used in the reported cases of tuberculosis, it is impossible to compare this data with the regional and international data presented in Table 37. The data source in Tables 34 and 35 is CAREC. Metadata should describe, the indicators used, the surveys conducted, the methodology and the quality of the data presented.

SECTION 3

TOWARDS SOLUTIONS – BUILDING SOCIAL STATISTICAL CAPACITY

The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has as one of its primary aims the strengthening of the culture of evidence-based social policy formulation within the subregion. Essential to that process is assisting governments achieve a level of statistical capacity that allows them to produce and disseminate social statistics that fulfil international standards for quality and have national and subregional comparability and coherence. The 'statistical information gap', of which Olenski (2003) speaks, in reference to countries in transition, fits the description of Caribbean SIDS very well. The gap occurs when the (social) dynamics of a country occur at a rate with which the official statistical systems in the country cannot keep pace, particularly in regard to the scope and timeliness of data delivered by official statistics. To reduce the gap and meet the standards of quality, social statistics need to address certain criteria that include ensuring relevant coverage, periodicity, timeliness and integrity while ensuring accessibility of data by all stakeholders. In essence the issue is data quality management which speaks to the treatment of data at various stages of its existence. Characteristics of good data management are, in addition to the above, accuracy, consistency and validity. Arriving at that juncture of quality social statistics requires building social statistical capacity. Banda (2003) has defined this capacity as encompassing a number of elements such as organizational structure of the national statistical system; human and financial resources; statistical training; and data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination capabilities. Africa (2003) identifies a number of key principles that can be viewed as critical in the development of any new strategy for capacity building. These include:

(a) Commitment at the national level demonstrated by the allocation of the necessary and adequate financial and human resources;

(b) Adoption of sound management practices by the NSOs to enable effective and efficient use of all available resources;

(c) A demand for statistics by policy makers, researchers and the general public;

(d) Policies that ensure data transparency and credibility; and

(e) Improved data dissemination practices by the NSOs themselves.

There has been little disagreement by scholars, policy makers and statisticians in the subregion, that capacity in the area of social statistics is weak. Busby (2003) suggests that weak capacity is apparent in the insufficiency and questionable quality of data, which is evident in the

subregion. This is clearly demonstrated when attempting to meet the monitoring requirements of the MDGs, as seen in section 2.3. The results of the survey conducted by the ECLAC/CDCC secretariat on the infrastructure for social statistics, records afresh some areas of that weakness. This section of the paper points towards aspects in which capacity building, ought to be addressed, if the subregion is to effectively monitor the MDGs or any other development goals which they have set. These aspects involve people, systems, technology, resources and political will.

3.1 People

There are two groups of persons involved in the social statistical environment: the producers of statistics and the users. The problems of the producers have been articulated many times over. These include lack of trained personnel, high staff turnover and inadequate resources to undertake the tasks of producing quality social statistics. Any programme aimed at improving the quality of social statistics in the Caribbean therefore must address the human resource requirements of the task. That requirement is for an adequate number of well-trained, competent and satisfied staff. NSOs in the subregion suffered the fate of all public sector entities during the period of structural adjustment, that is, depletion of human resources. Finding the appropriate balance between adequacy of the human resources and the countries' financial constraints, is one of the challenges that have to be met if effective monitoring in the social sector is to be accomplished.

Not all countries in the subregion have the same staffing problems. Moreover, staff size alone is not the only basis for achieving a sound level of capacity in the social statistics field. Looking at the staffing of a sophisticated/successful NSO in the north in comparison to an NSO from the south in this subregion can shed some light on the issue. Statistics Norway, has a staff of approximately 900, and services a population of some 4.4 million. The Trinidad and Tobago NSO on the other hand, which services a national population of 1.3 million with a staff of 476, has twice as much capacity as that of Statistics Norway, if all things – qualifications, skills set and technology - were equal. In order to produce robust social statistical data and information, other criteria, in addition to staff size, must be considered such as staff training, use of appropriate technology and effective management.

The training of statistical staff is by no means a new issue. At the twenty-seventh meeting of the SCCS, held in St. George's Grenada, a proposal was made for the institutionalization of formal training for statisticians via the establishment of an institute or centre at the University of the West Indies (St. Bernard, 2002). It was noted that this idea had been introduced in the 1980s but had not received the necessary support.

Although the notion of continued formal training received wide support from the statisticians and other researchers present, it was clear that many partners around the table expressed fatigue, where support for training was concerned. The view was expressed that donors had supported training in the past for statistical staff, only to have them move on, leaving NSOs in dire need of qualified staff and once again requesting training support. It was clear from the discussion that mechanisms needed to be put in place that would address, not only support for the creation of a training institute, but issues of increased personnel, job satisfaction, job enlargement and career mobility coupled with sound management practices, if trained staff members were to be retained. Many countries represented at the meeting of the SCCS described the difficulties experienced as a result of high staff turnover, reinforcing the fact that the issue must be addressed speedily and effectively.

Another personnel issue has to do with the institutional arrangements in which social statisticians work. It has been suggested by the UNSD that the best institutional arrangement possible is for staff involved in social statistics to be working as a group in a unit, department or division of the NSO. Only three of the 14 countries that responded to the ECLAC/CDCC survey reported that they did not have such a unit. What was clearly inadequate to meet the task before them was the size of those units – or number of staff - and available skills set. Close links with the line ministries that collect and prepare administrative data is also recommended. Such links should result in greater coherence in the production of social statistical data, as it should lead to the reduction in the incomparability of similar data constructs, caused by differing concepts, definitions and units for data collection and analysis (Banda 2003). Line ministries could also benefit from statistical improvements that occur at the NSO. In the subregion, these links, in most instances are new and fragile. Strengthening these links is necessary.

It is advisable that the producers engage not only in the production of data but in some level of analysis so that relevant information is created and disseminated in a manner that is easily discernible to the particular user. Such analysis will eventually enhance the credibility of the unit and the institution. A special unit within the NSO could be established to engage in such analysis. Alternatively, mechanisms could be established which allow for analysis to be undertaken jointly with the relevant experts within the governmental sector. Evidence of some NSOs, such as those of the Bahamas and Belize, adopting this approach is heartening. Where this level of collaboration does not exist, the case of Jamaica, can be examined in which a separate institution has been established - the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) – to undertake analysis.

Attention can be turned to the other group of people in the social statistical arena – the users. Users can be stratified into two groups, the policy makers and the members of civil society or citizens. This paper will not address the issues of use by the general public except to mention that all

efforts must be made to disseminate social statistical data in a timely and easily accessible manner to the general public. NSOs appear to be taking up that challenge and should be supported.

One criticism levelled against statistics in the subregion is that the quality and quantity of social statistics produced is not adequate to guide decision makers. On the other hand social policy makers have been critiqued for being among the most infrequent users of social data. It is apparent that within the subregion, the culture of evidence-based social policy formulation processes is not deeply rooted (ECLAC/CDCC, 2001). There is little disagreement that policy makers in most countries continue to function within that negative culture. Efforts have to be made to bridge the divide between statisticians and social policy makers. Banda (2003) suggests that all data users, including policy makers, have an important role to play in the improvement of social statistics. Through their engagement with the data they can assist in validating the data, identifying data gaps, data inconsistencies and emerging issues that need to be described.

There is growing agreement that new strategies have to be developed to strengthen the involvement of stakeholders in the social statistics process. The ECLAC/CDCC secretariat has been providing training in evidence-based social policy formulation, which brings together producers and specialist users, to increase the policy makers' appreciation of the importance of applying social statistics to their decision-making processes. At the same time statisticians are made aware of the information needs of social policy makers. It is expected that approaches such as these should encourage greater demand for social statistics in the future.

3.2 Systems

By systems here it is meant the structured or patterned relationships, formal or informal, among the various elements that make up the social statistical framework in any given country. Specifically, the system includes the network consisting of the NSOs and the various line ministries that collect, process and disseminate, in the main, administrative data from their records. But the network also embraces the subregional, regional and international users and producers of information based on the data produced at the national level. At a recently concluded expert group meeting on Setting the Scope of Social Statistics, held in New York, 6-9 May 2003, convened by the UNSD and the Sienna Group, experts agreed that greater coordination at the national, regional and international level was a necessity if improved social statistics was to be the result.

Because many players are involved in the collection, processing and dissemination of social statistics, a higher degree of coordination of these relationships must be achieved if the expectations of monitoring the MDGs or

any development goals are to be met, either at the national level and/or within the subregion. One of the benefits to be derived from stronger linkages and coordination is a reduction in the diversity of methodological approaches to the gathering and processing of social statistics. The greater the diversity in this process, the greater the difficulty at the national level in achieving harmonisation and comparability of the final outputs. In most countries in the Caribbean, many of the sources of social statistics are administrative and as such reside with specific government departments. This has resulted in a culture of autonomy coupled with a lack of transparency. Efforts at coordination will assist in the reduction of these negative characteristics that usually result in 'turfism' and increase the difficulty in improving the quality and integrity of administrative data.

The NSOs are considered to be the appropriate agency to lead the coordination efforts. One of the ways to increase coordination is through inter-institutional collaboration. Such collaboration will have to begin in the NSO itself and filter into the other related institutions. An essential task in the coordination process is to bring administrative records data into the sub-network of social statistics. Although some efforts have been reported in the ECLAC/CDCC survey at attempts to influence the quality of social statistics collected through line ministries, the process that has occurred in Jamaica to rationalise the production of statistics in the social sector is worth further examination.

In Jamaica, there have been two approaches to the coordination process (Government of Jamaica, 2000). The current being the Social Indicator Monitoring System (SIMS), which has evolved from its predecessor the Institution Based Monitoring System (IBMS). In the current process, as in the previous, the PIOJ has the primary responsibility for coordinating, housing and producing the SIMS report. SIMS is meant to bring together information from key ministries and provide added value by analysing the data gathered with regard to economic and/or other social data. SIMS stakeholders are the Ministry of Health, Education, Labour and Social Security, Justice and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), and other agencies such as the Jamaican Social Investment Fund (JSIF), the Caribbean Child Development Centre (CCDC), the National Council on Disabilities, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international donors. An essential benefit of coordination is that it should lead to the promotion and actualisation of better documentation of data, as data is virtually useless, if the researcher neither knows the source of the data nor the definitions of the constructs used to measure the phenomenon under question. This benefit was accrued in Jamaica as issues of standardisation and comparability had to be addressed and documented for SIMS to be feasible (Government of Jamaica, op cit).

CARICOM (2003), through its ongoing efforts to increase capacity for social statistics has embarked on an ambitious programme to establish

statistical coordinating committees at the national level among its member States. In this process it seeks to bring together in a single committee, with regional and international level support, the producers and users of social statistics in order to "increase the confidence and transparency in the procedures and practices, promote the use of these statistics and attract much needed financial resources". The statistical coordinating committees will seek "to improve the response, quality, timeliness, adequacy, relevance and comparability of the data to be compiled at the national level and to feed into the regional programme". These Social Indicators and Millennium Development Goals Committees (SIMDGCs), as they have been called, have as their main objectives: to ensure that these "data are accurate, harmonised, internally consistent and are produced by the various agencies in a timely manner"; and to make the networking of expertise at the national level a reality. The programme, in order to achieve success, requires a change in a number of areas: the information culture in the Caribbean; the perception, and in some cases, the reality of the weak capacity of the NSOs; weaker capacities at the line ministries; and insufficient support at the highest level.

Another important link that has to be strengthened and maintained while working at coordination and collaboration among statistical agencies at the national level is the link between social and economic data and analysis. Social and economic phenomena are not separate and distinct occurrences in the lives of people or a nation. A clearer picture of what those occurrences are and their impacts on the national body can be greatly enhanced, when both social and economic data are put to use in the analysis. Under the SIMS system in Jamaica the possibility of making clear the relationships between social and economic data was seen as a distinct value added of the undertaking. The subregion has much to gain from recognising the relationship of these data sets to environmental data sets as well, particularly in light of the vulnerability issues arising out of small size and low lying coastal areas which characterise the Small Island States of the Caribbean. Dunlop (2003) suggests that linking statistics across different fields, such as economic, social and environmental can inform the wider debate on complex issues of sustainability and the general well-being of a society.

3.3 Technology

A critical component of the capacity-building within the social statistical framework is in the use of technology, both software and hardware, both within the NSOs and the line ministries and between them.

The results of the ECLAC/CDCC survey point to an underutilisation of the appropriate technology to achieve the best results. It also points to an inadequate knowledge base in the area of appropriate statistical software to best process and analyse social statistical data. In the Caribbean, both low capacity, in the area of computer skills, and inadequate financial resources

have led to the use of unsophisticated software, incapable of performing the necessary validation tasks required for the lowest possible errors. A quantum leap in the knowledge base and technology practices, such as on-line links between NSOs and line ministries is necessary if any change is going to occur. It is also necessary to set up data banks at the point of collection of data (i.e. line ministries) and then integrate databases at the national level. Some attempts at this have been undertaken in the field through the assistance of UNESCO and its Caribbean Education Management Information Systems (CREMIS). St. Bernard (2001) suggests that not only will data processing tasks be improved through the use of Information Technology (IT) but social statistical analysis should also improve.

Training, therefore, needs to be provided in the use of statistical software packages at all the different levels of the system. St. Bernard (op cit) reminds us that what is required is not just statistical skills but statistical skills that are 'sufficiently sophisticated' to ensure optimal use of data management systems. The reports on the initial training conducted by ECLAC/CDCC in the latter part of 2002 indicated that there was a clear recognition on the part of statisticians and policy makers of the need to be trained in the use of the new technologies. Busby (2001), suggests that upgrading the technology, software and hardware together with equipping technical officers with training, although going a long way in strengthening capacity at the national level, will not be sufficient to correct for the weaknesses embedded in the statistical systems. He calls for a new 'information architecture', receiving support from the highest levels of decision-making, that will bring all the data sources into a networked system, through an organized and integrated data infrastructure.

It is important to ensure that a management information system allows for the pulling of diverse data items into a single database and at the same time addresses issues of database communication, inventory, archiving and security. In today's global climate it is almost impossible to manage the quantity of data and meet the demands for information in the social sector, without the use of information and communication technology. It is clear that the Internet technology is an appropriate platform for these new systems. Policy makers and researchers in the subregion are seeking new and constantly changing indicators to best describe the dynamic social situation. Through the use of micro-level data, new indicators can be shaped, but NSOs and the line ministries, in order to be relevant, must be able to respond to these requests in an efficient and effective manner, while safeguarding privacy. Putting into use the new and emerging technologies offers the best hope for meeting those data demands.

3.4 Resources

How can the subregion make the best use of the scarce resources at its disposal to strengthen its capacity in the area of social statistics and meet the

requests of the various stakeholders that are demanding social information for policy-making? One way is through the sharing of statistical and information technology expertise both within and among countries.

At an expert group meeting for the development of a methodological approach for the construction of the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI), held in Port of Spain in February 2002, Professor Elsie Le Franc, recommended that a team of experts, drawn from ECLAC/CDCC member States and academic institutions in the subregion and relevant intergovernmental agencies be created to provide technical support to countries in the subregion as the need arose (ECLAC/CDCC, 2002a). The work of that expert group would have to be supported by members of the international financial community. Other recommendations have been that exchanges between NSOs could be encouraged. It has also been suggested that even within countries, statisticians and information technology professionals can be out-sourced to line ministries (or vice versa) to assist in the standardisation of data collection protocols and sharing data management methodologies. This could not only serve the purpose of building capacity at the national level but also of job enrichment within the NSOs at the same time. Another recommendation has been for the increase in the provision of in-house training both at the NSO level and at the level of the line ministries to enhance existing expertise. The exchange of experiences and best practices has also been advanced as a sound method of making the best use of the scarce resources available within the subregion.

With regard to financial resources, UNSD suggests that decisions have to be made regarding the importance of social statistics vis-à-vis economic statistics. Once it has been recognised that social statistics are as important to decision-making as are economic statistics, then at the national level more support should be provided to upgrading the facilities and capacities that produce and analyse social statistics. UNSD suggests that an optimum distribution of the national budget, including financial, physical and human resources should be made for collecting statistics of different types. Representatives in attendance at the twenty-seventh Meeting of the SCCS called on governments to adequately fund the operations of the NSOs in order that standards, systems and staff satisfy the needs of their clients. At the level of the international donor community, efforts ought to be made to maximise resources for the benefit of both the donor community and national agencies. International agencies therefore ought to avoid activities or projects that replicate or overlap with those of other donors and/or international agencies while adding little value to the national social statistical framework. In a report submitted to the twenty-seventh Meeting of the SCCS, it was noted that ad hoc survey requests from the international community could act as a drain on national resources unless assistance was provided to build and/or increase capacity at the national level (Government of Jamaica, 2002).

In the final analysis, the 'political will' must be evident if the changes that are required can be effected to improve social statistical systems in the Caribbean. Governments have articulated their support for more efficient and effective social data. Only through clear and precise operationalisation of those notions can governmental will be converted into positive action. There is room for action by all stakeholders also, to make available the required resources, financial and human, that would improve social statistical data management in the subregion. Such an effort will require a multisectoral and multidisciplined array of expertise including IT professionals, 'sophisticated statistical' expertise, social policy analysts, and management specialists, all engaged to improve the social statistical processes in the subregion.

SECTION 4

MILLENNIUM INDICATORS WITH TECHNICAL NOTES[12]

This section presents selected social statistics identified to fulfil the monitoring requirements of the MDGs, using four countries from the English-speaking Caribbean. The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize and Saint Lucia were chosen mainly because at the time of the study, they had completed the 2000/2001 Population and Housing Census, and their data sets formed part of the ECLAC/CDCC social statistical database. It was assumed that if they had the capacity to complete their 2000/2001 round of census in a timely manner it might be some indication that among the English-speaking Caribbean countries, statistically speaking, they may be the best example. If this assumption proved true then data for preparing the indicators for monitoring the MDGs would be most readily available for these countries and would best fulfil the criteria of comparability.

It is not the intention in this section to monitor progress but to deepen appreciation of the indicators required for the monitoring of the MDGs and to illustrate their uses through the presentation of selected social statistics for the four countries under review. It is also meant to lay bare the complexity and/or simplicity of the indicators, from the perspective of countries in the subregion, both in terms of definitions and data requirements

Data definitions were drawn from United Nations sources and their metadata dictionary.[13] Although data presented are largely drawn from international sources, the intent is to show the diversity of data sets needed to monitor the MDGs; the availability/unavailability of the data at the national level; and the mechanisms – survey or administrative - through which statistics can be sourced. The discussion does not address those MDG indicators that are based, in particular, on economic aggregates such as GDP, ODA, exports, subsidies and debt, addressed mainly in indicators 32 – 44. This is because its main focus is on the social field of statistical data.

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[12] Definitions for Millennium Indicators appearing in Section 4 are sourced from the UNESIS website http://www.un.org/Dept/unsd/forum.html and are presented verbatim where possible. In instances where it appeared that additional information would be helpful, such is presented following the standard definition. In all cases sources are named, if different from the UNESIS.

[13] The UNSD has a common database UNESIS (United Nations Economic and Social Information Systems) which houses a Metadata dictionary. The Metadata dictionary can be located by accessing http://www.un.org/Depts/unsd/forum/forum.htlm

GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

Indicators

1. Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day (World Bank)

Definition of $1 (PPP) - poverty, consumption expenditure less than one international dollar (PPP) per day (World Bank estimates).

The proportion of people living on less than $1 a day is the percentage of the population with average consumption expenditures less than $1.08 a day measured in 1993 prices converted using purchasing power parity (PPP) rates. The $1.08 a day standard was chosen to be equal to the median of the lowest 10 poverty lines among a set of low-income countries. For more information see Shaohua Chen and Martin Ravallion, "How did the world's poorest fare in the 1990s?" The World Bank's estimates of poverty relative to the $1/day international poverty line are estimated from the primary (unit record or tabulated) survey data; no secondary sources are used. The measures of household living standards are normalized by household size and sample expansion factors (when relevant) so that a given fractile (such as the poorest decile) should have the same share of the country-specific population across the sample. Comparability problems are eliminated to the extent possible by re-estimating the consumption/income aggregates or if necessary by dropping a survey. Data on the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day are published in World Bank, World Development Indicators 2002, Table 2.6. Regional estimates of the proportion of people below $1 a day are available in World Bank, Poverty Reduction and the World Bank: Progress in Operationalizing the WDR 2000/2001, February 2002. The PPP conversion factor used for this series is the number of units of a country's currency required to buy the same amount of goods and services in the domestic market as a United States dollar would buy in the United States.
http://millenniumindicators.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_dict_xrxx.asp?def_code=429

"The poverty indicators we use correspond with the premise of recent aid allocation models, which is that the marginal aid unit should flow to where it achieves most in terms of reducing material hardship. For that reason, and in contrast to Dollar and Kraay (2001), we have refrained from using measures of the living standards of the people that make up the bottom quintile of the income distribution, since these do not capture varying levels of hardship across countries. The most widely available internationally comparable monetary poverty measure is the percentage of the population living on less than $1 a day (corrected for purchasing power). However, even using this measure, comparability remains problematic. For example, two otherwise identical persons, both living on $1 a day, but only one profiting from accessible public health care facilities, may well be experiencing different intensities of hardship."

No single measure of poverty is usually able to adequately capture this phenomenon. Nonetheless, it would seem that the greater the internationalisation of this measure, using the international dollar, the less able it is to capture the local context. "Aid, Social Policies and Pro-Poor Growth", Arjan Verschoor, (Department of Economics, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom) and Adriaan Kalwij (Department of Economics, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands)

2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence x depth of poverty) (World Bank)

The mean distance below the poverty line as a proportion of the poverty line where the mean is taken over the whole population, counting the non-poor as having zero poverty gap it is expressed as a percentage of the poverty line.

3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption (World Bank)

The share of the poorest quintile in national consumption is share of income or consumption that accrues to the poorest 20% of the population. Data on personal or household income or consumption come from nationally representative household surveys. The footnotes to the table indicate whether the rankings are based on per capita income or consumption. The distribution is based on percentiles of population -- rather than of households – with households ranked by income or expenditures per person. Where the original data from the household survey were available, they have been used to directly calculate the income (or consumption) shares. Otherwise shares have been estimated from the best available grouped data. For more information see The World Bank, World Development Indicators 2002, Table 2.8.

Surveys of living conditions are essential for the development of these indicators. For the *'poverty gap ratio'*, the millennium indicators website has data only for the Dominican Republic; Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. Data for Saint Lucia and Belize were obtained from the Poverty Assessment Reports, conducted by Kairi Consultants Ltd. on behalf of the Caribbean Development Bank and the countries in which the surveys were conducted. In the case of *'share of poorest quintile in national income/consumption'*, data are available on the millennium indicators website for the Dominican Republic (1998); Guyana (1993); Jamaica (1996) and (2000); Saint Lucia (1995) and Trinidad and Tobago (1992), citing the World Bank as its source.

Table 15
Poverty gap and other poverty estimates for four selected countries.

Country	Poverty Gap	Headcount	FGT[2]	Gini
Bahamas	…	…	…	…
Barbados	…	…	…	…
Belize	8.7	33.0	4.3	0.51
Saint Lucia	8.6	25.1	4.4	0.50

Source: Poverty Gap Ratio – Poverty Assessment Reports (Kairi Consultants Ltd.)

Table 16
Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.

Country	%
Bahamas	
Barbados	
Belize	
Saint Lucia	5.2 [1995]

Source: Millennium Indicators website, citing World Bank as source

4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (UNICEF - WHO)

Moderately or severely underweight is below minus two standard deviations from median weight for age of reference population; severe is below minus three standard deviations from median weight for age of reference population. See also ("Physical status: the use and interpretation of anthropometry", WHO Technical Report Series No. 854).

5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (FAO)

Persons whose food intake falls below the minimum requirement of food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements continuously.

Again data are sparse in this area for Caribbean countries. For many countries UNICEF takes data as far back as 1980 to arrive at estimates for the year 2000. The countries in the Caribbean for which UNICEF has estimates are Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Suriname for the first indicator in Table 17. The countries for which there are estimated data for the second indicator are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. There are no data for the third indicator in Table 17.

[2] The Foster, Geer, Thorbecke P_2 is a measure of poverty. The FGT_2 provides a measure of the severity of poverty. The poverty gap index provides an aggregate measure of the distances of all the poor from the poverty line.

Table 17
Indicators to monitor reducing the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Indicators	Bahamas	Barbados	Belize	Saint Lucia
Children under 5, moderately or severely underweight (UNICEF estimates)	-	-	6(1992)	-
Children under 5, who are severely underweight (UNICEF estimates)	-	1(2002)	1(2002)	-
Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (FAO)	-	-	-	-

Source: Millennium indicators website, citing UNICEF and FAO as its sources no data from (PAHO)

GOAL 2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

Indicators:

6. Net enrolment ratio in primary education (UNESCO)

Total enrolment, regardless of age, divided by the population of the age group which corresponds to a specific level of education. The net enrolment ratio is calculated by using only that part of the enrolment which corresponds to the age group of the level considered.

7. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 (UNESCO)

Children starting primary school who eventually attain grade 5 and final grade. The estimate is based on the Reconstructed Cohort Method, which uses data on enrolment and repeaters for two consecutive years. Repeaters are pupils who are enrolled in the same grade as the previous year.

8. Literacy rate of 15-24-year-olds (UNESCO)

Percentage of the population 15 to 24 years that can read and write. Unit of measure: Percent

Refer to discussion in Section 3 on Quality of Data for Table 19.

Table 18
Net enrolment ratio in primary education and proportion of pupils reaching Grade 5

	Net enrolment ratio[1]		Survival rates to Grade 5[2]		
	1998/1999	1999/2000	1990	1998	1999[3]
Bahamas (Both Sexes)	87.8	-			
Male	87.8	-			
Female	87.8	-			
Barbados(Both Sexes)	100.0	100.0			
Male	100.0	100.0			
Female	100.0	100.0			
Belize(Both Sexes)	100.0	100.0	67.4		77.8
Male	100.0	100.0	68.9		76.2
Female	100.0	100.0	65.9		79.5
Saint Lucia(Both Sexes)	96.5	95.6			
Male	96.6	94.9			
Female	96.4	96.4			

Source: **1**. Data taken directly from UNESCO Institute for Statistics website (http://portal.unesco.org/uis/ev.php?URL_ID=2867&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201&reload=1056395348)
2 – Data taken from the millennium indicators website, which cites data as taken from UNESCO.
3 - 1999 Survival rates to Grade 5 is taken directly from the UNESCO website and is for the year 1998/1999.

Table 19
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds

	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bahamas (Both sexes)	96.5	96.9	97.0	97.0	97.1	97.2	97.2	97.3	97.4
Male	95.4	95.8	95.9	96.0	96.1	96.2	96.2	96.3	96.4
Female	97.5	97.9	98.0	98.1	98.1	98.2	98.3	98.3	98.4
Barbados (Both sexes)	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8
Male	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8
Female	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.8
Belize (Both Sexes)	96.0	97.1	97.3	97.5	97.6	97.8	98.0	98.1	98.2
Male	95.4	96.5	96.7	96.8	97.0	97.1	97.3	97.4	97.5
Female	96.7	97.8	98.0	98.1	98.3	98.5	98.7	98.8	98.9

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Indicators:

9. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment (UNESCO)

For international comparison, data from the population census are needed for three levels of education: primary, secondary, and post-secondary. (33, para. 2.156):

- Level 1: Programmes at this level are designed on a unit or project basis to give students a sound basic education in reading, writing and mathematics along with an elementary understanding of other subjects such as history, geography, natural science, social science, art and music. In some cases religion, if featured. The core at this level consists of education provided for children, the customary or legal age of entrance being not younger than five years or older than seven years. This level covers in principle six years of full-time schooling.

- Level 2: The contents of education at this level are typically designed to complete the provision of basic education which began at International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) level 1. In many, if not most countries, the educational aim is to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and human development on which countries may expand, systematically, further educational opportunities. The programmes at this level are usually on a more subject-oriented pattern using more specialized teachers and more often several teachers are conducting classes in their field of specialization. The full implementation of basic skills occurs at this level. The end of this level often coincides with the end of compulsory education where it exists.

- Level 3 of education typically begins at the end of full-time compulsory education for those countries that have a system of compulsory education. More specialization may be observed at this level than at ISCED level 2 and often teachers need to be more qualified or specialized than for ISCED level 2. The entrance age to this level is typically 15 or 16 years. The educational programmes included at this level typically require the completion of some nine years of full-time education (since the beginning of level 1) for admission or a combination of education and vocational or technical experience and with, as minimum entrance requirements, the completion of level 2 or demonstrable ability to handle programmes at this level.[14]

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[14] United Nations. Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 1. Series M, No. 67, Rev. 1 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XVII.1). para. 2.156
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Revised Recommendation concerning the International Standardization of Educational Statistics. Paris, 1978. Also contained in UNESCO Statistical Yearbook, chap. 2. Paris, annual.

Table 20
Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment

	1990	1998	1999	2000
Bahamas				
Primary	-	0.94	0.93	-
Secondary	-	0.93	0.95	-
Tertiary	-	-	-	-
Barbados				
Primary	-	0.96	0.96	0.97
Secondary	-	1.03	1.01	0.98
Tertiary	-	2.25	2.58	2.40
Belize				
Primary	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.94
Secondary	-	0.99	1.05	10.5
Tertiary	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia				
Primary	0.95	-	0.91	0.90
Secondary	-	1.10	1.25	1.33
Tertiary	-	0.86	-	-

Source: The millennium indicators website, citing UNESCO as it source

10. Ratio of literate women to men of 15- to 24-year-olds UNESCO

See discussion in Section 3 on data quality for reference to Table 21.

11. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector (ILO)

For aggregate analysis, the 16 tabulation categories of the ISIC of all Economic Activities, Rev. 3, are commonly grouped into agriculture, industry and services sectors. In this grouping "agriculture" also covers hunting, forestry and fishing. "Industry" covers mining and quarrying (including oil production); manufacturing; electricity, gas and water; and construction. "Services" covers wholesale and retail trade and restaurants and hotels; transport, storage and communication; financing, insurance, real estate and business services; public administration and defence; community, social and personal services.

12. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (IPU)

Legislative assembly of persons forming the supreme legislature of a country.

Table 21
Women to men parity index as ratio of literacy rates (15-24 years old)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bahamas	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02
Barbados	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Belize	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01

Source: The millennium indicators website, citing UNESCO as it source

Table 22
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

	1990	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bahamas	4	8	15	15	15	15	15
Barbados	4	11	11	11	11	11	11
Belize		3	3	7	7	7	7
Saint Lucia			12	12	11	11	

Source: The millennium indicators website, citing IPU as it source

GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

Indicators:

13. Under-five mortality rate (UNICEF – PAHO/WHO)

The ratio between the number of deaths in children under 5 in a given year and the number of live births in that year. Calculated as the number of children who die before reaching five years of age (numerator), divided by the total number of live births in the given one year period (denominator), multiplied by 1,000. This is an approximation of the probability of dying before the age of 5. Unit of measure: Per 1,000 live births

14. Infant mortality rate (UNICEF – PAHO/WHO)

The quotient between the number of deaths among children under one year of age in a given year and the number of live births in that year, for a given country, territory, or geographic area, expressed per 1,000 live births, as reported by the national health authority. The infant mortality rate can be also defined as the arithmetic sum of the neonatal mortality rate plus the post-neonatal mortality rate, as reported by the national health authority. The neonatal mortality reported rate is defined as the quotient between the number of children born alive that died before the age of 28 days in a given year and the number of live births in that year, for a given country, territory, or geographic area, expressed per 1,000 live births, as reported from the National Health Authority. The post-neonatal mortality reported rate is defined as the quotient between the number of children that were alive after 27 days and died before the age of one year in a given year and the number of live births in that year, for a given country, territory, or geographic area, expressed per 1,000 live births, as reported by the national health authority.

In general terms, the infant mortality rate reported by the national health authority, including its neonatal and post-neonatal components, is an averaged national estimate based on vital statistics registries and/or surveys. The methodology can vary from country to country and from period to period, and is not primarily intended for comparisons. Unit of measure: Per 1,000 live births

15. Proportion of one-year-old children immunised against measles (UNICEF - WHO)

Proportion of children who, on completing their first year of life, has received one dose of measles vaccine. Overcrowding and disaster conditions are conducive to outbreaks of measles, with high mortality, especially among the malnourished. Unit of measure: Percent.

Table 23
Infant mortality and under five mortality rates (per 1,000 live births)

	Infant Mortality Rate[1]						Under-five Mortality Rate[2]					
					2000						2000	
	1990	1995	1998	1999	a	b	1990	1995	1998	1999	a	b
Bahamas	24	20	10.0	15.8	14.7	15	29	23	17.6	16.9	24.0	18.0
Barbados	14	14	11.0	12.8	13.4	12	16	16	13.8	13.5	12.9	14.0
Belize	39	36	…	…	21.2	34	49	44	36.2	35.4	39.7	41.0
Saint Lucia	…	…	…	15.0	…	…	…	…	18.0	17.6	17.3	…

Source: 1. 1990,1995,2000[b] Millennium Indicators Website, citing UNICEF/WHO as source; 1998, 1999, 2000a from PAHO (reported); 2. 1990,1995,2000[b] Millennium Indicators Website, citing UNICEF/WHO as source; 1998, 1999, 2000a from PAHO(estimates)

Table 24
Another look at Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)

Country	1955-1960	1960-1965	1965-1970	1970-1975	1975-1980	1980-1985	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000
Bahamas	56	48	41	38	35	31	23	21	19
Barbados	87	61	46	33	27	17	15	14	12
Belize	78	69	60	52	45	39	36	34	32
Saint Lucia	105	81	48	39	29	23	20	16	14

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2000 Revision (Vol. 1)

Table 25
Proportion of children one year old, immunised against measles.

Proportion of 1 year olds immunised against measles				
	1990[1]	1998[2]	1999[2]	2000[2]
Bahamas	86	92	86	93
Barbados	87	97	86	94
Belize	86	84	82	…
Saint Lucia	83	90	95	89

Source: 1 – MDG website citing UNICEF/WHO as source; 2. PAHO website

GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Indicators:

16. Maternal mortality ratio (UNICEF - WHO)

The death of women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management but not from accidental causes is defined as a maternal death. Maternal deaths should be divided into two groups: (i) Direct obstetric deaths and those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnant state (pregnancy, labour and puerperium), from interventions, omissions, incorrect treatment, or from a chain of events resulting from any of the above; and (ii) Indirect obstetric deaths and those resulting from previous existing disease or disease that developed during pregnancy and which was not due to direct obstetric causes, but which was aggravated by physiologic effects of pregnancy.

The late maternal mortality is the mortality that is due to complications of pregnancy, delivery, and puerperium that occurred between 42 and 364 days after the termination of the pregnancy. In a given year, quotient between the number of maternal deaths (numerator) and the number of live births (denominator) in that same year, multiplied by 1,000 for a given country, territory, or geographic area, as reported by the national health authority. Unit of measure: By 100,000 live births

In general terms, the maternal mortality rate reported by the national health authority is an averaged national estimate based on vital statistics registries and/or surveys. The methodology can vary from country to country and from period to period, and is not primarily intended for comparisons.

The calculation of maternal mortality is not recommended for countries with an estimated annual number of live births less than 10,000 (Anguilla,

Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands).

17. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (UNICEF WHO)

The number of deliveries attended by trained personnel in a given year versus the total number of births in that same year. The trained personnel refer to the ability to provide the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period, to conduct deliveries on their own (responsibility) and to care for the new-born and the infant, that is people with midwifery skills (for example, doctors, midwives, nurses) who have been trained to proficiency in the skills necessary to manage normal deliveries and diagnose or refer obstetric complications. The site of the delivery is not taken into account. Unit of measure: number of deliveries

Table 26
Maternal Mortality Rate and Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

	Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000)			Proportion births attended by skilled health personnel		
	Economic Review & Basic Stats[1]	MDG site(1995[2])	PAHO(2000[3])	1998	1999	2000
Bahamas	100	10	38	99.0	99.0	99.0
Barbados	0	33	80.5	...	91.0	98.0
Belize	140	140	68.4	79.0	96.9	100.0
Saint Lucia	30	...	....	...	...	100.0

Source: 1. Economic Review and Basic Statistics (This document collected its data from various sources PAHO's website http://www.paho.org/english/sha/coredata/tabulator

GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

Indicators

18. HIV prevalence among 15-to-24-year-old pregnant women (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF)

Percentage of blood samples taken from women who test positive for HIV during routine sentinel surveillance at selected antenatal clinics. All data are median values of all antenatal clinics (ANC) in the areas specified. The data are based on national surveillance reports unless otherwise indicated. Data from surveillance among pregnant women at antenatal care clinics are broken into urban populations and populations living outside major urban areas. Truly

rural areas often have no sentinel surveillance sites at all. The wider the range, the greater the uncertainty surrounding the country's estimates, which in turn depends mainly on the quality, coverage and consistency of the country's surveillance system.

Sub-indicators

(a) HIV prevalence among pregnant women, aged 15-24, all areas (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF);

(b) HIV prevalence among pregnant women, aged 15-24, in major urban areas (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF); and

(c) HIV prevalence among pregnant women, aged 15-24, outside major urban areas (UNAIDS-WHO-UNICEF) - data for this indicator not available for Caribbean countries, with the exception of Haiti. Data on HIV prevalence for persons aged 15-49 is available.

Table 27
HIV Prevalence Rate 15-49

	2001
Bahamas	3.5
Barbados	1.2
Belize	2.0
Saint Lucia	...

Source: Millennium Indicators website

19. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate (UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Population Division, WHO)

Contraceptive methods, in its narrow usage, speaks to measures excluding sterilization (and, in some discussions, permanent and periodic abstinence) which are taken in order to prevent sexual intercourse from resulting in conception. In broader usage, a contraceptive method is sometimes called a birth control method, which includes intentional abortion, sterilization and complete abstinence from coitus. Modern methods are those that require supplies or clinical services, including contraceptive sterilization, intrauterine devices (IUDs), hormonal methods, condoms and vaginal barrier methods. Traditional methods include withdrawal and the calendar rhythm method. Amongst contraceptive methods, only condoms are effective in preventing HIV transmission.

The contraceptive prevalence rate is also useful in tracking progress in other health, gender and poverty goals. Because the condom use rate is only measured amongst women in union, it will be supplemented by an indicator on

condom use in high-risk situations. These indicators will be augmented with an indicator of knowledge and misconceptions regarding HIV/AIDS by 15-24 year-olds (UNICEF – WHO).

Sub-indicators

(a) Condom use to overall contraceptive use among currently married women aged 15-49, per cent;

(b) Condom use, men aged 15-24 at last high-risk sex, per cent (UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO);

(c) Condom use, women aged 15-24 at last high-risk sex, per cent (UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO). Men and women who say they used a condom the last time they had sex with a non-marital, non-cohabiting partner, of those who have had sex with such a partner in the last 12 months. Belize has completed a contraceptive prevalence survey and data will be used where it approximates to indicator needed;

(d) HIV knowledge, women aged 15-24 who know that a healthy-looking person can transmit HIV, per cent (UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO; and

(e) HIV knowledge, women aged 15-24 who know that a person can protect herself from HIV infection by consistent condom use, per cent (UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO.

Table 28
Percentage distribution of contraceptive use by married women 15-44 (BELIZE)

Current Use and Methods	%
CURRENTLY USING	56.1
Female Sterilisation	18.0
Orals	15.6
Injection	7.6
Rhythm/Billings	3.5
Condoms	6.6
IUD	1.5
Other	3.3
NOT CURRENTLY USING	43.9
Total	100.0
	2353

Source: 1999 Belize Family Health Survey (Females)

Table 29
Persons who perceive themselves to be at great or some risk of getting AIDS and who know of, have ever used, and are currently using condoms by age group (BELIZE)

Age Group	Know condoms		Have ever used condoms		Are currently using condoms		No. of cases (unweighted)	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
15-19	98.8	92.8	63.1	26.0	48.7	18.8	(32)	(73)
20-24	100.0	99.0	81.5	50.7	66.1	21.5	(33)	(127)
25-29	100.0	96.0	87.6	54.4	53.4	10.2	(33)	(134)
30-34	95.4	97.4	77.0	49.4	24.6	10.5	(29)	(136)
35-39	***	91.9	***	44.3	***	12.8	(13)	(93)
40-44	***	92.4	***	43.3	***	10.1	(14)	(76)

Source: 1999 Belize Family Health Survey (Females) and 1999 Belize Family Health Survey (Males)

Table 30
Women aged 15-44 who have knowledge of HIV/AIDS and who have correct knowledge of how the virus is transmitted by age group

Age Group	Blood Transfusion	Sharing needles	Male sexual intercourse	Heterosexual	No. of cases (unweighted)
15-19	47.5	50.5	26.8	88.1	(657)
20-24	54.4	50.6	26.3	88.8	(634)
25-29	55.8	48.2	25.1	87.2	(670)
30-34	50.8	45.6	27.0	90.8	(621)
35-39	56.0	50.1	27.8	88.4	(473)
40-44	50.4	40.5	22.6	88.4	(337)

Source: 1999 Belize Family Health Survey (Females))

Table 31
Condom use among women 15-44 (BELIZE)

Reasons for using condom		Have you ever used condoms	
To prevent unwanted pregnancies	84.3	Yes	30.9
To prevent HIV/AIDS	37.9	No	69.1
To prevent STIs	26.5	Total	100.0 (2616)
To prevent infecting partner	9.2		
Hygiene	4.6		
Other	0.1		
Total number of cases (unweighted)	(3586)		

Source: 1999 Belize Family Health Survey (Females)

20. Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS (UNICEF-UNAIDS)

Sub-indicators

(a) AIDS orphans (one or both parents), currently living (UNAIDS); and

(b) Orphans (both parents) aged 10-14 school attendance rate as % of non-orphans attendance rate, where HIV is 1%+ (UNICEF-UNAIDS-WHO)

Table 32
Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS

Number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS					
	2001[(a)]	% of pop. 0-14 years old[(b)]		2001[(a)]	% of pop. 0-14 years old[(b)]
Bahamas	2900	3.5	Dominican Republic	33000	1.2
Barbados	…	…	Guyana	4200	1.7
Belize	950	1.2	Haiti	200000	6.5
Saint Lucia	…	…	Jamaica	5100	0.6
Cuba	1000	***	Trinidad & Tobago	3600	0.9

Source (a) Millennium indicators website *** - less than 0.1% (b) calculated using the 1990 population census.

21. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria (WHO)

AIDS often compounds the Malaria epidemic. Individuals with HIV/AIDS are twice as likely to also catch malaria compared to people who do not have HIV/AIDS.

22. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures (UNICEF-WHO)[15].

[15] Two sets of data are presented for this indicator. These are (a) Malaria prevention, use of insecticide-treated bed nets in population <5, per cent (UNICEF) (b) Malaria treatment, percentage of population <5 with fever being treated with anti-malarial drugs (UNICEF). Prevention to be measured by the percentage of under fives sleeping under insecticide treated bed nets; treatment to be measured by percentage of under-fives who are appropriately treated. The only countries for which data are available are Guyana and Haiti.

Table 33
Malaria prevalence notified cases per 100,000

Country	1999/2000
Belize	657
Dominican Republic	6
Guyana	3074
Haiti	15
Suriname	2954

Source: Millennium indicators website

23. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis (WHO)

24. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS) (WHO) - DOTS detection rate

The fraction of all incident smear-positive cases that are detected by DOTS programmes is the DOTS detection rate which is a ratio of the annual new smear-positive notifications (under DOTS) to estimated annual new smear-positive incidence (country).

The value of the denominator comes from the WHO estimates for each country. These estimates are derived from several sources of data using various methods. The methods and data vary from one country to another. The case detection rate (CDR) and the DOTS detection rate (DDR) are identical when a country reports only from DOTS areas. This should happen only when DOTS coverage is 100%. The ratio of DDR to DOTS coverage is an estimate of the case detection rate within DOTS areas, which would ideally be 70% or greater as coverage increases.

Although these indices are termed "rates", they are actually ratios. The number of case notifications is usually smaller than estimated incidence because of incomplete coverage by health services, under-diagnosis, or deficient recording and reporting. However, it is possible for the calculated detection rate to exceed 100% due to: (1) intense case finding in an area that has a backlog of chronic cases, (2) over-reporting e.g. double-counting, (3) over-diagnosis, or (4) the under-estimation of incidence.

Table 34
Reported cases of tuberculosis (all forms)

	1990 Pop. ('000)[1]	Cases of tuberculosis[3] (as a percent of the population)					
		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Bahamas	234.3	0.020	0.023	0.027	0.023	0.022	0.015
Barbados	247.3	0.003	0.002	0.003	0.001	0.003	0.005
Belize	186.0	0.031	0.048	0.038	0.038	0.022	0.037
Guyana	701.7	0.024	0.020	0.026	0.031	0.038	0.042
Jamaica	2314.5	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005
Saint Lucia	133.3	0.010	0.019	0.020	0.020	0.018	0.018
Suriname	402.0[2]	0.017	0.008	0.012	0.011	0.013	0.013
Trinidad & Tobago	1125.1	0.011	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.011	0.012
	1990 Pop. ('000)[1]	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000[a]	
Bahamas	234.3	0.014	0.035	0.032	0.032	0.026	
Barbados	247.3	0.004	0.002	0.006	0.001	0.002	
Belize	186.0	0.028	0.029	0.033	0.032	0.018	
Guyana	701.7	0.044	0.052	0.045	0.058	0.030	
Jamaica	2314.5	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.004	
Saint Lucia	133.3	0.017	0.009	0.013	0.012	0.007	
Suriname	402.0[2]	0.016	0.021	0.011	0.025	0.023	
Trinidad & Tobago	1125.1	0.015	0.018	0.014	0.012	0.014	

Source: **1.** Population figures from the 1990 Population Census housed in ECLAC's Social Statistical Databases. **2.** Suriname's population figures from the World Population Prospects 2000, estimates. **3**. Reported cases of tuberculosis from the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC) (http://www.carec.org/tb/tb_80_00.html) **a**.The 2000 data are considered provisional.

Table 35
Population distribution of reported cases of tuberculosis

	2000[a]	Population ('000)2000/2001 Census	TB cases as a % of total population
Bahamas	62	303.6	0.020
Barbados	6	250.0	0.002
Belize	34	232.1	0.015
St. Lucia	9	157.4	0.006

Source: Calculated from data from CAREC and the 2000/2001 population census housed in ECLAC Social Statistical Databases.

Figure 1

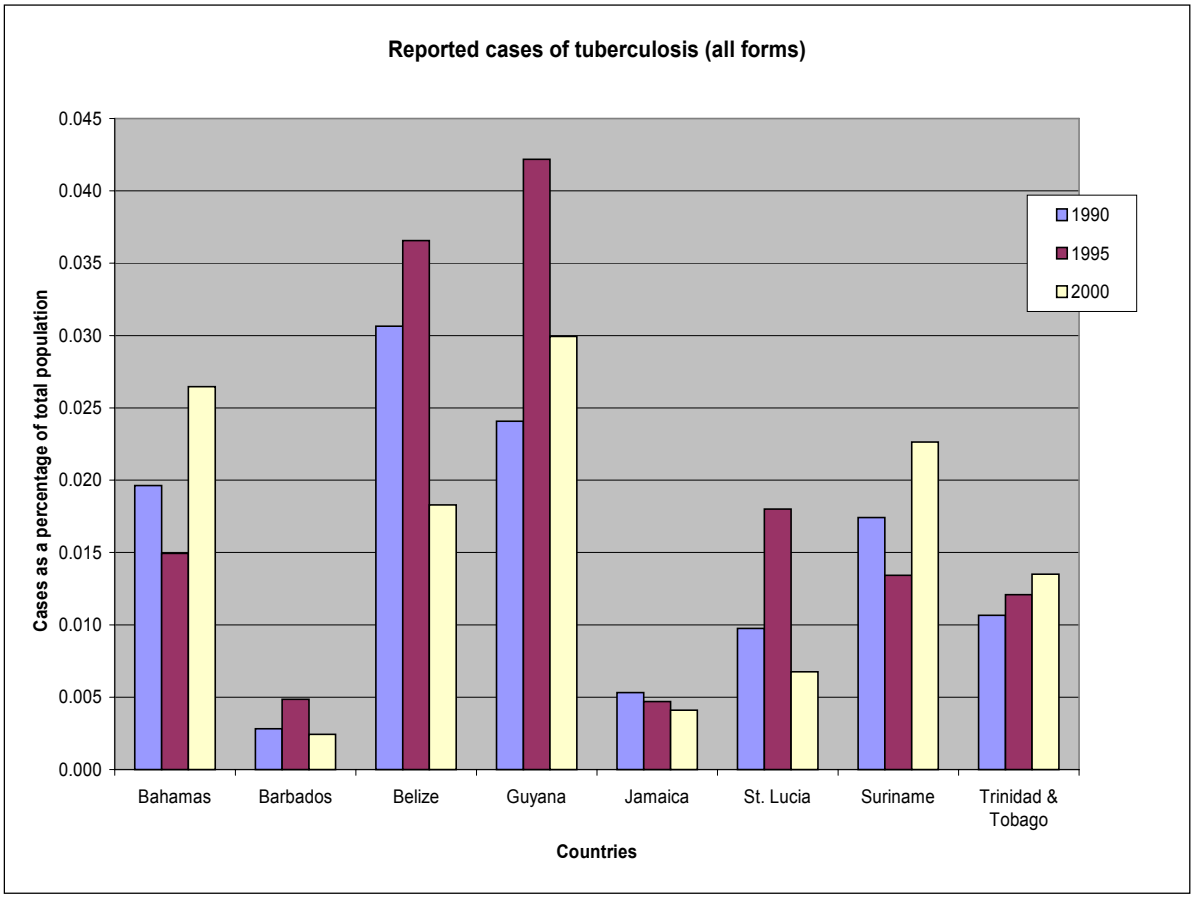

Table 36
Tuberculosis, DOTS treatment success (per cent)

	Cases of tuberculosis[3]						
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Antigua and Barbuda					50	50	100
Bahamas					72	66	
Belize		52				88	78
Cuba	86	90	92	90	94	91	93
Dominica			100				
Dominican Republic						81	79
Guyana						91	91
Haiti				73	79	70	73
Jamaica		67	72	79	89	74	46
St Kitts and Nevis					25	50	
Saint Lucia				67	82	89	100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines				86		100	100

Source: Millennium indicators website

Table 37
DOTS detection rate (percent)

Country	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Antigua and Barbuda				49.4	152.5	52.3
Bahamas				63.5	97.3	
Barbados						30.4
Belize	43.3	105.9			102.3	125.6
Dominica		90.8	56.3			
Dominican Republic				7.6	5.2	7.1
Guyana					10.6	20.9
Haiti		1.6	12.0	24.5	23.0	31.1
Jamaica	85.5	80.7	90.7	104.0	101.4	84.2
Montserrat						0.0
St Kitts and Nevis			145.6	50.5	0.0	0.0
Saint Lucia		92.4	102.8	78.7	62.5	54.6
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			19.2		60.4	20.7

Source: Millennium indicators website

GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Indicators

25. Proportion of land area covered by forest (FAO)

Forest includes natural forests and forest plantations. It is used to refer to land with a tree canopy cover of more than 10% and an area of more than 0.5 ha. Forests are determined both by the presence of trees and the absence of other predominant land uses. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m. Young stands that have not yet but are expected to reach a crown density of 10% and tree height of 5 m are included under forest, as are temporarily unstocked areas.

The term includes forests used for purposes of production, protection, multiple-use or conservation (i.e. forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas), as well as forests stands on agricultural lands (e.g. windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with a width of more than 20 m), and rubber wood plantations and cork oak stands. The term specifically excludes stands of trees established primarily for agricultural production, for example, fruit tree plantations.

It also excludes trees planted in agro-forestry systems. "Other wooded land" is excluded. It includes land that has either a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of 5 to 10% of trees able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity; or a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10% of trees not able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity; or with shrub or bush cover of more than 10%. Total land area comprises agricultural land, forest and other wooded

land, built-up and related land (excluding scattered farm buildings), wet open land, dry open land with special vegetation cover and open land without, or with insignificant, vegetation cover. Total land area should be used as a basis for other calculations such as density of population, etc. Water area comprises inland waters and tidal waters. Land and water area should cover the total area of a country. Total surface area comprises total land area plus water area.

26. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area (UNEP-IUCN)

27. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per $1 GDP (PPP) (IEA, World Bank)

Total primary energy domestic supply (sometimes referred to as energy use) is calculated by the International Energy Agency (IEA) as production of fuels + inputs from other sources + imports - exports - international marine bunkers + stock changes. It includes coal, crude oil, natural gas liquids, refinery feed stocks, additives, petroleum products, gases, combustible renewables and waste, electricity and heat. Domestic supply differs from final consumption in that it does not take account of distribution losses. The supply and use of energy commodities are converted to Kg. oil equivalent using standard coefficients for each energy source.

28. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) (UNFCCC, UNSD) and consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Ozone Secretariat. Production and Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances, 1986-1998. Nairobi, 1999. (annex A))

Sub-indicators

(a) Carbon dioxide emissions (CO2), metric tons of CO2 per capita(UNFCCC-CDIAC) Carbon dioxide (CO2) formed by combustion of carbon and in the respiration of living organisms; and is considered a greenhouse gas; and

(b) Ozone-depleting CFCs consumption in ODP metric tons (UNEP-Ozone Secretariat). The "ozone layer" is a layer in the earth's stratosphere at an altitude of about 10 km containing a high concentration of ozone, which absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth from the sun. Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are synthetic compounds formerly used as refrigerants and aerosol propellants and known to be harmful to the ozone layer of the atmosphere. In the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, CFCs to be measured are found in vehicle air conditioning units, domestic and commercial refrigeration and air conditioning/heat pump equipment, aerosol products, portable

fire extinguishers, insulation boards, panels and pipe covers, and pre-polymers. Consumption is defined as production plus imports minus exports of controlled substances. Ozone depleting potential, metric tons (ODP tons)- Metric tons of the controlled substance multiplied by a factor of ozone-depleting potential.

29. Proportion of population using solid fuels (WHO)

No country data available. Please refer to estimates in the table "World and regional trends."

Table 38
Indicators – Forested land area as a % of land

Country	1990	2000
Bahamas	84.1	84.1
Barbados	4.7	4.7
Belize	74.7	59.1
Saint Lucia	23.0	14.8

Source: Millennium indicators website, citing Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Database -- FAOSTAT (Rome)

Table 39
Indicators – Ratio of area protected to maintain Biological diversity to surface area

Country	1997
Bahamas	0.10
Barbados	0.00
Belize	0.40
Saint Lucia	0.18

Source: Millennium indicators website. Protected area ratio to surface area (UNSD calculated from UNEP)

Table 40
Carbon dioxide emissions (CO2), metric tons of CO2 per capita (UNFCCC-CDIAC)

Country	1990	199	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Bahamas	7.640	6.836	6.730	6.301	6.185	6.110	6.011	5.963	6.060	5.999
Barbados	4.191	4.672	3.775	4.280	2.860	3.141	3.324	3.367	7.013	7.634
Belize	1.678	1.881	1.810	1.868	1.799	1.769	1.407	1.732	1.740	2.638
Saint Lucia	1.228	1.209	1.247	1.258	1.878	2.199	2.282	2.109	2.042	2.230

Source: Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Table 41
Ozone-depleting CFCs consumption in ODP metric tons
(UNEP-Ozone Secretariat)

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Bahamas	70	72	53	55	54	66	
Barbados	25	22	17	22	17	8	12
Belize	16	11	20	25	25	16	28
Saint Lucia	8	8	8	6	3	4	3

Source: Millennium Indicators website citing source as UNEP Production and Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances 1986-1998 and database (Nairobi)

30. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural (UNICEF - WHO)

"Improved" water supply technologies are: household connection, public standpipe, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring, rainwater collection. "Not improved" are: unprotected well, unprotected spring, vendor-provided water, bottled water (based on concerns about the quantity of supplied water, not concerns over the water quality), tanker truck-provided water. It is assumed that if the user has access to an "improved source" then such source would be likely to provide 20 litres per capita per day at a distance no longer than 1000 metres. This hypothesis is being tested through National Health Surveys which are being conducted by WHO in 70 countries. (Communication of 25 March 2003 from the WHO Water, Sanitation and Health Programme)

Sub-indicators

(a) Water, percentage of population with access to improved drinking water sources, rural (WHO-UNICEF); and

(b) Water, percentage of population with access to improved drinking water sources, urban (WHO-UNICEF)

31. Proportion of urban population with access to improved sanitation (UNICEF - WHO)

"Improved" sanitation technologies are: connection to a public sewer, connection to septic system, pour-flush latrine, simple pit latrine, ventilated improved pit latrine. The excreta disposal system is considered adequate if it is private or shared (but not public) and if hygienically separates human excreta from human contact. "Not improved" are: service or bucket latrines (where excreta are manually removed), public latrines, latrines with an open pit.

32. Proportion of households with access to secure tenure (United Nations HABITAT)

The United Nations HABITAT has developed a secure tenure index that focuses on the comparability, well-measured physical representation of secure

tenure and better estimates the magnitude of slum dwellers. The index is a statistical composite permanency and legality of structure, and access to water, sewerage and electricity as reported in city summary data collected by the United Nations HABITAT. It represents the percentage of households with inadequate housing attributes. The percentage of households is converted directly into a population estimate using the World Urbanization Prospects population figures and projections.

Research on estimating the number of slum dwellers started with an attempt to measure the phenomenon "secure tenure". Secure tenure is the concept of "protection from involuntary removal from land or residence except through due legal process". The lack of data based on a specific and operational definition made direct estimation impossible. Initial efforts attempted unsuccessfully to use tenure status data (owner, renter and squatter) as a proxy measure. The United Nations HABITAT then proposed that the attribute of secure tenure would be demonstrated in household behaviour. Households with secure tenure would tend to have more improvements than households without secure tenure and that this could be measured by a proxy index that included dwelling structure and amenities data. This was seen as a subset of the United Nations HABITAT slum index initiative that was already underway. The resulting secure tenure index provides a fair assessment of the magnitude of slum dwellings. The characteristic variables include: the proportion of households with access to water (within 200 meters), the proportion of permanent structures in the housing stock, the proportion of housing that is in compliance with local regulations, the proportion of households connected to a sewer, the proportion of households connected to electricity. No country data is available for this indicator. Please refer to estimates in the table "World and regional trends."

Table 42
Percentage of population with access to improved drinking water and improved sanitation

	Drinking water		Sanitation
	Urban	Rural	(Urban Population)
Bahamas	86	98	100
Barbados	100	100	100
Belize	82	100	71
Saint Lucia	…	…	…

Source: Millennium indicators website

Table 43
Another look at population with access to drinking water

Bahamas			
Water source	2000	1990	% increase
Piped into dwelling	55.8	53.3	48.9
Piped into yard	2.1	3.3	-8.6
Private in dwelling	30.6	23.8	82.1
Private not piped	3.3	6.4	-27.6
Stand pipe	5.5	10.3	-24.3
Public well/tank	0.7	2.1	-54.6
Other	2.1	0.8	281.4
	100.0	100.0	42.1
Total	87692	61726	
Barbados			
Water source	2000	1990	% increase
Piped into dwelling	90.9	80.3	24.6
Piped into yard	5.6	13.7	-55.2
Stand pipe	0.7	1.8	-55.8
Friend/Relative's pipe	1.9	0.0	
Private in dwelling	0.0	0.0	
Private not piped	0.0	0.0	
Public well/tank	0.0	0.0	
Other	0.1	2.8	-94.5
Not Stated/NR	0.7	1.4	-44.9
	100.0	100.0	10.0
Total	83027	75479	
Belize			
Water source	2000	1990	% increase
Public piped into dwelling)	26.0	19.6	81.8
Public piped into yard	17.0	18.1	28.4
Stand pipe	4.2	5.5	4.8
Stream/Spring/Well	2.2	7.5	-58.9
Private piped into dwelling)	3.9	11.9	-54.5
Private vat, drum … etc.	27.3	20.0	87.3
Purified water	16.9	0.0	
Public well/tank	0.9	9.5	-87.4
Other	1.3	7.9	-77.5
Not Stated/NR	0.2	0.0	
	100.0	100.0	36.9
Total	51945	37944	

Source: Calculated from data from the 2000/2001 population census housed in ECLAC Social Statistical Databases

Table 43
Another look at population with access to drinking water ... cont'd

St. Lucia			
Water source	2000	1990	% increase
Public piped	58.6	31.6	164.2
Public Yard	19.3	14.9	85.1
Stand pipe	8.5	28.3	-57.1
Private in dwelling	2.4	16.2	-78.6
Private not piped	1.2	2.1	-19.5
Private piped/private catchment	0.6	0.0	
Public well/tank	0.3	0.7	-31.9
Other	7.0	6.3	57.3
Not Stated/NR	2.1	0.0	
	100.0	100.0	42.5
Total	47123	33079	

Source: 1990/1991 and 2000/2001Population censuses, housed in the ECLAC Social Statistical Databases.

Table 44
Proportion of population that shares toilet facilities in three selected countries

Bahamas			
Shared Toilet	2000	1990	% increase
Yes	7.3	10.6	-1.2
No	92.7	89.4	47.8
	100.0	100.0	
Total	86580	60694	42.7
Belize			
Shared Toilet	2000	1990	% increase
Yes	9.9	Not asked	
No	89.7		
Don't know	0.4		
Total	100.0		
St. Lucia			
Shared Toilet	2000	1990	% increase
Yes	11.0	Not asked	
No	76.8		
Not Stated/NR	12.2		
Total	100.0		

Source: ECLAC/CDCC databases Population census 1990/1991 and 2000/2001 Note: Barbados does not ask this question in its population censuses and this question was not asked in the 1990/1991 census of Belize and Saint Lucia

Table 45
Toilet facilities in the four countries

Bahamas			
Toilet Facilities			
Sewerage System	11.4	9.9	63.3
Flush Toilet	75.8	67.2	59.9
Pit Latrine	6.2	16.1	-45.2
Other	5.4	5.1	48.9
None	1.2	1.5	13.5
NR	0.1	0.3	-69.1
Total	100.0	100.0	
	87743	61906	41.7
Barbados			
Toilet Facilities	2000	1990	% increase
WC linked to sewer	0.5	1.0	-44.3
WC not linked to sewer	81.3	65.2	37.2
Pit Latrine	16.5	32.1	-43.5
Other	0.5	0.4	56.7
None	0.6	0.4	77.1
NR	0.6	0.9	-34.3
Total	100.0	100.0	
	83024	75466	10.0
Belize			
Toilet Facilities			
Sewerage System/WC linked to sewer	15.1	16.2	27.8
Flush Toilet/WC not linked to sewer	34.7	18.7	154.8
Pit Latrine	44.0	51.3	17.5
Pit Latrine, ventilated and elevated	7.7	0.0	
Pit Latrine, ventilated and not elevated	10.5	0.0	
Pit Latrine, ventilated compost	1.8	0.0	
Pit Latrine, not ventilated	24.1	0.0	
Other	1.6	5.7	-61.1
None	4.3	8.1	-28.1
NR	0.2	0.0	
Total	100.0	100.0	
	51945	37944	36.9
Saint Lucia			
Toilet Facilities	2000	1990	% increase
Sewerage System/WC linked to sewer	5.5	2.8	20.2
Flush Toilet/WC not linked to sewer	47.3	12.8	130.5
Pit Latrine	35.3	21.5	2.5
Other	1.0	1.9	-67.4
None	9.2	4.8	19.0
NR	1.8	0.0	
Total	100.0	43.8	
	47124	33079	42.5

Source: ECLAC/CDCC databases of Population census 1990/1991 and 2000/2001

Table 46
Tenure

	Bahamas Housing Data		
Dwelling	2000	1990	% increase
Single detached	61.8	68.3	28.4
Single attached	19.7	17.2	63.2
Part of Private	1.6	0.9	162.6
Apartment Flat	16.6	13.5	75.0
Other	0.2	0.1	103.4
	100.0	100.0	41.9
Total	87697	61788	
Barbados Housing Data			
Dwelling	2000	1990	% increase
Separate House	87.7	89.9	8.7
Apartment Flat	11.3	8.8	42.7
Part of commercial building	0.6	0.9	-21.8
Group Dwelling	0.1	0.2	-14.6
Other	0.2	0.1	39.4
Not Stated/NR		0.0	
	100.0	100.0	11.4
Total	91589	82204	
Belize Housing Data			
Dwelling	2000	1990	% increase
Undivided House	83.7	81.0	41.5
Apartment/Flat/ Condominium	2.7	2.3	58.5
Combined Dwelling/combined business & dwelling	2.6	2.5	47.5
Part of House	5.3	7.9	-8.4
Double House/Duplex	3.9	5.3	2.2
Barracks	1.3	0.7	161.0
Other	0.3	0.4	7.7
Not Stated/NR	0.1	0.0	
	100.0	100.0	36.9
Total	51945	37944	

Table 46
Tenure ... cont'd

St. Lucia Housing Data			
Dwelling	2000	1990	% increase
Undivided House	80.6	83.1	38.1
Apartment Flat_ condo	6.3	3.3	173.2
Business and dwelling	1.9	1.3	104.6
Part of Private/Part of House	9.0	9.7	32.0
Duplex	0.5	1.8	-57.4
Townhouse	0.5	0.2	261.0
Barracks	0.4	0.4	61.2
Other	0.2	0.2	87.7
Not Stated/NR	0.5	0.0	
	100.0	100.0	42.5
Total	47123	33079	

Source: ECLAC/CDCC databases 1990/1991 and 2000/2001 Population Census

GOAL 8: DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Indicators

45. Unemployment rate of 15- to 24-year-olds, each sexes and totals (ILO)

Unemployment (standard definition) includes all persons who, during a specified reference period (e.g. one week), were: (i) without work, i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment; (ii) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and (iii) seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps (registration at a public or private employment exchange; application to employers; checking at worksites, farms, factory gates, market or other assembly places; placing or answering newspaper advertisements; seeking assistance of friends or relatives; looking for land, building machinery or equipment to establish own enterprise; arranging for financial resources; applying for permits and licenses; etc.) in a specified recent period (e.g. the last four weeks) to seek paid employment or self-employment. Persons without work and currently available for work, who had already made arrangements to take up paid employment or undertake self-employment activity at a date subsequent to the reference period are to be considered unemployed, irrespective of whether or not they continued seeking work. Also regarded as unemployed are persons temporarily absent from their jobs with no formal job attachment, who were currently available for work and seeking work. In situations where the conventional means of seeking work are of limited relevance, where the labour market is largely unorganized or of limited scope, where labour absorption is temporarily inadequate or where the labour force is largely self-employed, a relaxed definition of unemployment can be applied, based on only the first two of the above-mentioned criteria (without

work and currently available for work). Such a relaxed definition of unemployment can also be applied in the case of persons temporarily laid off without formal job attachment. The unemployment rate is the ratio of unemployed persons (numerator) to the economically active population or labour force (denominator), expressed as a percentage. Age-specific unemployment rates relate unemployed persons of a specific age group to the economically active population or labour force of the same age group.

Table 47
Youth unemployment rate (various years) (ILO)

	Bahamas			Barbados			Belize			Saint Lucia		
	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F
1990				30.7	21.8	40.5						
1991				33.5	29.7	37.3						
1992				42.2	37.1	48.3						
1993										29.1	23.4	34.9
1994				41.8	38.1	46.9	21.5	17.1	29.2	33.7	28.0	39.4
1995				38.1	33.3	43.2	23.4	19.1	31.7	34.2	27.5	42.3
1996				28.5	22.5	32.8	25.6	21.9	33.3	35.2	31.0	40.6
1997	22.2	16.5	28.5	29.5	24.8	35.4	23.7	17.2	36.0	36.6	31.2	43.2
1998	15.7	10.3	21.7	24.6	20.3	29.4	25.1	18.9	35.9	44.0	38.1	51.8
1999	15.8	10.6	22.0	21.8	18.0	26.8	22.5	15.4	34.7			

M – Male F – Female
Source: Millennium indicators website, citing ILO as source

46. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis (WHO)

Every year, in order to estimate the level of access to essential drugs, the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs interviews relevant experts in each country about the pharmaceutical situation. The interviewees can choose from four levels of access by the population to essential drugs: less than 50%; between 50-80%; 80-95%; and above 95%. They indicate which category is most appropriate for their country. Essential drugs are those drugs that satisfy the health care needs of the majority of the population. (WHO Expert Committee on Essential Drugs, November 1999). Essential drugs are listed by the WHO in its Model List of Essential Drugs (1997 version, www.who.int).

47. Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 1000 population (ITU)

Main telephone lines are the number of telephone lines connecting the subscriber's terminal equipment to the public switched network and which have a dedicated port in the telephone exchange equipment. Cellular mobile telephone subscribers are users of portable telephones subscribing to an automatic public mobile telephone service which provides access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using cellular technology.

48. Personal computers in use per 1000 population (ITU) and Internet users per 1000 population (ITU)[16]

Table 48
Percentage of population with access to essential drugs

Country	1996	1997
Bahamas	-100	-100
Barbados	-100	-100
Belize	-50	-50
Saint Lucia		-80

Source: Millennium indicators website, citing WHO estimates as source

Code: -50 Less than 50%
-80 Between 50% and 80%
-100 Greater then 95%

Table 49
Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 population

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Bahamas	87807	94411	104277	113941	127095	145871	183857
Barbados	94746	102830	116470	125031	135309	152299	182067
Belize	30494	31784	33211	36022	42707	52566	74392
Saint Lucia	31576	35183	38592	42273	46765	51400	52700

Source: Millennium indicators website, citing ITU estimates as source

Table 50
Personal computers per 100 population

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bahamas	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
Barbados	5.67	6.05	6.76	7.50	7.85	8.22	9.32	…
Belize	2.85	4.63	6.76	8.78	10.69	12.49	13.38	13.83
Saint Lucia	…	…	…	13.33	13.77	14.18	14.58	…

Source: Millennium Indicators website, citing ITU estimates as source

[16] Tables 34-36 associated with indicators 47 and 48 use ITU estimates that calculate the indicators per 100 population instead of per 1000 population.

Table 51
Internet users per 100 population

Country	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Bahamas	0.97	1.76	1.37	2.33	3.75	4.31	5.49	6.80
Barbados	0.01	0.38	0.75	1.87	2.24	3.74	5.59	...
Belize	0.05	0.93	1.35	2.19	4.27	6.24	7.30	8.70
Saint Lucia	0.32	0.69	1.02	1.33	1.97	5.16	8.24	...

Source: Millennium indicators website, citing ITU estimates as source

Table 52
Percentage of population with telephone lines, personal computers, internet access and who are cellular subscribers

Bahamas	**2000**	**1990**
Telephone		
- Yes	Not asked	56.2
- No		43.8
		100
Total		61672
Computers		Not asked
-Yes	27.9	
- No	72.1	
	100	
Total	87631	
Internet Access		
-Yes	15.5	Not asked
- No	84.5	
Total	87621	

Belize	**2000**	**1990**
Telephone		
- Yes	40.7	27.4
- No	58.6	72.6
Not Stated	0.8	
	100	100
Total	51945	37944
Computers		Not asked
-Yes	8.8	
- No	91.2	
	100	
Total	51945	
Internet Access	Not asked	
-Yes		
- No		
Total		

Barbados	**2000**	**1990**
Telephone		
- Yes	83.8	62.3
- No	16.2	37.7
	0.0	0.0
	100.0	100.0
Total	81769	82204
Computers		
-Yes	22.1	Not asked
- No	77.9	
	0.0	
	100.0	
Total	81295	
Internet Access		
-Yes	15.9	Not asked
- No	84.1	
	0.0	
	100.0	
Total	74323	
Cellular Telephone		
- Yes	13.6	Not asked
- No	86.4	
	100.0	
Total	80772	

Saint Lucia	**2000**	**1990**
Telephone		
- Yes	60.4	28.7
- No	37.9	71.3
- Not stated	1.7	
	100.0	100
Total	47124	33079
Computers		Not asked
-Yes	13.1	
- No	84.6	
- Not stated	2.2	
Total	100.0	
	47124	
Internet Access		
-Yes	8.0	Not asked
- No	81.5	
- Not stated	10.5	
Total	100.0	
	47124	
Cellular Telephone		
- Yes	13.7	Not asked
- No	83.4	
- Not stated	2.9	
	100.0	
Total	47124	

Source: ECLAC/CDCC Social Statistical databases. Household and Population Census 2000/2001

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