CARICOM / United Nations Development Programme

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UNDP

Multi-Donor Programme to Support the Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment, Monitoring, and the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean through the Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean (SPARC)

Project duration: 3.5 years (October 2006 – March 2010)
Programme Component: MDG and Poverty Monitoring
Project Title: Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean
Project ID: _____
Project Duration: 3.5 years
Management Arrangement: _NEX____

Budget
General Management Support Fee_____
Total budget:
Allocated resources:
- Government   _____
- Regular   _$670,000____
- Other:
  - Donor   _____
  - Donor   _____
  - Donor   _____
- In kind contributions   _____
Unfunded budget: _____

This multi-donor programme is a coordinated response designed to provide capacity building inputs to support the strengthening of poverty monitoring and social policy development systems in the CARICOM Region. It will build on existing statistical support programmes developed and supported by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank, the UN system and other development partner agencies. The participating agencies will focus their support on inputs linked to the achievement of the MDGs and will also support the strengthening of national and regional capacities to systematically collect, analyze and disseminate social data to inform social policy formulation and in the establishing and monitoring of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). The overall outcome of this programme will result in a systematic and coherent flow of donor inputs to support a Caribbean wide system of social data capture, poverty monitoring and policy development.

Agreed by UNDP: _____

Agreed by Executing/*Implementing* Agency: _____

Deputy Secretary/General

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SECTION 1- PROJECT CONTEXT, IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AND COMPONENTS

1. Context and situational analysis

1.1 Poverty and achievement of the MDGS in the Caribbean

Countries in the region are committed to the eradication of poverty as one of their primary development objectives. This is in congruence with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) signed on to by all CARICOM Member Countries at the Millennium Summit in 2000.Over the past three decades, CARICOM countries at the national and regional levels put all efforts in managing human and social development as an integral part of the development challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS). They have put in place various mechanisms such as National Strategic Plans, National Development Plans and more recently, the (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) framework, all of which require comprehensive systems of statistics.

The Statistics Sub-programme of the CARICOM Secretariat provides support to the development of social statistics, enhancing of statistical coordination and the fundamental issue of harmonization of statistics across the region. Significant support is also provided to the building of capacity in demographic analysis as well as the analysis and dissemination of census data as prime example. The CARICOM Secretariat and the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) have also developed a Regional Statistical Programme for the Region and a Resolution calling on governments to increase investment in statistics as a priority. These mechanisms focus on enabling a programmatic approach to the development and harmonization of statistics across Member States and the targeting of increased investment in statistics by Governments to sustain the statistical development process..

The 2002 Human Development Report for the OECS and the 2004 Progress Report on the MDGs[1] highlighted the significant progress, which countries in the region have made in addressing critical components on human development. Countries in the OECS and throughout CARICOM continue to score highly in the Global Human Development Index with Barbados recording the highest ranking of 30[2] (HDR 2005, pp. 219). Half of the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) rank in the top 100.

With respect to the MDGs, the OECS HDR and the MDG progress report as well as some individual country-based MDGRs suggest that countries in the Caribbean are making good progress towards 2015. Some of the MDGs at the basic level which are prescribed have already been achieved such as the MDGs relating to education (MDG 2), child mortality (MDG 4) and maternal mortality (MDG 5); on track relating to gender equality (MDG 3), environmental sustainability (MDG 7) and lagging in those relating to MDG 1 (Poverty and extreme hunger), MDG 6 (HIV and AIDS) and MDG 8 (Partnership).

In sharp contrast to the progress made in child and maternal health, universal access to primary education, improved access by women to education and employment and limited incidence of malaria and tuberculosis; poverty remains a serious issue for the region. A look at Table 1 *(next page)* shows a troubling picture – in some cases, poverty levels have exceeded 35% in two countries – St. Vincent and the Grenadines[3] and Dominica[4]

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[1] The Millennium Development Goals in the Eastern Caribbean: A Progress Report, 2004. UNDP Barbados and the OECS. The Report Provides an assessment of progress with the achievement of the MDGs in the Eastern Caribbean, i.e. Barbados and member states of the OECS, over the period 1990-2001.
[2] **Human Development Report 2005** International cooperation at a crossroads: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world. Pp. 219. Published Annual by UNDP.
[3] Based on CPA of 1996 and Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2003
[4] Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2003 and CPA,2003

Table 1: Selected Poverty Indicators for the Caribbean

Country	Poverty Indicators				
	Year CPA conducted	% below the poverty line	% below the indigence line	Poverty Gap	FGT P2 (Severity)
Barbados*	1997	13.9	-	n.a.	n.a
Belize[R]	1996	33.0	13.4	8.7	4.3
Dominica****	2002	39.0	15	10.2	4.8
Grenada	1999	32.1	12.9	15.3	9.9
Guyana*	1999	35.0	19.0	12.4	n.a
Jamaica****	2003	19%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a
Nevis[R]	2000	32.0	17.0	2.8	1.0
St. Kitts[R]	2000	30.5	11.0	2.5	0.9
St. Lucia[R]	1996	25.1	7.1	8.6	4.4
St. Vincent & the Grenadines[R]	1996	37.5	25.7	12.6	6.9
Trinidad and Tobago*	1992	21.2	11.2	n.a.	n.a.
Turks and Caicos Islands[R]	1999	25.9	3.2	5.7	2.6

Source: Thomas & Wint (2002: p.5.); [R]: CPAs conducted by CDB Gaps; **** World Bank, Dominica Social Protection Review (July 11, 2003) p.3.

One reason is that the CARICOM region has seen a steady decline in GDP growth since the 1980s. GDP growth fell from 5.9% per year in the 1980s, 3.3 percent in the 1990s and 1.4 percent in the new millennium (World Bank 2005). The slow down in GDP growth is associated with a sharp decline in productivity growth and public investment between the 1980s and 1990s, followed by a contraction in private domestic investment and a decrease in exports between the 1990s and the new millennium. The OECS as a sub-region fared very badly given the lost of preferential access to the European market for bananas. Banana's contribution to agricultural sector has declined by near 50% in St. Lucia and Dominica, with export falling well above 60%. Sugar output declined by 24% in 2003 (CDB 2003). Generally globalization and trade liberalization posed major challenges for primary industries with sugar facing similar declines as bananas. These phenomena have resulted in the exacerbation of the poverty situation with the agricultural based rural areas faring the worst. It has been established that the rural poor have less access to land, credit facilities, social services, adequate infrastructure and organized agricultural support services (CDB, 2004). The "working poor" constitute a significant proportion of those found at or below the poverty line (OECS/UNDP, 2002)[5].

According to ECLAC 2005 available information indicates that women are clearly overrepresented in the poor population. Available statistical information also continues to support discrimination against women and gender imbalances regardless of the 'achievements" in education in spite of the progress made in employment and the narrowing of the income gap. Consequently, throughout the region, females continue to dominate the unemployed or underpaid groups hence the high levels of poverty. Low educational attainment is a defining characteristic of the poor in the region. Despite the significant investment in welfare and social development programmes targeting education and health, poverty levels remain persistently high. Insufficient employment generation opportunities are major challenges.

The general profile of the poor in the region emanating from the various studies including the 2004 MDG Progress Report is as follows:

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[5] OECS Human Development Report, 2002, prepared for the OECS with UNDP support.

- Low human capital base (i.e., level of education and skills), with lesser accessibility to secondary level schooling;
- Poor housing conditions with overcrowding being a problem;
- Relatively high use of pit latrines;
- Limited access to potable water;
- High incidence of poverty in female-headed households;
- High incidence of malnutrition among children in poor households;
- High levels of employment in informal sector (acting as a cushion for unemployment in the formal sector); and
- Little correlation between growth in informal sector and significant economic growth at the individual or country level.

There is a need to integrate "social vulnerability" as part of the operational framework of programmes and projects. While economic vulnerability has been accepted and environmental vulnerability increasingly so, there remains some lack of clarity and uncertainty around the concept of social vulnerability and its relevance to the policy debate. However, an examination of the concerns raised above, quickly suggests that it must be a critical part of the construct if programmes including social protection are to truly serve as a buffer to unexpected events. The Caribbean Sub-Regional Office of the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in a presentation at the *Launch of the MDGR for Barbados and the OECS and Dialogue to Review IPRSPs/PRSPs*[6] noted that "vulnerability" represented the dynamic and interplay between susceptibility and resilience and that the link becomes clear when one looks at the issues of *weak social capital, sub-standard housing, living in disaster prone areas* and the link to those who are most affected by natural or economic disasters. These persons are more than likely in the event of a disaster to become "instantly poor" and to have great difficulty in transitioning from this to improving their welfare. The example of Grenada and the impact on women in particular provide much evidence and support to this recommendation after Hurricane Ivan. While many of the factors associated with social vulnerability are also related to poverty, it should be noted that they are not one and the same.

It is also recognized that children and their development also requires specific attention within the context of social development. The UNICEF Child Vulnerability Studies, which have been implemented across the region, have identified a number of concerns relating to "early childhood development", incidences of child abuse and the specific vulnerability of children particularly in the context of poverty and deprivation. A Conference held in 2004 on Children and HIV and AIDS, co-sponsored by UNICEF and the Government of Barbados, recognized that HIV and AIDS could not be addressed without full recognition of the Rights and the Role of Children – their need for protection which includes access to information and support. The critical issues of youth and their marginalization have also been recognized as critical. Issues such as child protection and child labour are also important.
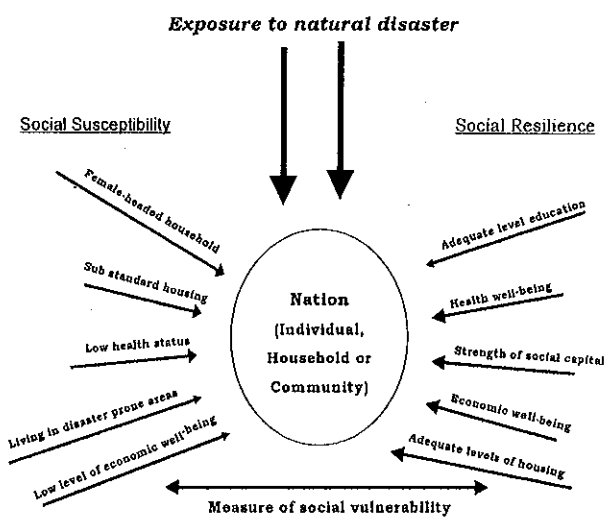

Figure 1. Construct of Social Vulnerability

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[6] Meeting organized jointly by UNDP and UNIFEM and held at UN House from March 31st – April 1st, 2005.

Adequate basic health provision has been a major achievement, but the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other health issues, in particular diabetes, hypertension and diseases, chronic and otherwise, threaten to undermine this progress. The potential impact on the human resources of the region could be staggering if unchecked. Stagnation of efforts after the "basics" have been met, is a challenge. Furthermore, quality and access to these services are inconsistent across some countries. It is also recognized that there are linkages between health and other social issues (e.g. that declining health can influence or contribute to poverty due to increased costs and limited capacity to work). Likewise poor living conditions resulting from poverty have been linked to a number of health issues some of them chronic. Equally studies continue to confirm a link between poverty and the increased incidence of HIV and AIDS amongst some vulnerable groups. The CPAs by CDB as well as work by PAHO including the research of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development have served to elucidate many of these issues and concerns and their implications for the development of the region. At the same time, a concern regarding the capacity of the current health care systems, particularly HIV and AIDS, still exists.

Since 1994, a number of National Poverty Assessments (CPAs) have been conducted and poverty-related policies, programmes, strategies and plans have been developed, primarily with support from the UNDP, DFID and the CDB at the request of the countries of the region. Governments themselves have made significant contributions to these activities with financial, technical and human resources. In addition, institutional mechanisms have been established mainly to address social development at the national level. In Barbados and Saint Lucia, this has taken the form of Ministries of Social Transformation. Further, with support from the CDB, DFID, World Bank and the EU, a number of poverty-specific mechanisms have been introduced, including Poverty Reduction Funds, Basic Needs Trust Funds and Social Investment Funds. The Governments striving to:

- Increase access by the poor to basic services;
- Stimulate investment, enterprise development and economic growth so as to expand employment opportunities;
- Introduce accelerated skills-training programmes targeted at the unemployed and new entrants into the workforce;
- Provide continuous training and retraining of displaced workers; and
- Reform their education sectors to produce graduates with the skills and competencies required in an increasingly knowledge-based and competitive economy.

Support from the development partners have continued and expanded in full recognition of the changing dynamic of socio-economic and human development context. There are various initiatives in the region. For instance, some CARICOM countries have benefited from:

- CDB's Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs), social analysis training, Poverty Reduction Action Plans (Preps), poverty monitoring and the Basic Needs Trust Fund. Support by DFID to poverty reduction and gender and social development assistance through CDB;

- EU's support to social data capture; UNDP support to capacity building for social data analysis and interpretation, expanding MDG monitoring and the introduction of the Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ) Survey;

- ECLAC's support to the regional warehousing and central database efforts, the development of the social vulnerability index and methodology, the development of the macro-economic impact assessment methodology, engagement in the last census round in providing technical support to the countries and support in 2000/2001 to the development of social policy indicators for Youth;

- UNIFEM's support on gender and poverty, gender budgets and gender analysis training, gender and PRSPs and support to gender analysis of the CWIQ Survey findings in Grenada (2005);

- World Bank support through the mini-MECOVI Project administered by the OECS Secretariat; IDB support to social data analysis;

- PAHO support and administration of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development and support to social data particularly in linking the determinants of health; the continued strengthening of the Core Health Database and a series of economic assessments geared to inform the policy process; and

- CIDA in providing access to resources and enabling local responses to critical development issues including specific focus on addressing gender inequities at the community level.

1.2. Poverty Measurement, Poverty Monitoring and Social Data collection

Central to sustained human and social development in the region, is the systematic and harmonized collection of data across line ministries under the coordination of National Statistical Offices (NSOs). Over time, research evidence has shown that while the generation of economic statistics is more institutionalized in some of these areas of statistics and countries in spite of data quality and gaps, there are significant issues related to the collection, analysis and dissemination of social statistics that limit evidence-based social policy formulation. A major contributor to this paucity of credible and reliable data is the lack of structure in the data collection processes i.e. a "systems approach" and the deficiency of the human skills needed to carry out analysis. In the absence of such a structured framework, the critical component of data dissemination is compromised. In recognizing the continuing region-wide, historical systemic challenges in social data collection and poverty monitoring, UNDP, in 2002 commissioned the Hutcheon Study.[7] The study highlighted that regular surveys on social and demographic indicators do not exist with the exception of Jamaica and even when surveys are complete, there is a tendency for limited policy analysis and links to decision making. Various past and current projects, through training needs assessments and MDG reporting exercises, also identified that the needs of countries include the need for integration of data collection systems and that statistical systems require harmonization and standardization. These assessments by donor agencies individually and collectively formed the basis for the current initiative known as *SPARC-Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean.* A collaborative effort of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the CARICOM Secretariat in 199-2002 provided greater focus on the areas of Social and Environment Statistics through a Project Strengthening Capacity in the Compilation of Social/Gender and Environment Statistics and Indicators for Conference follow-up. This initiative was followed by a programme developed by the UNSD, CARICOM Secretariat and Member States to sustain the process of capacity building in Social/Gender and Environment Statistics after 2002 and which received the support of the UNDP, the World Bank, the UNFPA, UNICEF and other agencies and donors. An Advisory Group Mechanism was established to guide and monitor progress and has been operating since 2002.

Poverty assessments and by extension poverty reduction strategies have been constrained by lack of access to reliable high-quality data, inadequate poverty analysis, limited spatial analysis and absence of linkages among data collectors, analysts and policy makers. The problem of data deficiency in coverage and quality for monitoring the achievement of the MDGs including poverty and sustainable development targets lead to five main issues:[8]

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[8] Ibid. pp 3-5.

a) Limited regular and consistent surveys that generate data at appropriate levels result in a lack of time-series data and the lack of capacity to establish baselines;
b) The need to strengthen technical capacity for data collection, analysis and primary research;
c) The need to link various aspects of poverty such as gender, susceptibility and vulnerability and the effectiveness or lack of social protection measures to poverty reduction; and
d) Limited availability of financial and other resources to undertake regular surveys and poverty assessments.; and
e) Regular research outputs that use existing and new data

In harmonizing support to programme countries, development partners agreed to the revitalization of the donor group, formerly the Development Partners for Poverty Working Group (DPPWG) renamed the Poverty and Social Sector Development Donor Group (PSSDDG). The deliberations within this Working Group have led to the revised SPARC initiative as a harmonized step in the process of addressing the issues highlighted above. The strategy to improve monitoring and capacity is based on this initiative, with the overarching goal being to 'Assist governments to design and implement a planning framework that addresses the specific needs of

Progress with Country Poverty Assessment/SLC	
MON	PA 2000
STL	PA 1995; CWIQ 2004 (EC-UNDP)
STK-N	PA 2000
STV-G	PA 95/96
T & T	PA 92/97
T & C	PA 96/97 (2nd underway)
GUY	PA 99 (DFID/UNDP)
GRN	CWIQ 2005 (CDB/UNDP)
A & B, Cayman Isl., SUR – No PA/SLC	

the vulnerable and the disadvantaged in reducing poverty and enhancing social development.' The initiative is intended to foster an integrated approach to human development recognizing poverty reduction, social protection and human capital development as integral parts of the process recognizes that the responses to poverty reduction and the MDGs require a holistic approach and that the building of capacity in social indicators will also require support in enhancing economic indicators and measurement.

It is within this context that comprehensive monitoring systems must be strengthened. This must be linked to the globally accepted operational framework based on the MDGs. Relevant Caribbean specific indicators and targets must continue to be defined in order to track progress to meet the benchmarked 2015 targets.

This initiative recognizes the work that the CARICOM Secretariat, along with the other agencies mentioned has already commenced over the years such as the identification of a core list of statistics and indicators including the the MDGs to be produced by all Member States and other capacity building activities. These activities focused on the development of administrative sources of data, production of user manuals and statistical reports, convening of regional training workshops and initiating or supporting of social indicators committees to coordinate and develop these statistics.. More recently efforts have been focused on CARICOM-specific MDGs as mandated by COHSOD. It is also noted that the OECS Secretariat with support from UNDP has also initiated localization of the MDGs at the country level in order to begin to identify the data and capacity needs to fulfil both regional and international mandates. Additionally, with the coming into being of the CSME on January 31st of this year, it is recognized that in January 2005, the Community Council of Ministers (Council) endorsed the Regional Statistical Programme and the Resolution calling on Governments to invest in statistics as a priority in the Region as main mechanisms for statistical support to the CSME process. SPARC recognizes the Regional Statistical Programme as the appropriate context for the support for statistical capacity building in the region and this will be incorporated in the development of SPARC. This document further notes the ownership by the Secretariat and regional governments of the regional statistical capacity building process and the lead role of CARICOM as mandated by the Community Council of Ministers in January 2005.

2. Goal and Purpose

The SPARC will deliver a comprehensive package of support to CARICOM countries to strengthen national and regional capacities to systematically collect, analyze and disseminate social data for poverty assessment as well as critically inform social policy formulation at national levels. The SPARC framework would lead to improved data collection and analytical skills which would in turn strengthen poverty monitoring systems to complement social development strategies and policies linked to the achievement of the MDGs.

The focus of SPARC will be bringing together under a coordinated framework existing donor interventions relating to issues of MDG achievement including poverty reduction – not just the data collection but the policy efforts as well, which have been initiated by the countries of the CARICOM region themselves, or by the regional organizations. It is recognized that countries will still pursue bilateral arrangements with donors and agencies outside of this framework.

Further, it is recognized that 'sustainable capacity' to conduct poverty assessments requires a process, which must be maintained to deliver statutory period outputs. While measurable deliverables inform important targets, the success of the programme should be measured by the sustainability beyond the life of donor funded SPARC. This clearly indicates that the success of the programme is predicated on national ownership of the programme which would be achieved by skills enhancement of **regional and national statisticians, policy and decision-makers as well as interested civil society stakeholders**. Countries and regional organizations must be the driving force behind this initiative in securing the necessary government support in terms of human and financial resources and policy decisions to implement the required actions.

Therefore, the ultimate goal is to build and sustain the capacity of statisticians, social analysts, researchers and a wide range of stakeholders who participate in poverty assessments and related policy development. Fundamental to this purpose is support for the creation of a system that provides a continuous flow of experts and mechanisms through which the expertise can be passed on to personnel in the national statistical agencies. This approach would enable participating countries to build capacity to sustain the production and dissemination of timely, credible and reliable data which can strategically inform programme interventions in the short, medium and long terms. The mechanisms would utilize available experts and would facilitate the exchange of expertise among statistical agencies in the region so that some measure of continuity in support to capacity building is achievable. There is also the recognition of the need to enhance the capacity of Line Ministries and other agencies outside of the National Statistical Office to inform the data collection process and to use data effectively for interpretation and for policy including statistical literacy.[9]

In essence, SPARC will strengthen the framework for social policy-making by enabling the generation of data, statistical capacity-building, policy formulation, data dissemination and advocacy in order to foster and sustain positive human development outcomes.

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[9] By Statistical Literacy we refer to the enhanced knowledge of the nature and use of statistics as well as methodologies and how they can be used effectively and interpreted for policy design or evaluation of programmes/initiatives.

3. IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT AND EXPECTATIONS

3. 1 General Approach and Strategy

Countries in the region continue to highlight challenges in obtaining timely statistical data that can inform the social development agenda. This challenge can be attributed in part to the weak and often ad hoc research culture and the minimal demand for social data and context relevant methodology development. Historically, countries have experienced capacity limitations to consistently conduct social surveys and in some instances where instruments have been administered; data have not been analyzed in a timely manner, thereby hindering the use of the results. Compounding this has been the over reliance on externally driven inputs, e.g. consultants, which has had the result of little or no transfer of knowledge and skills. This SPARC programme intends to build on the programmatic support that already exists at the national, regional and sub-regional levels through the ongoing efforts of development partners and will seek to upscale various activities including training in social and gender analysis, seminars, workshops, policy dialogues and timely and consistent data dissemination, simultaneously at national and regional levels.

Strategically, SPARC will, through the collaboration and partnership of development partners and stakeholders:

- Support the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of social data, leading to sustainability over the long term;
- Enhance capacity to provide high quality data, but will be at the centre of a sustainable process of continued development of policy analysis capacity;
- Support country-driven and nationally owned poverty assessment and reduction strategies;
- Strengthen country-specific poverty monitoring and evaluation frameworks and support the involvement of civil society which is expected to result in a transparent and independent monitoring platform; and
- Sensitize senior policy makers and other relevant stakeholders to research techniques and outcomes that will be critical for timely and informed decision-making.

The last component includes engaging multi-sectoral stakeholders in dialogue through symposia, in order to address issues of both the demand and supply of data. It will seek also to strengthen capacities of those who collect as well as analyze data. As a critical component, the programme also seeks to provide various fora for senior policy makers to sensitize them to the issues and create the context for them to have a clearer understanding of the issues affecting the development options of their respective countries.

A significant strength of the programme is predicated on the partnership among major development partners, which creates an inclusive platform of resources and expertise that facilitates coordination, coherence and quality control. Critically, a major part of the strategy entails strengthening links with distinguished and national regional institutes (e.g. UWI, STATIN-Jamaica and PIOJ) for purposes of sharing resources, knowledge, expertise and training. An ICT solution in the form of a web-site and possibly supporting web-based access will be created to strengthen regional information and data inputs, comparison and evaluation of poverty assessments, monitoring and reduction measures.

Effective coordination will be fundamental to the success of the programme. As such, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the commitment of development partners to harmonization and to alignment of support to and with priorities at the national and regional level is also a key consideration.

3.2 Local Ownership for Sustainability

SPARC has been developed on the basis of and responds directly to the expressed needs identified by the countries of the region through a number of assessments, and national as well as regional consultations. Issues identified by the CARICOM and OECS Secretariats based on their respective experiences in implementing initiatives in the development of social statistics and policy analysis also served to inform the SPARC.. The SPARC initiative attempts to directly address the results of external and internal assessments of what may be needed and to respond to inputs from comments and suggestions from a number of meetings over the last two years at various levels[10]. Ownership will be fostered within the programme through continuous and systematic engagement at all levels and representation of the national and regional perspective. In addition, ownership that supports broad-based multi-stakeholder participation in the monitoring process will be promoted. This is because data monitoring and development is currently viewed within the static project/programme cycle confines as opposed to inter-sectorally or as activities that crosscut all development phases. Furthermore, governments must take lead responsibility for the institutionalization of poverty and MDG monitoring processes with support from donors.

If the poverty reduction goal is to be achieved it requires broad-based participation of civil society who have a key role as an independent evaluator. This will require a partnership as a joint exercise of governments and civil society to foster credibility and reliability. The current process is that the final decisions over policy design and implementation is *at the same time* monitored by state agencies. This results in outcomes that promote conflict of use and interpretation of data and successful impacts of the policies.

The SPARC strategy proposes to strengthen the policy and monitoring framework by encouraging the demand for experiential data while strengthening analytical skills involved in the collection, analysis and dissemination. This approach will enhance sustainability of the process.

The success of SPARC will require the full participation and leadership from the governments of the region and the full and effective involvement of civil society. Governments must inform and guide the process and will be fully engaged in the design and implementation of activities and processes. The programme will also benefit from the identification by governments of where potential synergies exist or can exist and where harmonization and eventually alignment can best be achieved. Governments and civil society are partners, beneficiary and primary agents for the change process which will be undertaken. Success is dependent on a full partnership in every sense.

Governments of the region as full partners will be expected to identify specific focal points i.e. human resources to work along with the programme management and execution machinery. It is also anticipated that governments may contribute to SPARC through direct cost-sharing as well as the identification of related activities which can also be linked to this framework. This will require the participation of governments through the Technical Cooperation Focal Points, the Central Statistical Offices, the Ministries of Social Transformation/Development and other line Ministries as appropriate in various elements of the programme on a continuing basis. It will also require equally effective coordination at the national level through the Social Indicators and MDG committees (SIMDGs) or a more centralized process so that at the country level there is awareness, input and value across the board to the assistance being received. The programme targets specialized and general users of data and information. Governments will be encouraged to reintegrate persons trained under the SPARC into their respective national agencies.

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[10] Critical meetings in this consultative process include COHSOD April 2005 Session, CDB/UNDP MDG Conferences in 2004 and 2005, CARICOM Advisory Group Meetings in 2004 and 2005, UNDP Country Programme Action Plan Review Meetings Oct-Dec 2005 and the IDB Poverty and Social Protection Network Meeting in 2006.

The full involvement of civil society will also be critical particularly in their role of independent evaluators, general users of data and as actors also influencing the achievement of the MDGs. Civil society is expected to be represented in the overall coordination body for SPARC and also equally within the national coordination mechanisms.

3.3 Demand for Capacity

Statistical capacity can be successfully developed and sustained by creating the supply of skills in response to the demand for those skills. Further, establishing the demand for skills is part of the capacity building exercise. Most capacity building programs concentrate on the former and ignore the latter, which is why they are not sustained when donor support to programme ends. While policy makers have a desire to generate data, the content of the demand itself must be derived from an understanding of poverty analysis. By providing an understanding of the analytical process, the SPARC aims to generate insights among policy makers with the recognition that straightforward solutions to every problem are not always readily available, and that for most problems there are policy options, each with specific trade-offs.

3.4 Integration of Training and Everyday Work

The lack of capacity that the SPARC is designed to address presents most governments with a dilemma. On the one hand it means that there is an urgent need to train staff outside of their everyday working environment. On the other, it is sometimes difficult to release them for such training, since they are crucial to the work of various government institutions. The SPARC attempts to resolve this dilemma by recommending integration of training and work as follows:

- Individualized on-the-job training integrated with work needs; and
- Short-term training programmes that are directly related to poverty assessment, using lessons learned from case studies.

The roll-out of the activities will be guided by the critical priorities identified by the governing body as expressed by the countries and regional institutions and aligned with ongoing/pending activities agreed between parties. In relation to the statistics aspects/elements of SPARC, activities will be aligned with the CARICOM statistical framework and the work plan approved by the COHSOD.

The level of assistance provided will be at varying levels both national and regional. In the OECS context it is recognized that efforts should also be mindful of existing OECS frameworks. Support therein will be defined by expressed priorities and on a case by case basis.

4. DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES

4.1 Component 1: Building National Capacity for Assessments

Data requirements for monitoring of MDGs and other indicators are considerable, requiring a large quantity of detailed data from many different sources. In this respect, the SPARC will assist in designing surveys to collect data by identifying gaps between existing data sets and those required as inputs for effective monitoring and evaluation.

The main tasks and steps are:

a) Taking inventory of existing data and carrying out the necessary 'cleaning' (already ongoing);
b) Primary data collection;

c) Enhancing methodologies linking social and economic sources of data;
d) Enhancing national capacity for and the use of Geographic Information Systems as a tool and a platform for analysis and interpretation of data;
e) Data analysis, updating, and harmonization at the national and regional level;
f) Strengthening capacity to collect and provide data to inform and report on the CSME process;
g) Supporting research on specific topics; and
h) Training in use of statistical software in the calibration and simulation process at the national level.

SPARC will support countries in undertaking regular poverty assessments and socio-economic surveys using local and regional capacity comprising the provision of technical support and advice, coordinating donor inputs and ensuring quality control for activities such as:

i. Annual CWIQ surveys;
ii. Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) comprising Surveys of Living Conditions (SLC) and Participatory Poverty Assessments (PPA) every 4-5 years;
iii. Household budget surveys every ten years but in different years from the conduct of the census;
iv. Testing of other methodologies and tools including the Social Vulnerability Index
v. Supporting the 2010 Round of census and analytical reporting on the 2000 Round as already started by CARICOM and UNFPA;
vi. Expanding the use of GIS and poverty mapping methodologies;
vii. Other assessments e.g. community analysis, post-disaster socio-economic assessments; and
viii. Specific gender analyses of critical social issues – mainstreaming gender analysis as a critical part of social analysis.

SPARC will build on the CPA process, which have been supported and led by the CDB over the last decade, and on the recent positive results of the first pilot of the Core Welfare Indicator Questionnaire (CWIQ) in Saint Lucia and its administration in Grenada during the last quarter of 2005.

The proposed Monitoring Framework is built on the following system of tools: *See diagram below:*

* **Tools for measuring depth & determinants of poverty (Understanding the Issues):** Household Budget Surveys (HBS), Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS), Survey of Living Conditions (SLC), qualitative assessments & participative monitoring (Participatory Poverty Assessments is part of the Country Poverty Assessment(CPA)
* **Tools for comparing differences over space (Targeting):** Local Administrative Records, Population Census, Household Surveys (HS), Poverty Maps
* **Tools for monitoring changes over time (Tracking):** Service delivery monitoring, Administrative Data, Household Survey (HS), Institution-based Surveys, Core Welfare Indicators Questionnaire (CWIQ).
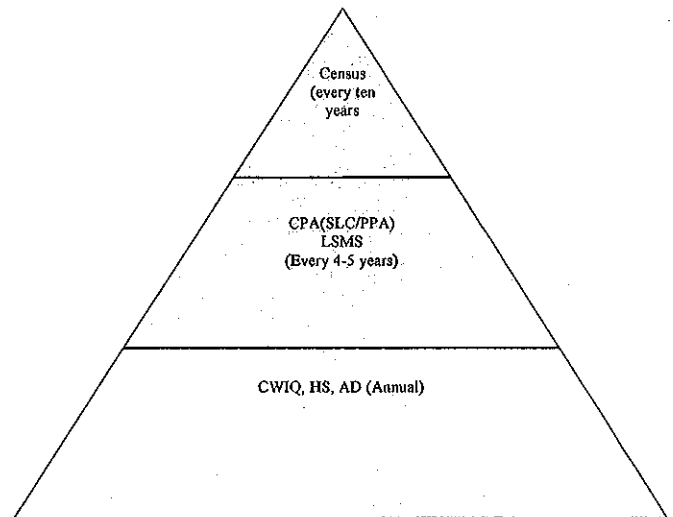

Figure 2. Poverty Monitoring System Pyramid

Census (every ten years

CPA(SLC/PPA) LSMS (Every 4-5 years)

CWIQ, HS, AD (Annual)

4.2 Component 2: Setting up Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

National poverty reduction strategies seek to create a planning framework that will reduce poverty faster, more effectively, and in a sustainable manner than would be possible in its absence. Therefore, a central element is monitoring of processes and outcomes. To foster credibility in poverty reduction policies, donor support should be given to poverty monitoring, at the national and regional levels, and to independent research organizations of civil society, as well as governments. Strengthening independent monitoring and evaluation capacities that are in line with broader approaches to participation and transparency are essential. Such capacities have to reside also in civil society so that an independent assessment of performance can be made and government departments and programmes can be held accountable to the goals set in the MDGs and national poverty reduction strategies.

International best practice indicates that monitoring progress in key indicators require establishing institutional frameworks within which statistical offices, line ministries, research institutes and coordinating agencies work under a unified system. Such a system allows monitoring of progress towards poverty reduction at various levels of indicators. Disaggregating indicators in order to track progress over the process of poverty reduction (from input to output) is an increasingly common good practice, although the indicators would benefit from greater disaggregation to capture rural/urban (where applicable), national/regional, income, and gender imbalances.[11]

Experience suggests that various government agencies with economic policymaking responsibilities need to improve coordination of their analytical work. The SPARC initiative will contribute to coordination among various government bodies through its integrated system for poverty assessment and monitoring.

To ensure coordination among various government bodies in data collection and analysis, the SPARC supports the integration of work by National Statistical Offices, Line Ministries, Research Institutions and NGOs through:

a) Strengthening the capacity of national coordination mechanisms such as Social Indicators and MDG committees (SIMDGs), MDG committees (some have been developed locally) or other existing central coordinating mechanisms;
b) Localizing the MDGs – assisting countries to define specific country-based targets and priorities for action between 2006-2015;
c) Strengthening of a regional central database that is readily accessible by users building on the ongoing efforts by UNECLAC and CARICOM building on the Caribbean Social Statistical Databases (CSSDBs);
d) Enhancing capacity to use DEVINFO[12] as a monitoring and reporting tool by member states;
e) Harmonizing data collection and classification systems;
f) Enhancing Information and data sharing at both national and regional levels;
g) Strengthening capacity for impact scenario planning and modeling at the national and regional level;
h) Designing National Monitoring and Evaluation Approaches/Frameworks for PRSPs;
i) Institutionalizing National MDG Monitoring and Evaluation systems; and
j) Increasing national public awareness of ongoing and intended work in the area of poverty reduction.

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[11] See Hailu, Degol (2005) Poverty Monitoring Systems in Africa: Lessons for the Caribbean, Paper Presented at the CDB/UNDP Workshop on "Creating a Sustainable Framework for the Monitoring of the Achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean", Barbados, 17-18 November 2005.

[12] DEVINFO is a database system, which contains indicators, time periods and geographic areas organized to monitor global and national commitments to sustained human development. DevInfo offers a common platform for dissemination of statistics, providing National Statistical Offices with a tool to organize, store and display data in a results-based environment with unique features linking indicators to strategic monitoring frameworks such as the Millennium Development Goals, National Poverty Reduction Strategies and other national monitoring frameworks.

In order to initiate this process, a pilot will be undertaken in one (1) country to be determined through the consultative and selective process with a possibility for expansion to others. *See Annex 1, pg 25* for an outline of the proposed pilot.

4.3 Component 3: Data Dissemination and Advocacy

Experience across the region and internationally indicates that often data are available but the absence of dissemination strategies mean policy makers sometimes have no knowledge of existing data. Data dissemination will be addressed at the national and regional level as well as what we call here the "public level" i.e. disseminating information for public consumption which will require further work beyond statistical tables, reports and analyses.

The efforts under this component will also seek to address what is sometimes referred to as the "culture" of information, linking collection and analysis to effective use and positive outcomes. It will involve both the enhancement of the demand for and the promotion of the utility of data to the development process.

SPARC will support the formulation and roll-out of a dissemination strategy through the following activities:

a) Building national capacity for reporting on policies;
b) Increasing national reporting on the state of poverty and social development, for instance MDG progress;
c) Enhancing use of the IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS)[13] for enhancing access to economic data;
d) Facilitating the introduction of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) which is being developed at the international level to foster standards for the exchange of statistical information;
e) National Annual/Bi-annual Monitoring Reports;
f) Sub-regional/Regional Biennial Human Development Reports;
g) Biennial Report on Caribbean Development integrating economic and social data (alternating with the HDR);
h) Regular national seminars and workshops involving policy makers;
i) Enhancing access to data through websites and web-hosting at both national and regional levels;
j) Assisting national governments and CARICOM in engaging with the private sector as a user of data for investment purposes and encouraging their investment in national statistical systems and efforts;
k) National Public Awareness and Education including Statistical Literacy; and
l) The use of media in its various forms including print, radio, television, etc at both national and regional levels.

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[13] The IMF's work on data dissemination standards began in October 1995, when the Interim Committee (now the International Monetary and Financial Committee or IMFC) endorsed the establishment by the Fund of standards to guide members in the dissemination to the public of their economic and financial data. Those standards were to consist of two tiers: the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS), which would apply to all Fund members, and the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), for those member countries having or seeking access to international capital markets. The GDDS was approved by the IMF Executive Board in December 1997. Joining the GDDS is an elective process and most Caribbean countries are part of the programme. The purpose of the GDDS is to: (i) encourage member countries to improve data quality; (ii) provide a framework for evaluating needs for data improvement and setting priorities in this respect; and (ii) guide member countries in the dissemination to the public of comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics. (Taken directly from http://dsbb.imf.org/Applications/web/gdds/gddswhatgdds/).

4.4 Component 4: Regional Coordination

As the countries in the region move towards more integration under the CSME, the need to strengthen poverty assessment capacity and integrate data definition at the regional level becomes urgent mainly for comparative reporting. Hence, standardization of data collection techniques becomes imperative and in this connection the SPARC seeks to support:

a) Developing a regional capacity building programme linked to regional institutions;
b) Making sure effective programme implementation is carried out by a fully functioning and operational PSC (Programme Steering Committee) and Secretariat.
c) Strengthening coordination among government institutions, donors, regional/international statistical and research organizations with the aim of supporting access to the wealth of information and data through interaction with regional/international poverty assessment expertise.

4.5 Component 5: Development of Legislative Framework

It has been recognized that reform of the legislative framework governing the collection, use and dissemination of data is critical. In this regard, attention must be paid to the following:

a) Support for Institutional Reform for accessibility of data;
b) Distribution of roles and responsibilities for the collection, storage and dissemination of data; and
c) Development and enactment of appropriate legislation governing statistics and information e.g. Freedom of Information Acts and including the harmonization of Legislation in the context of CSME; and
d) Scaling up of sensitization of Policymakers and Public Outreach linked to Component 3.

Whatever developments are made in this area the issue of confidentiality that prevents disclosure of information such that any person, firm or other entity can be individually identified willbe maintained.

5. Initiatives Linked to the SPARC Framework

There are a number of initiatives, some already completed which have been targeted as donor support to SPARC including:[14]

a) CARICOM Programme on Social/Gender and Environmental Statistics which incorporates the MDGs as core indicators, includes the formulation of social Indicators and MDG Committees and was supported by the UNDP, the UNFPA and the World Bank and other partners. The CARICOM Statistics Work Programme and its annual Advisory Group Meetings also have much relevance and will underpin the relevant elements under SPARC. CARICOM programmes linked to the 2010 Round of Census and analytical reports on the 2000 Round.
b) CDB to supports the conduct of CPAs over the past decade as well as the investment in human and financial resources by participating countries.
c) World Bank approved $200,000 of the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) grant to support follow up project for UNSD/CARICOM programme of capacity building for social, gender and environment statistics from 2004 to 2005. UNDP has been supporting the continuation of this programme for the past three years under the CARICOM Regional Programme through the Barbados and OECS Sub-Regional Office.
d) World Bank approved US$400,000 of the Institutional Development Fund (IDF) grant in 2003 to support the mini-MECOVI component for strengthening, via the OECS Secretariat, the institutional

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[14] Perch, Leisa (2005), Strategy Paper: A Framework for Monitoring the MDGs and Sustainable Human Development in the CARICOM Region. Presented to the Council for Human and Social Development of the Caribbean Community at its Twelfth Meeting April 27-29, 2005. .UNDP, SRO for Barbados and the OECS.

capacity of the OECS member countries in survey capabilities, poverty analysis and social indicators for the three years of the programme period from 2004 to 2006.

e) IDB approved US$350,000 to support SPARC to facilitate, via CDB, the strengthening of institutional capacity in statistical offices in Caribbean countries to collect, analyze, and produce high quality statistical information required to formulate social policies and strategies, and to monitor their progress. CDB has indicated that it will seek to match this amount in providing support in similar areas.

f) IDB approved a US$3,450,000 for Guyana to improve and sustain the capacity of the country to generate social data, to undertake evidence-based policy analysis, and to monitor the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) implementation and impact.

g) UNDP expects to commit US$450,000 over the three (3) year period with $300,000 coming from the CARICOM allocation and $150,000 from the OECS to support the initiative including providing direct technical advice to countries;

h) UNDP support to the OECS Social Policy Framework and process through the OECS Secretariat Social Policy Unit including support to the Localization and Regionalization of the MDGs, the development of a Human Development Report in 2006 (following from the first HDR in 2002 also supported by UNDP); the development of a coordination mechanism of National Social Policy focal points; support to country implementation of the CPA; Social Care Delivery; Social Statistics Digest; finalization of the OECS Social Policy framework. UNDP has also supported interim Poverty Reduction Strategy papers in the four (4) Windward Islands and will be providing support to St. Kitts and Nevis in the Human Development Agenda process in 2006. UNDP through the OECS Social Policy Unit has also provided support to countries in the implementation of the CPAs including support to field work costs and support to the work of the National Assessment Team. This support is expected to continue and will be governed by a Roadmap to be finalized in 2006.

i) UNDP has also supported the Implementation of implementation of the CWIQ Survey in Saint Lucia during the last quarter of 2004, in collaboration with the EU and the Government of Saint Lucia; and the implementation of as well as the implementation of the CWIQ Survey in Grenada during the third and fourth quarters of 2005 in partnership with CDB and UNIFEM with technical support from UNECLAC.

j) UNIFEM financial support of $30,000 to ECLAC for the collection of gender statistical information for the Anglophone Caribbean.

k) UNFPA technical assistance to census data cleaning in 10 countries, including all the countries of the Eastern Caribbean in collaboration with CARICOM. Specific continuous technical support provided to the Guyana Bureau of Statistics in census data cleaning, processing and dissemination.

l) UNECLAC support to the establishment of a central regional warehousing capacity and database to enhance access and availability of common data in collaboration with CARICOM; UNECLAC also continues to provide support to the analysis of the 2000 Round of Census. UNECLAC seminal work on the development of social vulnerability indicators and the index.

m) UNFPA approval of US$90,000 for strengthening CARICOM Statistics Programme and support to SIMDG Committees. Through ECLAC, support provided to regional programme in building gender databases.

n) UNICEF's work on DEVINFO - a coordination mechanism for development information enabling cross sectoral and integrated analyses of data in a development context. DevInfo offers a common platform for dissemination of statistics, providing National Statistical Offices with a tool to organize; store and display data in a results-based environment linked to the MDGs. UNICEF has also been conducting critical national studies on child vulnerability.

o) PAHO support and administration of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development and support to social data particularly in linking the determinants of health; the continued strengthening of the Core Health Database and a series of economic assessments geared to inform the policy process.

p) UNDP Bureau for Development Policy work with the UN Development Group on a global programme to enhance Statistical Literacy – called Building Capacity and Statistical Literacy for Monitoring the MDGs which aims to (i) make data more accessible; (ii) enhance statistical capacity and literacy and

(iii) Support for evidence-based advocacy. Discussions are ongoing with UNDP HQ and UNECLAC for the roll out of the programme in the Caribbean sub-region and this is expected to be linked to and to enhance the activities identified under SPARC.

6. Management and Implementation Arrangements

SPARC is based on a dual modality framework and will operate on two programme streams: a) a Regional Programme; and b) bi-lateral or parallel projects. The Regional Programme to be managed by UNDP will be comprised of pooled resources contributed by UNDP, the UN system and other partners. Projects currently being implemented as parallel projects will continue on a bi-lateral basis. UNDP will act as Fund Manager of the pooled funds. The funding requirements of this pool and the manner in which it will be utilized will be elaborated in the work programme and budget to be prepared by the Project Manager.

SPARC will be governed by a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) comprising high-level representation from Regional organizations (CARICOM, OECS, UWI and Governments) and Donors (CDB, IDB, UNDP, EU, WB, ECLAC, and Representatives of UN Bodies). UN Agencies will have an annual rotating representation on the PSC, as will the participating countries. A Government Representative who will be elected annually will chair the PSC. The PSC will be supported by a Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

The PSC will comprise no more than fifteen (15) members as follows:

- ❖ 5 Country Representatives;
- ❖ 4 Regional Organizations - CARICOM, OECS, UWI and Regional CSOs;
- ❖ 5 Donors-CDB, UNDP, EU; WB or IDB (rotating); and CIDA or DFID (rotating);
- ❖ 1 UN System Representative (rotating).

Overall oversight of the programme will be under the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) which shall meet annually. The PSC will perform the following functions:

- Oversight of the Project;
- Approve Annual Work Plans and resource allocation;
- Review progress in achieving outputs, outcomes and targets under project;
- Approve reports;
- Review implementation and programme issues and determine solutions;
- Provide policy guidance;
- Agree on criteria for allocation of support; and
- Support resource mobilization strategies.

The TAG will be a Management Sub-Committee of the PSC with representation from the following organizations:

- CARICOM, OECS, CDB, UNDP, IDB, UWI and a Country Representative who will act as chair.

The TAG will function as follows:

- Act as the Interim Governing Body for the Programme until the PSC is constituted;
- Meet bi-annually to review issues related to project implementation;
- Provide continuous guidance and support on programme management matters to the Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU) and PSC;

- · Review Annual Work Plans for approval of the PSC;
- Approve specific un-programmed activities; and
- Review implementation issues between meetings of the PSC especially with regard to 'bottle necks' and propose appropriate action.

Other coordination mechanisms such as the Poverty and Social Sector Development Donor Group (PSSDDG) which has functioned as the coordinating mechanism for poverty and social development issues related to the Eastern Caribbean should continue to function and provide support and coordinate inputs from their constituencies to the PSC.

The Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU) will be staffed by a Programme Coordinator with administrative support and will be housed at the office of UNDP, Barbados and the OECS, Barbados. The Programme Coordinator will manage under the supervision of UNDP, the pooled resources/'common basket of financial resources' contributed by donors. He/she will act as secretary to the PSC and be tasked[15] among others with the following:

- Coordination and monitoring of activities-day-to-day management of the project;
- Compilation of work plans;
- Preparation of Progress Reports and budgets.

Development Partners will share responsibilities as follows:

> UNDP will be Fund Manager for the pooled resources and will be the Secretariat for the Steering Committee;
> CDB will be implementing partner for activities and fund manager for their parallel funds.
> CARICOM Secretariat will act as Executing Agency and assume ownership of the Programme on behalf of regional governments and institutions. It will also implement activities appropriately identified in the work plan;
> OECS Secretariat will be an implementing partner and as such will undertake activities appropriately identified in the work plan;
> UNECLAC will also have a role as an implementing partner, especially with respect to its role in rolling out a Caribbean component of the Statistical Literacy Project being developed by UNDP BDP; and
> UWI will be an implementing partner for university level training in programmes in statistical analysis, policy and social planning and other courses as necessary.

A full explanation of the terms above i.e. *Fund Manager, Executing Agency* and *Implementing Partner* are provided in *Annex 2* of this document.

The beneficiary countries for different activities under SPARC as specified in the Resources and Results Framework will be defined in the work-plan for each year which will be developed in consultation with countries and participating institutions.

The Governance arrangements for SPARC will also include a National Focal Point system which should also foster enhanced coordination at the national level and will be critical to the success of SPARC in providing support to the countries and enhancing a coordinated effort towards poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs. The focal points will be selected by their respective governments based on current involvement in data generation and capacity and may generally come from the statistical offices. Focal Points will be the main contact for the Programme Coordinator and will be formally designated by the respective government.

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[15] The TORs of the Project Manager and Support Staff will be developed in consultation with the PSC.

The National Focal point should:

- Have the Capacity to influence and provide leadership at the national level regarding harmonized approaches and coordination in the collection of data, its use and dissemination;
- Operate/Execute his/her role in collaboration and be a member of the national SIMDG or National MDG Committee

The responsibilities of the Focal Point would be to:

1. Maintain a close and active relationship with the SPARC Project coordinator
2. Be the conduit through which country-based requests are submitted to the SPARC Programme Coordinating Unit and any other donor involved in parallel activities;
3. Coordinate the implementation of SPARC and SPARC related activities at the national level;
4. Should their country sit on the Programme Steering Committee represent or support the representative in the execution of the tasks under the PSC;
5. Disseminate relevant and timely information on SPARC to national counterparts;
6. Work closely with and through the National SIMDG committee or in its absence the MDG committee or other existing body with similar objectives to SPARC;
7. Regularly report on the status of activities at the national level; and
8. be part of the e-network which would facilitate communication amongst the countries and sharing of experiences and expertise.

7. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The project will be monitored and reviewed by the PSC, which will meet annually, as well as by the TAG, which will meet bi-annually. The TAG will present a report to the PSC for their review and approval. During the PSC Meetings, financial and progress reports will be submitted by the Programme Coordinator to the Committee to assess substantive progress and financial status.

The Annual Work Plans (AWPs) and budget will be prepared by the Programme Coordinator and submitted to the TAG and or PSC for review and approval. During Review Meetings the AWP and budget will be discussed and approved by the TAG and or PSC.

Programme evaluation of SPARC will consist of:

- Formative evaluation consisting of progress and technical reports on programme activities; and
- Summative evaluation which would examine achievement of the programme objectives.

A Mid-term and final evaluation of the programme will be undertaken according to agreed timetables established by the governing body.

8. Legal Context

This project document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement signed between the Beneficiary Governments under this project and the United Nations Development Programme.

SECTION II - PROGRAMME RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

Intended Outcome
A Caribbean-wide system of social data capture, poverty monitoring and policy development leading to enhanced and sustainable human development outcomes built on MDGs

Outcome indicator
An operational strategy adopted and in use for the production, analysis, dissemination and use of social data for policy formulation and planning, MDG and poverty monitoring as well as poverty reduction.

Partnership Strategy
Initiative is based on a dual modality framework funded by various partners contributing to broad or specific components through (i) a single mechanism of pooled funds managed by UNDP or (ii) through a bilateral/parallel funding arrangement. The programme is expected to be inherently flexible to enable the provision of support and Technical Assistance (TA) to countries on request.

Project Title and ID: Multi-donor Initiative to Support Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean

Intended Outputs (and indicators)	Output targets	Indicative Activities	UNDP Inputs
Component 1: Building National Capacity for Assessments 1.0 Strengthened national capacity for Poverty Assessments and Poverty Reduction Strategies	1.1 Capacity to conduct CWIQ, CPAs, SLCs and to utilize other appropriate quantitative and qualitative tools for various issues 1.2 Enhanced capacity for analysis of data and other multi-variate analyses (health, children, gender)	1.1.1 Support to CPAs in GRN, SKN, SVG 1.1.2 Support to CWIQ in Dominica 1.1.3 Audit of Information Management systems and provision of equipment and training	$118,000.00
2.0 Enhanced primary research capacity	2.1 Establishment of a Regional Training Programme	2.1.1 Provision of training in data analysis and interpretation for social policy formulation	

Intended Outcome
A Caribbean-wide system of social data capture, poverty monitoring and policy development leading to enhanced and sustainable human development outcomes built on MDGs

Outcome indicator
An operational strategy adopted and in use for the production, analysis, dissemination and use of social data for policy formulation and planning, MDG and poverty monitoring as well as poverty reduction.

Partnership Strategy
Initiative is based on a dual modality framework funded by various partners contributing to broad or specific components through (i) a single mechanism of pooled funds managed by UNDP or (ii) through a bilateral/parallel funding arrangement. The programme is expected to be inherently flexible to enable the provision of support and Technical Assistance (TA) to countries on request.

Project Title and ID: Multi-donor Initiative to Support Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean

Intended Outputs (and indicators)	Output targets	Indicative Activities	UNDP Inputs
Component 2: Setting up M&E Systems 3.0 Strengthened monitoring and evaluation for poverty policy formulation and implementation	3.1 National Policy frameworks adopted and in use in participating countries	3.1.1 Assistance to countries in research for social policy formulation and implementation	$84,000
	3.2 Specific Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines at the national and regional level	3.2.2 Supporting seminars specific to developing M&E Guidelines	
4.0 Enhanced analytical capacity in poverty and social development data	4.1 Regional Programme for training and capacity development	4.1.1 Develop and roll out regional capacity building plan with participation of stakeholders and development partners	
		4.1.2 Further support to training activities: w/shops, seminars to enhance analytical and interpretive skills of staff in NSOs and Line Ministries	

Intended Outcome
A Caribbean-wide system of social data capture, poverty monitoring and policy development leading to enhanced and sustainable human development outcomes built on MDGs

Outcome indicator
An operational strategy adopted and in use for the production, analysis, dissemination and use of social data for policy formulation and planning, MDG and poverty monitoring as well as poverty reduction.

Partnership Strategy
Initiative is based on a dual modality framework funded by various partners contributing to broad or specific components through (i) a single mechanism of pooled funds managed by UNDP or (ii) through a bilateral/parallel funding arrangement. The programme is expected to be inherently flexible to enable the provision of support and Technical Assistance (TA) to countries on request.

Project Title and ID: Multi-donor Initiative to Support Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean

Intended Outputs (and indicators)	Output targets	Indicative Activities	UNDP Inputs
Component 3 Dissemination of Data and Advocacy 5.0 Improved data dissemination	5.1 Increased reporting on the state of poverty and social development 5.2 Readily available data and data sets 5.3 Annual/Biennial Monitoring Reports 5.4 Biennial Human Development Reports 5.5 Data definition and methodology handbook	5.1.1 Prepare, launch and disseminate findings of (**agreed # of**) Reports on poverty reduction and achieving the other MDGs in the Caribbean 5.2.1 Supporting seminars to enhance awareness of senior policy officials on the need for improving access to data 5.3.1 Technical support to countries in preparing Annual/Biennial Monitoring Reports 5.4.1 Support to programme countries in preparing BHDRs 5.5.1 Compilation of existing data definition, consolidation,	$260,000

Intended Outcome
A Caribbean-wide system of social data capture, poverty monitoring and policy development leading to enhanced and sustainable human development outcomes built on MDGs

Outcome indicator
An operational strategy adopted and in use for the production, analysis, dissemination and use of social data for policy formulation and planning, MDG and poverty monitoring as well as poverty reduction.

Partnership Strategy
Initiative is based on a dual modality framework funded by various partners contributing to broad or specific components through (i) a single mechanism of pooled funds managed by UNDP or (ii) through a bilateral/parallel funding arrangement. The programme is expected to be inherently flexible to enable the provision of support and Technical Assistance (TA) to countries on request.

Project Title and ID: Multi-donor Initiative to Support Collection of Social Data for Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean

Intended Outputs (and indicators)	Output targets	Indicative Activities	UNDP Inputs
		and standardizing methodologies	
Component 4: Strengthened Regional Coordination 6.0 Strengthened regional coordination	6.1 Programme Steering Committee (PSC) meetings held annually	6.1.1 Prepare work plans and progress reports, convene meetings and support attendance of national and regional stakeholders	$170,000
Component 5: Development of Legislative Framework 7.0. Legislative framework for use and access to social data developed and in use	7.1. All countries have legislation enacted addressing use and access to social data.	7.1.1. Regional meeting to discuss Legislative Issues for Data 7.1.2. Advocacy for Decision-makers 7.1.3. Roll out of CARICOM Model Legislation in all countries	$38,000

Section III. –SPARC Indicative Activities and Estimated Costs –Outline for Phase 1 (2006-2010)

SPARC Component	Target Date/Period (By Year)					Planned Activities to reach outcomes	Estimated Costs (USD)	Source of Funds - UNDP	Remaining gaps
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
1. Building National Capacity for Survey/ Assessment	X	X				Inventory of existing data and data cleaning (ongoing) (UNFPA and CARICOM)	$ 30,000.00		$ 30,000.00
	X	X				Audit of Data gaps and Skills Needs Assessment	$ 40,000.00	$ 35,000.00	$ 5,000.00
	X	X				Assist in purchase of software and hardware for CSOs and Ministries focusing on GIS, SPSS and Database Management	$ 40,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 25,000.00
	X	X				Support to preparation activities for 2010 census - development of strategy	$ 15,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 10,000.00
	X					Implementation of activities of Action Plan to develop Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	$ 200,000.00	$ 8,000.00	$ 192,000.00
	X	X				Capacity building in administrative data - addressing data gaps and enhancing data base management	$ 100,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 80,000.00
	X	X	X	X		Strengthen national coordination mechanisms at the country level for collaboration between CSOs and Line Ministries	$ 100,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 95,000.00
	X	X	X			Support to IT capacity building - teleform etc to support CWIQ etc	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00

SPARC - Proposed Activities: October 2006-March 2010

SPARC Component	Target Date/Period – By Year					Planned Activities to reach outcomes	Estimated Costs (USD)	Source of Funds - UNDP	Remaining gaps
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
	X	X		X		Training in data collection and survey design (Regional workshops)	$ 100,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 90,000.00
	X	X				CPAs in BAR, Cayman Islands, GRN, SKN and SVG	$2,500,000.00		$ 2,500,000.00
	X	X	X	X		Expansion of CWIQ to 10 more countries (Dominica, Guyana)	$1,000,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 990,000.00
	X					Three-week workshop in data analysis and interpretation (A&B, GRN, SVG, SKN)	$ 105,000.00		$ 105,000.00
	X	X				2 Two-week workshops in sampling methodology and survey design (SVG,SKN)	$ 55,000.00		$ 55,000.00
	X					One-week workshop on formulation of poverty reduction policy and strategy (A&B, STL)	$ 15,000.00		$ 15,000.00
	X					Three-day Regional workshop to finalize CPA Operational Manual (Regional/held in Barbados)	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00
		X				Formulate a research agenda for SPARC to capture data on MDGs drawing on OECS, CARICOM research agenda	$ 20,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
		X	X			2007 Round of CPAs (ANG, DCA, MON, TCI)	$1,300,000.00		$ 1,300,000.00
		X	X	X		2008 Round of CPAs (Belize, BVI)	$ 750,000.00		$ 750,000.00
		X	X	X		Research for policy formulation (demand driven)	$ 300,000.00		$ 300,000.00

SPARC - Proposed Activities: October 2006-March 2010

SPARC Component	Target Date/Period — By Year					Planned Activities to reach outcomes	Estimated Costs (USD)	Source of Funds - UNDP	Remaining gaps
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
		X				One-week Regional workshop on qualitative methodologies/approaches	$ 20,000.00		$ 20,000.00
						Total	$6,782,000.00	$ 118,000.00	$ 6,662,000.00
2. Setting up Monitoring and Evaluation Systems	X					Meeting of CARICOM, CDB, OECS and UNDP re MDG Localization processes in the region and harmonization as well as linking the CPA more to policy	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,000.00
		X	X			Localization of MDGs (non-OECS countries)	$ 120,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 110,000.00
		X	X	X		Support to development of M&E frameworks at country level	$ 100,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 90,000.00
		X	X			Suriname Poverty Monitoring System development including harmonization of plans and mechanisms	$ 200,000.00		$ 200,000.00
		X				Training workshops focused on analytical and interpretive skills for CSO and Line Ministries	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
		X	X			Formulation and approval of Poverty and MDG monitoring system framework in 2 countries	$ 40,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 25,000.00
			X	X		Expansion of M&E framework in another 4 countries	$ 100,000.00		$ 100,000.00
		X	X			Pilot M&E system (1 country) including process monitoring	$ 150,000.00		$ 150,000.00

SPARC - Proposed Activities: October 2006-March 2010

SPARC Component	Target Date/Period By Year					Planned Activities to reach outcomes	Estimated Costs (USD)	Source of Funds - UNDP	Remaining gaps
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
						approach			
	X	X				Defining an impact assessment methodology for social and human development in the Caribbean including a pilot test	$ 50,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 35,000.00
		X	X	X		Poverty mapping using GIS for all MS	$ 200,000.00	$ 7,000.00	$ 193,000.00
			X	X		Support to Impact Assessment studies for Poverty programmes at country level (demand-driven)	$ 50,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 40,000.00
			X	X		Scenario planning for poverty reduction – development and roll-out of a Caribbean tool	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
		X		X		Review of status of M&E in countries	$ 35,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ 20,000.00
Total							$ 1,148,000.00	$ 84,000.00	$ 1,064,000.00
3. Data Dissemination and Advocacy		X	X	X		Symposium for policymakers at national level in all countries(15) countries	$ 45,000.00		$ 45,000.00
		X		X		Symposium for investors as data users (Regional)	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
		X	X	X		Development of country websites for MDG data (all MS)	$ 50,000.00		$ 50,000.00
		X				Development and Launch of a Regional Poverty Information Website	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00
	X	X				OECS Human Development Report - 2006	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ -

SPARC - Proposed Activities: October 2006-March 2010

SPARC Component	Target Date/Period (By Year)					Planned Activities to reach outcomes	Estimated Costs (USD)	Source of Funds - UNDP	Remaining gaps
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010				
		X	X	X		OECS HDR - 2008	$ 120,000.00	$ 80,000.00	$ 40,000.00
		X	X	X	X	Annual MDG Monitoring Reports (8 countries)	$ 150,000.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 110,000.00
		X		X		Caribbean Regional Development Report	$ 120,000.00	$ 40,000.00	$ 80,000.00
	X	X	X	X	X	Symposia for Media and Civil Society	$ 25,000.00		$ 25,000.00
	X	X				Regional data repository operational	$ 55,000.00		$ 55,000.00
	X	X				Data definition and methodology handbook	$ 40,000.00		$ 40,000.00
			Total				$ 795,000.00	$ 260,000.00	$ 535,000.00
4. Regional Coordination	X	X	X	X	X	Meetings of the TAG and PSC	$ 60,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 50,000.00
		X	X	X	X	Programme Coordinating Unit Staff - operational and administrative costs	$ 250,000.00	$ 85,000.00	$ 165,000.00
	X					Harmonization of statistics - framework and guidelines	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	-
	X					Establishment of the PSC and TAG/Launch of SPARC	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00	-
		X		X		Establishment of National Focal Point system	$ 5,000.00		$ 5,000.00
	X	X	X	X		Meetings of Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) and CARICOM Stats Advisory Group	$ 60,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 50,000.00
		X				Development of Medium/Long-term Regional Capacity Building Programme	$ 25,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 15,000.00

Implementing the Poverty Monitoring Component – One Year Pilot

Outcome	Activities	Indicators	Timeframe
Component 1: Building National Capacity for Survey/Assessments	• Taking inventory of existing data and carrying out the necessary 'cleaning' • Raw data collection • Data analysis, updating, and harmonization, and • Training in use of statistical software in the calibration and simulation process.	• Trained personnel • Surveys • Complete dataset • *Data Documentation containing Statistical Methods*	Q4 (2006) &Q 1 2007
Component 2: **Setting up Monitoring and Evaluation Systems**	• Establish a poverty monitoring system based on the 'process monitoring' concept • Create the institutional framework for information and data sharing • Drafting monitoring reports including poverty expenditure tracking • Share international best practice in Poverty Monitoring System (PMS)	• Poverty monitoring system • Institutional set up • Poverty monitoring reports	Q2-Q3 (2007)
Component 3: Data Dissemination and advocacy	• One report on the state of poverty and social development, for instance MDG progress • One workshop on data dissemination • Settting up websites for data access and storage	• Reports • Website	Q3 (2007)
Component 4: **Strengthen Regional Coordination**	• One symposium for senior policy makers at both the national and regional levels	• Symposia attendance by government, CSO and private sector	Q4 (2007)
Component 5: Development of a Legislative Framework	• Consolidating Reviews of existing framework and roles and responsibilities for poverty and MDG monitoring • Preparation of Strategy • Consultative process • Drafting of new legislation	• Strategy approved and adopted by Government • Draft legislation in circulation for comment	Q1 – Q2 (2008)

Glossary of Terminology

Executing Agency/Entity: This is the entity responsible for the overall management of a specific UNDP programme activity. This includes accountability for the production of outputs, achievement of objectives and for the effective use of UNDP resources. The executing agency sometimes also performs the role of intermediary or broker of services for the intended beneficiaries of the project, and is not to be contracted with project resources to directly carry out consulting services to beneficiaries.

Fund Manager: The role of the Fund Manager will be responsible for receiving and managing all funds obtained for SPARC in a coordinated, effective and efficient manner providing quarterly and annual financial and substantial reporting and tracking receipt, allocation, use and achievements of resources. The Fund Manager has full administrative and management responsibility.

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner (IP) is the entity responsible and accountable for managing a project or a specific component of a project to achieve project outputs, and for the effective use of resources. The Implementing Partner may enter into agreements with other organisations or entities to assist in successfully delivering project outputs. Possible Implementing Partners include government institutions, other eligible UN agencies, UNDP, and eligible NGOs. Eligible NGOs are those that are legally registered in the country where they will be operating. Proposed Implementing Partners should be identified based on an assessment of their technical, financial, managerial and administrative capacities that will be needed for the project. *For CDB and UNECLAC*: this means a partner who will have direct responsibility for implementing activities resulting from funds they have mobilized separately or may allocate from internal sources. Such execution would be done in full cognizance of the framework for SPARC and will ensure that all activities and approaches are SPARC-compliant. The implementing partner will share updates with the overall project implementing agency – UNDP – for consolidated reporting of the project as a whole including funds allocated, funds used and the results and outcomes thereto. The implementing partner can mobilize additional resources. The IP will also conduct their own evaluations and audits as necessary for funds under their responsibility.