

2021

# OECS DATA FOR DECISION MAKING PROJECT (P174986)

## DRAFT SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

OECS COMMISSION | Morne Fortune, Castries, Saint Lucia

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community  |
| ESF     | Environmental and Social Framework                           |
| ESMF    | Environmental and Social Management Framework                |
| LFS     | Labour Force Survey  |
| LNS     | Labour Needs Survey  |
| NSO     | National Statistics Organization                             |
| NSS     | National Statistical System                                  |
| OECS    | Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States                     |
| PDO     | Project Development Objective                                |
| RSDS    | Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics          |
| SA      | Social Assessment  |
| SLC-HBS | Survey of Living Conditions- Household Budget Survey         |
| SSU     | OECS Statistical Services Unit                               |
| SVG     | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines                             |
| UN      | United Nations   |
| UNFPOS  | United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics |

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# 1 Introduction

This social assessment (SA) has been undertaken as part of the OECS Data for Decision Making Project (P174986). The SA aims to assess and identify any gaps within the statistical systems in the project's participating countries' (Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and Grenadines) National Statistics Organizations (NSOs) and the OECS' Statistical Services Unit (SSU). The findings from the assessment will be used to inform project design. The information presented in the SA will be used to ensure that the project is able to reduce or eliminate, as much as possible, the existing patterns of social exclusion associated with data collection in the participating countries and the OECS. Furthermore, the findings of the SA will be used in monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the project is achieving its intended outcome.

## 1.1 Project Description

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve the capacity of the OECS member states to produce and publicly disseminate statistical data in a timely manner to allow for evidence-based policy making at both the country and regional levels. The project strives to achieve its PDO by strengthening both the national and regional level capacities to collect, analyze and disseminate data quickly and regularly. The project consists of four components as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1- Project components

| Project Component   | Description   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Component 1: Statistical Modernization and Capacity Building</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The modernization of statistical activities from data collection to dissemination and build resilience through secure data management-will include provision of hardware and software and some retrofitting activities;</li><li>2. Progress towards an effective National Statistical System (NSS), with the CSO at its core, to coordinate statistical activities across the government; and</li><li>3. Technical assistance and training will be provided to build the capacity of the CSO, on technical to organizational aspects, to ensure sustainability in light of staff turnover.</li></ol> |   |
| <b>Component 2: Statistical Modernization and Capacity Building</b> | <i>Core Data</i>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Support the National Population and Housing Census by supporting pre-census, census and post-census activities in each country;</li><li>2. Support the development, implementation, processing and dissemination of two rounds of the Survey of Living Conditions-Household Budget Survey (SLC-HBS);</li></ol> |

| Project Component                             | Description  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Track labour market development by financing annual and eventually quarterly Labour Force Surveys (LFS) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and pilot the new ILO-IFS survey in each country. This activity will also develop and implement the Labour Needs Survey (LNS) in Saint Lucia and Grenada;</li> <li>4. Additional statistical operations required within countries e.g. Agricultural and Enterprise Census in Saint Lucia and Grenada; and</li> <li>5. Technical assistance to support national accounts, CPI rebasing and the improvement of trade statistics.</li> </ol> |
|   | <i>Data Innovation</i>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Technical assistance to leverage new data collection tools and implement innovative use of administrative data;</li> <li>2. Support for the Statistics Act to allow CSOs to access and become repositories for administrative registries; and</li> <li>3. Support CSOs to develop and implement geospatial tools to support disaster risk management.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Component 3: OECS Regional Integration</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting the harmonization of key data instruments and methodologies to improve comparability of data across member states;</li> <li>2. Strengthening its ability to provide technical assistance to member states on data collection methods, analysis, and dissemination, including supporting data and dissemination innovations suitable for the context and capacity of member states; and</li> <li>3. Strengthening of the OECS Regional Statistical System by supporting the establishment and functioning of member countries' National Statistical System (NSS).</li> </ol> |   |
| <b>Component 4: Project Implementation</b>    | This component will fund the project management activities, including monitoring and supervision.  |   |

## 2 Historical and Country Context

### 2.1 Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

The OECS was formed in 1981 through the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre by the Prime Ministers of seven Windward and Leeward Island States to promote regional and international integration amongst its member states. In 2001, the OECS members decided to deepen their integration through the formation of an economic union. This deepening was formalized with the signing of the Revised Treaty of Basseterre in 2010. The revised Treaty came into force on January 21, 2011 thereby operationalizing the economic union. Although there is increased harmonization amongst the OECS in many areas, the harmonization of statistics and data collection still leaves room for improvement. The timing of various data collection exercises is different between countries and the variables used in some of the surveys e.g. the census is not standardized. Both of which makes it difficult for the data produced to be comparable. Additionally, the availability of the collected data varies across countries. For example Saint Lucia's<sup>1</sup> and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines<sup>2</sup> census data is easily accessible online, whereas Grenada's full census data/results does not appear to be posted online<sup>3</sup>.

### 2.2 Grenada

Grenada is located in the south-eastern Caribbean Sea and includes the Grenadines islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Its capital is St. George's which is located on the south-western side of the island. It is also the country's main port. Grenada was first inhabited by the Arawaks/Tainos who were killed or enslaved by the Caribs/Kalinagos who immigrated to the island from the South American mainland. The Caribs were successfully able to defend the island from European settlement until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when they were eventually defeated by the French. The French fought with the British for decades over the island and eventually surrendered it to the British in 1783 through the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. In 1795, the island experienced a slave rebellion led by a black planter. Although has been English for over 200 years, the island's French heritage remains in some place names, buildings and its strong Catholicism. Grenada gained independence from Britain in 1974. From 1979- 1983, through a coup, there was an attempt to establish Grenada as a socialist state, however this was ended through the requested intervention of the United States. Grenada has been stable since then.

Grenada is volcanic and quite mountainous, and it is also divided into three inhabited islands. Its terrain can be difficult to traverse and therefore could cause persons living in the most remote areas of the country and the different islands to be omitted for the data collection process.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://redatam.org/binlca/RpWebEngine.exe/Portal?BASE=PHC2010C&lang=ENG>

<sup>2</sup> <http://stats.gov.vc/stats/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Population-and-Housing-Census-Report-2012.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.finance.gd/index.php/central-statistics-office>

## 2.3 Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is the second largest island in the Windward Island grouping of the Eastern Caribbean. It is located between Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to the South and Martinique to the North. Its capital is Castries, which is located on the north-western side of the island. Its second major centre is Vieux Fort, which is located in the south. Saint Lucia was first inhabited by the Caribs/Kalinago for about 800 years. These first peoples called the island “lanoula” which has been translated to mean “there where the iguana is found”. The first attempts of colonization, by the English in 1605 and 1638 were unsuccessful as a result of the hostility of the Kalinago along with the susceptibility of the colonizers to their illnesses. The island was finally colonized by the French in Martinique in the 1650s. Over the next 150 years, Saint Lucia changes hands fourteen times equally between the British and the French until it surrendered by the French to the British in 1814. These consistent battles over the island caused it to earn the nickname “Helen of the West” after the fictional Helen of Troy. Saint Lucia became independent in 1979.

Although it has been English for the past 200 years, Saint Lucia still maintains aspects of its French colonial past. Many people in the country still speak French patois and many of the places still carry French names. The relatively widespread usage of French patois is one thing that should be considered under the project so that persons who are not fluent in English are not excluded from its benefits.

Saint Lucia is volcanic and has a mountainous terrain. Its terrain can be difficult to traverse and persons who live in very remote parts of the island as a result of the terrain have the potential to be excluded from the data collection exercises. Saint Lucia has fairly high poverty rates of approximately 25 percent. The unemployment rate is also high at 20.1 percent while youth unemployment stands at 36.3 percent.

## 2.4 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is located to the west of Barbados and consists of the island of Saint Vincent and the northern Grenadine islands<sup>4</sup>. Saint Vincent was one of the last islands in the region to be colonized as it was successfully defended by the native Carib/Kalinago inhabitants. In 1719, some French settlers from Martinique encroached on the island and began growing crops for export. Their claim to Saint Vincent was short-lived because they ceded the island to the British in 1763 because of the latter’s control of the region by that time. The French recaptured Saint Vincent in 1779, but the British regained control in 1783. Between 1783- 1796 there was an uprising between the Caribs/Kalinago and the British. In 1797 the British deported 5000 Caribs/Kalinago to Roatan, Honduras. In SVG today, there remains the Garifuna or Black Caribs who are the descendants of the native Caribs who intermarried with the enslaved Africans. These Garifuna can be considered a vulnerable group participation under the project.

Agriculture still remains very important in SVG as the country remains one of the few exporters of arrowroot in the world. Other significant agricultural exports include ground provisions and bananas. Tourism is another major industry in SVG. In spite of this, unemployment rates remain high in the country

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<sup>4</sup> Some of these include Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique, Prune Island, Petit St. Vincent Island, Union Island and the Tobago Cays which are a protected area.



at between 15-20 percent. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is quite mountainous and is also fragmented into many inhabited islands thus, making it difficult to traverse the terrain. Therefore, persons who reside in remote areas could potentially be excluded from data collection exercises.

## 3 Political Context

### 3.1 Grenada

Grenada is a constitutional monarchy with the Queen of England as its head of state. She is represented in country by the Governor General. The parliament of Grenada is bicameral. The House of Representatives consists of fifteen (15) members who were elected using the first past the post voting system to represent the country's 15 constituencies. The Senate consists of thirteen (13) members- ten appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister and three appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition. The country's Prime Minister is the leader of the party which has the majority of seats in the House of Representatives.

Grenada has a two-party political system, meaning that there are two main political parties- The National Democratic Congress (NDC) and the New National Party (NNP). The latter is currently the governing party and has been in power from 2013. Saint Lucia has elections every five years and the next general election is due in 2023. There has been a history from 1979- 1983 of some form of political instability and authoritarianism, starting with a coup in 1979 and ending with the invasion by the United States to restore democracy in 1983. During that four-year period, thousands of people were questioned and some tortured if they were believed to be opposing the ruling regime. Despite this past, Grenada is currently one of the most politically stable countries in the region and there have been no allegations of political violence by the government over the past three decades.

### 3.2 Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia is a constitutional monarchy with the Queen of England as its head of state. She is represented by the Governor General within the country. The country's parliament consists of two chambers. The House of Assembly consists of seventeen (17) members who were elected by universal adult suffrage to represent the country's 17 constituencies. The Senate consists of eleven (11) members- six appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, three appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and two appointed by the Governor General. The country's Prime Minister is the leader of the party which has the majority of seats in the House of Assembly.

Saint Lucia, like most of its Caribbean neighbours, has a two-party political system whereby there are two dominant political parties- The United Workers Party (UWP) and the Saint Lucia Labour Party (SLP). Currently, the UWP is the governing party which has been in power since 2016. Saint Lucia is a politically stable country and there have been no reports, to date, of the government implementing or sanctioning violence against any particular groups. Saint Lucia has elections every five years and the next election is

constitutionally due by September 2021<sup>5</sup>. This is of importance because historical trends suggest that any newly elected Government usually undertakes a review of all new and ongoing projects in the country. Therefore, it would be important to secure buy-in from both sides of the political coin.

### 3.3 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Like the other two participating countries, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is a constitutional monarchy with the Queen of England as its head of state. The Governor General represents the Queen within country. SVG has a unicameral parliament which consists of the House of Assembly. The House of Assembly is composed of fifteen (15) members who have been elected to represent the country's 15 constituencies, six (6) non-elected members or Senators (4 appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister, 2 appointed on the advice of the Leader of the Opposition and 2 additional members - Speaker of the House and the Attorney General). The number of persons in the House of Assembly varies between 21 and 23, depending on whether the Attorney General and speaker have been appointed from inside or outside of the House.

SVG also has a two-party political system, meaning that there are only two main political parties - the United Labour Party (ULP) and the New Democratic Party (NDP). Currently, the ULP is the governing party and has been in power since 2001. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines holds general elections every five years and the last general election was held in November 2020, thus making elections not due for another four years. SVG is a politically stable country where protests and strikes are peaceful and do not pose a threat to the stability of the government. Additionally, there are no allegations against the government of political violence.

## 4 Socio-Cultural Context

This section presents the socio-cultural differences that differentiate groups within the participating countries, with respect to this project, and the vulnerable groups that could potentially be excluded from the data collection process and generally the benefits of the project as a result. The differences are more or less the same across the countries and therefore will be presented collectively. Where differences are unique to one country, the country will be specified (Table 2). It must be noted that this is not a finalized list and the table will be updated, as necessary, during project implementation when more details about the project design have been finalized.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.loopslu.com/content/electoral-department-prepared-covid-elections>

Table 2- Socio-cultural differences and the identification of vulnerable groups

| Socio-Cultural Differences  | Country   | Potential Vulnerable/Excluded Groups from the Project   |
|---|-----------|---|
| Socio-economic differences e.g., education, access to resources, type of employment, income levels etc. | All       | -Unemployed, including unemployed youth<br>-Farmers, Fishers and persons employed in primary industries<br>-Persons with limited education<br>-Persons without proper access to technology/information e.g., internet, tablet, smartphone etc.<br>-Homeless |
| Differences in ability and mobility   | All       | -Persons with disabilities  |
| Differences as it relates to access to equal rights and dignity   | All       | -The LGBTQI community<br>-Persons living with HIV/AIDS  |
| Differences with respect to place of residence/terrain  | All       | -Persons who live in remote areas as all the participation countries are mountainous<br>-People who live on the different islands in the countries of SVG and Grenada   |
| Differences as it relates to health   | All       | -COVID-19 patients  |
| Gender differences  | All       | -Women  |
| Age differences   | All       | -The elderly  |
| Heritage differences  | SVG       | -Garifuna community   |
| Differences in Language   | St. Lucia | -Persons who speak only French Patois or have very limited understanding of English   |

The project's stakeholder engagement plan contains guidelines about how to ensure that vulnerable/disadvantaged groups are incorporated in to the project and this would include the data collection exercises. These guidelines should be followed to ensure inclusion.

## 5 Regulatory and Legislative Context

### 5.1 International Context

#### 5.1.1 The United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UNFPOS)

The UNFPOS was developed in 1994 by the United Nations Statistical Commission and endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council in 2013 and the UN General Assembly in 2014. The UNFPOS is a framework that National Statistical Systems must follow to produce high-quality, independent statistics that support informed decision-making and public confidence in the government and their decision making. The UNFPOS is based on ten (10) principles which are outlined in Annex 1 – The Principles of the UNFPOS.

## 5.2 Regional Context

### 5.2.1 Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean

In order to promote the principles established in the UNFPOS, the Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean was published in 2011 by a capacity building working group. This code included 17 Principles, each with its own compliance criteria and many of which relate to the requirements for national statistics legislation. This code is similar to the UNFPOS, but builds on those principles by also including separate principles that govern the resourcing of National Statistics Organizations (NSOs) (Annex 2- Principles of the Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean).

### 5.2.2 Regional Statistics Programme

This programme was initiated in 2005 by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat to highlight the importance of national statistics in achieving sustainable development and to encourage Member States to adopt and implement good statistical practices. Out of this programme the Statistics Code of Practice and the Statistics Model Bill were produced.

### 5.2.3 CARICOM Statistics Model Bill

Since it was produced, the Statistics Model Bill served as a template for new national statistical laws within the Caribbean Region. The Bill is particularly focused on UNFPOS Principle 10 on International Co-operation in that it requires the National Statistical Organization of each country to liaise with other countries along with regional and international organizations on statistical matters. The Bill includes some modern elements, including, but not limited to allowing information to be provided via 'electronic transmission'. Additionally, the National Statistical Organizations are required to formulate and ensure compliance with standards for statistical purposes. However, the Bill does not provide for the independence or impartiality of the National Statistical Organizations, nor the use of international standards or the need to compile statistics in a transparent and scientific manner. Moreover, there is no provision in the Bill for the provision of an Institute to comment on errors in interpretation, misuse of statistics, improving data quality and timeliness or to have a quality management framework for statistical outputs. Despite its shortcomings, the CARICOM Model Bill has allowed Caribbean nations to harmonize their statistical legislation, thereby creating some level of uniformity in the Statistics Acts in the region.

### 5.2.4 Regional Strategy for the Development of Statistics (RSDS)

The RSDS included a comprehensive evaluation of the regional and national statistics systems and it built on the results of the 2011/2013 Diagnostic Assessment of National Statistics Offices in the Caribbean. As part of the RSDS, CARICOM Member States were encouraged to review and update their statistics legislation based on the guidance provided under the Model Bill. It also supported the development of statistical legislation in each country in order to establish more modernized statistical offices.

With respect to the RSDS for the OECS, it encourages its member states to revise and update their legislation in order to:

1. Enhance the legal status of NSOs;
2. Refer to regional regulations for statistics in their legislation;
3. Strengthen the supremacy of national legislation;
4. Describe and define NSSs
5. Refer to the UNFPOS; and
6. Provide for new data sources.

Most OECS countries have or are taking steps towards reviewing their statistical laws based on the Model Bill. However, there is still remains room for improvement.

Additionally, the RSDS encourages the OECS Commission to liaise with its Member States, regional organizations such as the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CD), along with international development partners towards its implementation.

### 5.2.5 The Revised Treaty of Basseterre

This Treaty governs all seven (7) full member states and two (2) associated member states of the OECS. Under Article 4.2 of the Treaty, member states will implement decisions of the Organization and otherwise seek to co-ordinate, harmonize and undertake joint actions and pursue joint policies in twenty-four (24) fields, including statistics. The Treaty also provides for common policies towards development and sets general and specific developmental objectives within five (5) areas- economic transformation, growth, employment, poverty reduction and attainment of the appropriate levels of measured by the UN Human Development Indices. All of the aforementioned areas need to be informed and monitored by accurate and up to date statistics. The Revised Treaty also allowed for the development of the OECS Statistical Services Unit.

Additionally, the Treaty provides for Human and Social Development. Specifically, it mandates that the member states create harmonized policies towards poverty reduction, gender equality, amongst other things. It states that there must be effective participation of all sectors of society in the decision making process at both the community and national levels. Furthermore, the Treaty seeks to strengthen the capacity of member states to monitor and assess social development policies and programmes and to have equality of access to opportunities throughout the Economic Union to persons with disabilities, different abilities and other vulnerable and socially excluded groups<sup>6</sup>. The improvement of the statistical system within the OECS will seek to identify areas in which all of the aforementioned can be achieved.

## 5.3 National Context

### 5.3.1 Grenada

#### **Statistics Act Cap. 311 of 1960**

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<sup>6</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1287Ag0Tp3ZudDkGi0ztIjE-2ZUPUzl\\_F/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1287Ag0Tp3ZudDkGi0ztIjE-2ZUPUzl_F/view)

This Act established the Central Statistical Office of Grenada whose role is to collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the social, agricultural, economic, commercial, industrial and general activities of the population of Grenada. The Grenada CSO also collaborates with the Government of Grenada (GoG) and public bodies in the collection, compilation, analysis and publication of statistics, along with generally organizing a coordinated scheme of social and economic statistics for Grenada.

### ***Gaps in the Statistics Act Cap 311 of 1960***

The Statistics Act of Grenada is a bit outdated and thus does not incorporate many aspects of modern statistical laws and the principles of the UNFPOS. Specifically, the act does not:

1. Guarantee to ensure that data produced is timely, reliable and accurate e.g. data compiled in a transparent and scientific manner. There is also no requirement to have an annual workplan related to the collection, collation and dissemination of statistical data;
2. Provide for a quality management framework;
3. Contain any guarantees related to relevance, impartiality and equal access;
4. Require access to microdata;
5. Contain any requirement that data is to be used for statistical purposes only nor does it guarantee its security;
6. Empower the Statistical Officer to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of data; and
7. Obligate the CSO to use international standards or to engage in forms of international coordination<sup>7</sup>.

### **Statistics Bill 2017**

The Grenada Statistics Bill of 2017 is a draft bill which improves on the outdated Statistics Act. It builds on the CARICOM Statistics Model Bill by including additional clauses aimed at addressing the gaps found in the Model Bill. The Statistics Bill is still being modified before being taken to parliament to be passed. Once passed, this Bill will see the replacement of the Central Statistical Office with the National Statistical Institute of Grenada whose mandate will be to develop an integrated statistical system and establish standards for the collection, compilation, analysis and publishing of official statistics from Grenada. Unlike the original Act, this updated Bill requires the Statistical Institute to liaise with other countries and regional and international organizations with respect to statistics. It also obligates the Institute to undergo annual audits and to maintain its accounts in accordance with international best practices in accounting. Additionally, persons may provide information to the Institute by electronic transmission.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/45100/S1901208\\_en.pdf](https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/45100/S1901208_en.pdf)

### ***Gaps in the Statistics Bill 2017***

While the new Statistics Bill has many improvements when compared to the original Statistics Act, its main gaps are as follows:

1. There is no requirement to have an annual work programme and to follow systemic dissemination;
2. There is no requirement to reduce reporting burden and to improve data quality and timeliness;
3. It does not guarantee that statistics will be compiled in a transparent and scientific manner; and
4. It does not allow the National Statistical Institute to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of data<sup>8</sup>.

#### **5.3.2 Saint Lucia**

##### **2001 Statistics Act of Saint Lucia (Cap 17.12, Vol. 19)**

This Act governs the activities of the Central Statistical office of Saint Lucia. It provides for the collection compilation and analysis of statistical information, including the taking of the census and the publication of that information for matters relating thereto. The Act allows for coordination with national authorities for the collection of data and also provides for the appointees in the statistical office to take an oath of office, including non-disclosure.

##### ***Gaps in the 2001 Statistics Act of Saint Lucia (Cap 17.12, Vol.19)***

1. The Act does not provide for the Saint Lucia CSO to be independent or impartial to ensure that scientific standards or professional ethics are applied.
2. The Act does not have a requirement on improving data quality and timeliness and to have a quality management framework:
3. The Act does not provide for access to microdata.
4. The Act does not give the CSO the authority to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
5. There is not requirement to have an annual work programme and to follow a systemic dissemination policy.
6. While the Act requires national cooperation for the collection of data, it does not require international cooperation, nor does it require the use of international standards for statistics<sup>9</sup>.

#### **5.3.3 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

##### **The Census and Statistics Act, 1983**

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<sup>8</sup> See footnote 7

<sup>9</sup> See footnote 7

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Census and Statistics Act, 1983 governs the actions of the Statistical Office of the country. The Act provides for “the consolidation and revisions of the law relating to the taking of censuses, the collection of statistics and the publication of statistical information, and for matters incidental to the foregoing”<sup>10</sup>.

### **Gaps in the Census and Statistics Act, 1983**

1. The Act does not require the Statistical Office to be independent, impartial or to ensure equal access to statistics for all users.
2. It does not require scientific standards or profession ethics to be observed.
3. The Statistical Office is not empowered to comment on misuse or erroneous interpretation of statistics.
4. While an Oath of Secrecy is taken by the Statistical Office staff, the Act does not guarantee information security or the use of statistical data for only statistical purposes;
5. Because of the date in which it was developed, the Act does not make provisions for modern statistical practices, including providing access to microdata to researchers; and
6. The Statistical Office is not required to engage in international cooperation nor apply regional or international standards in its work<sup>11</sup>.

## **6 Key Challenges of the National Statistics Systems**

This section presents some of the challenges of the national statistics systems in the participating countries and some recommendations of how to address said challenges. The challenges are more or less the same across all the participating countries, therefore, they are discussed collectively here. It must be noted that this table will be updated during project implementation when more details are known about the project design.

| <b>Challenge/ Gap</b>  | <b>Recommendations to Address Challenge/Gap</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Legislation</b>   |  |
| Legislation governing statistics in each country does not fully meet with International Standards for statistics | -Use the gaps listed in Section 5 of this SA to update national legislation to ensure that gaps are filled   |
| Length of time taken to pass legislation e.g., the new Statistics Bill in Grenada has been in draft since 2017   | -Ensure that key changes are made to draft legislation in a timely manner so that it can be passed by parliament early during project implementation |
| <b>Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination</b>   |  |

<sup>10</sup> <http://stats.gov.vc/stats/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Census-Statistics-Act.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> See footnote 7



| Challenge/ Gap   | Recommendations to Address Challenge/Gap   |
|--|--|
| Extended time between collection of data, analysis and dissemination of results which could be a result of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limited staff size</li> <li>2. Limited staff capacity</li> <li>3. Outdated data collection and analysis tools</li> </ol>   | -Improve capacity of the Statistical Offices by hiring or training more technical staff<br>-Implement the preparation of annual workplans and reporting<br>-Collect data electronically using tablets/smartphones to reduce the time it takes to enter the data into statistical software<br>-Update software used to analyze data   |
| No set timeframe for collection and dissemination of data  | -Implement the preparation of annual workplans and reporting   |
| Small final sample size for surveys, particularly the Living Conditions survey   | -Increase target sample size to compensate for the response rate<br>-Improve the method through which data is collected<br>-Engage more data collectors  |
| Data is not readily available online for all countries   | -Improve the websites of the Statistical Offices to ensure that data produced is easily accessible to all<br>-For Saint Lucia, make data available online in French patois to ensure that it can be consumed by persons who do not speak English or do not speak English fluently  |
| <b>Questionnaire Design</b>  |  |
| Questionnaires are not fully compatible with internationally standardized and comparable definitions   | -Review international best practices re: national statistics questionnaire design<br>-Amend questionnaires to align with international best practices on national statistics questionnaire design<br>-Standardize questions across participating countries to make comparisons easier  |
| Lack of comparability between questions on census and questions on living conditions survey  | -Amend the wording of the questions to ensure that the data is comparable between the two surveys  |
| No explicit language as it relates to disadvantaged/ excluded groups: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data is disaggregated along gender lines but not usually along any other lines</li> <li>2. Persons with disabilities and other vulnerabilities not explicitly targeted and therefore are likely grossly under-represented</li> </ol> | -Update the legislation to include a clause that makes a specific reference to the inclusion of vulnerable/ disadvantaged groups in data collection process<br>-Include or re-word questions in the questionnaire that target different vulnerable groups to ensure that they aren't under-represented e.g., Persons with disabilities<br><br><b>For Saint Lucia</b><br>-Ensure that data collectors that are going into areas where French patois is almost exclusively spoken are fluent in the language |

| Challenge/ Gap   | Recommendations to Address Challenge/Gap  |
|--|---|
|  | -Make questionnaires available in French patois   |
| The use of mainly income indicators to determine levels of poverty in the Living Conditions Survey | -Consider looking at more than just the level of resources of households, but also at the kind of life each household is able to attain (See footnote 11 which links to an OPHI Working Paper that discusses the use of different indicators to allow for better determinations of poverty and households' qualifications for certain programmes) <sup>12</sup> |

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/OPHIWP092.pdf>

## Annex 1 – The Principles of the UNFPOS<sup>13</sup>

### **Principle 1: Relevance, impartiality and equal access**

Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.

### **Principle 2: Professional standards and ethics**

To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.

### **Principle 3: Accountability and transparency**

To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.

### **Principle 4: Prevention of misuse**

The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.

### **Principle 5: Sources of official statistics**

Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.

### **Principle 6: Confidentiality**

Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.

### **Principle 7: Legislation**

The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.

### **Principle 8: National coordination**

Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.

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<sup>13</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/261 adopted on 29 January 2014.  
<https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/68/261>

**Principle 9: Use of international standards**

The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.

**Principle 10: International cooperation**

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

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## Annex 2- Principles of the Regional Code of Good Practice in Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>14</sup>

### **Principle 1: Professional independence**

In order to guarantee the credibility of official statistics, the national statistical institute and other members of the national statistical system must be professionally independent of political and administrative agencies and other external sources of interference.

### **Principle 2: Coordination of the national statistical system**

This will enable the statistics producing entities to plan and implement national statistical activity in a participatory manner, maintain close contact and work jointly to improve the quality, comparability and consistency of official statistics.

### **Principle 3: Statistical mandate for data collection**

The collection of information for the preparation of official statistics must be supported by a clear legal mandate. At the request of the national statistical institutes and members of the national statistical system, the administrations, corporations, households and the public in general may be required by law to provide access to data for the preparation of official statistics or to submit such data, which will be treated as confidential.

### **Principle 4: Statistical confidentiality**

The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system shall guarantee the protection and confidentiality of the information used to produce official statistics and shall refrain from identifying the sources.

### **Principle 5: Adequacy of resources**

The resources available for national statistical activity must be sufficient and appropriate for the generation of official statistics.

### **Principle 6: Quality commitment**

The entities that produce statistics within the national statistical system must work and cooperate in accordance with rules, principles and standards.

### **Principle 7: Impartiality and objectivity**

The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics respecting scientific independence and, in an objective, professional and transparent manner, so that all users are treated equally.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/16423/1/FILE\\_148024\\_en.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/16423/1/FILE_148024_en.pdf)

**Principle 8: Cooperation and international participation**

The entities belonging to the national statistical system must cooperate in the exchange of experiences and information and work jointly on the preparation of international statistical standards and activities.

**Principle 9: Sound methodology**

The production of official statistics by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be based on sound instruments, procedures and expertise.

**Principle 10: Appropriate statistical procedures**

The quality of official statistics used by national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be underpinned by appropriate procedures and tools at every stage of the statistical process.

**Principle 11: Non-excessive burden on respondents**

The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must set their targets so as to gradually reduce the burden on respondents. The request for information must be in keeping with the needs of users and must not be excessive for the respondents.

**Principle 12: Cost-effectiveness**

The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must use resources efficiently and effectively.

**Principle 13: Relevance**

The national statistical institute and other members of the national statistical system must satisfy users' information needs on the basis of their requirements.

**Principle 14: Accuracy and reliability**

The official statistics produced by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be an accurate and reliable reflection of the actual situation.

**Principle 15: Timeliness and punctuality**

The national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must produce and disseminate official statistics in a timely, punctual and transparent manner.

**Principle 16: Coherence and comparability**

The official statistics produced by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be coherent internally and over time and must be comparable across regions and countries.

**Principle 17: Accessibility and clarity**

The official statistics generated by the national statistical institute and the other members of the national statistical system must be presented clearly and comprehensibly and disseminated appropriately, thereby enabling equitable access by all users.

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