



*The Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Trinidad and Tobago developed the Geographic Data Management System (GDMS) for the dissemination of census and survey data among government ministries as a coordinated approach to support government and private sector use of a geospatial data management system for planning purposes in such sectors as demography, transportation, social development, agriculture, emergency management, environmental planning, and information technology.*



### Innovation

The CSO, in collaboration with data source agencies, developed metadata standards for recording data quality and other information. The system has supported the establishment of common standards and their application across government ministries and agencies. This facilitates the sharing of national statistics compiled from censuses and surveys and using them to drive the government's social and economic policies.

The process was guided by international standards, and a Data Validation and Verification Plan was developed to determine the relevance and accuracy of all data sets. Strategies for updating databases and archiving old data sets were developed for project continuity.

### Usefulness of the Data



The GDMS has provided a framework for continuous data provision to support the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals, and has encouraged more efficient, user-friendly use of statistical data for centralized and local-level planning purposes.

Data analysis through the use of the GDMS has helped define police jurisdictions and facilitated proper human resource management and manpower allocations. The system also has provided information on

educational attainment, age-group distribution, religion, and ethnic origin by jurisdiction.

The Ministry of Health used community-level data to make accurate estimates of medical supplies, human resources, and financial allocations needed in each district.

For the Ministry of Education, the information provided by the GDMS facilitated school zoning, allocation of teachers, school supervision, and overall improvement of the school management system. In conclusion, the development of the GDMS may serve to enhance collaboration and efficiency in the planning and development processes that will eventually lead to effective governance.



### Lessons Learned

The utility of census data is enhanced when they are integrated with basic household survey information, such as access to drinking water, fuel, schooling, health facilities, transport, and sanitation, and with other information that may, at a given point in time, be relevant to the country.

To resolve concerns regarding the timeliness and appropriateness of data sets, it was important to develop a Data Integration Plan to address such issues as accuracy, relevance, and the use of different scales.

