



United Nations Population Fund

PRESS RELEASE

Resource Consortium being Developed by UNFPA and CARICOM in Preparation for 2010 Round of Censuses

Monday, March 10, 2008: To build capacity to successfully implement the 2010 round of censuses in the Caribbean, UNFPA and the CARICOM Secretariat are collaborating to establish a resource consortium. This Consortium to be launched in April this year is intended to be the clearing house for census operations in the Caribbean.

Harold Robinson, UNFPA Representative for the Office of the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, made the announcement this morning. He said the Consortium would allow countries and international agencies to maximize the limited resources available for the benefit of the countries of the region.

“This clearinghouse will provide a channel for requests for technical and financial support from countries; it will provide a resource web page and will also include a bank of census experts and practitioners from the region. This pool of experts will allow the countries of the Caribbean to provide technical support among themselves”.

Mr. Robinson was speaking this morning at the opening of an 8-day training programme on census data capturing and processing being held at the Sunset Jamaica Grande, Ocho Rios, St. Ann, Jamaica.

Twenty representatives from statistics offices across the Caribbean are participating in the training programme organized by UNFPA, in association with the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the CARICOM Secretariat.

The UNFPA Representative said the training was part of the on- going programme of collaboration aimed at enhancing national capacities in data processing for the upcoming 2010 round of censuses and was in response to numerous requests for support from governments of the region.

“I believe that UNFPA shares with your respective governments and with the CARICOM Secretariat, the desire to ensure that the data collected during this round is of a high quality, relevant and reliable... and can be analyzed and disseminated in a timely manner”, Robinson told the participants.

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Carlos Ellis is the main facilitator of the training programme. Ellis is the UNFPA specialist in population data and knowledge sharing. His main area of expertise is computer science, specializing in statistics and demographic data processing. With over 30 years of professional experience in the field of statistical information systems and demographic data processing, Carlos Ellis has provided technical support to countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

Population censuses provide governments with critical information on demographic issues such as population growth rates, age structure, fertility and mortality, migration and urbanization among others. Because of the centrality of population issues to development, it is imperative that governments have access to high quality and reliable data. This will enable them to formulate relevant policies and properly plan for the development of their countries.

Population censuses are conducted every 10 years in the Caribbean region.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

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