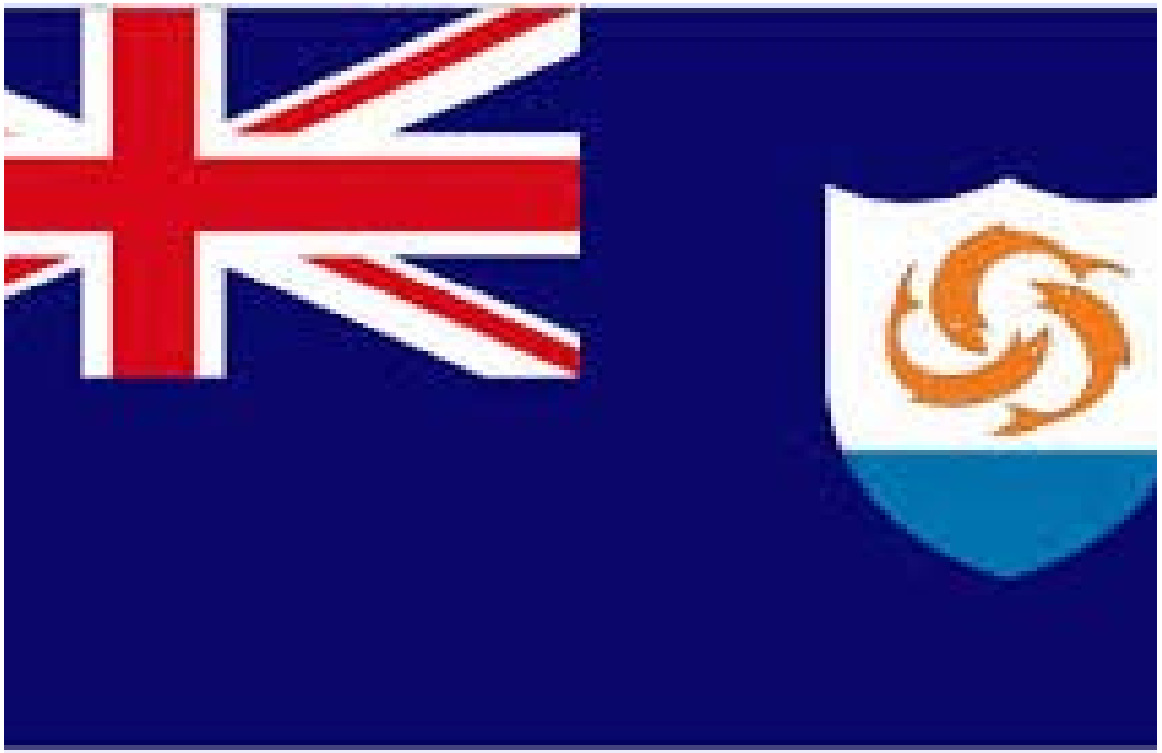


Why Social Policy Development requires an investment in Statistics: The case of Anguilla.

Presented by
Dr. Bonnie Richardson-Lake
Permanent Secretary, Health & Social Development
26th May 2014
Second High Level Forum on Statistics
Grenada

- Anguilla is the northern most of the Leeward Islands.
- It is a British Overseas Territory.
- It lies to the north of the island of St.Maarten, and covers an area of 71.3 km2 or 35 square miles.
- Population approximately 13,000

WHY DO WE NEED STATISTICS?

- Important for decision-making and resource allocation
- Informs policy and programme development
- Critical to monitoring & evaluation
- Measures performance
- Allows for meaningful comparisons between programmes, communities, nations and regions

CHALLENGES IN THE USE OF STATISTICS

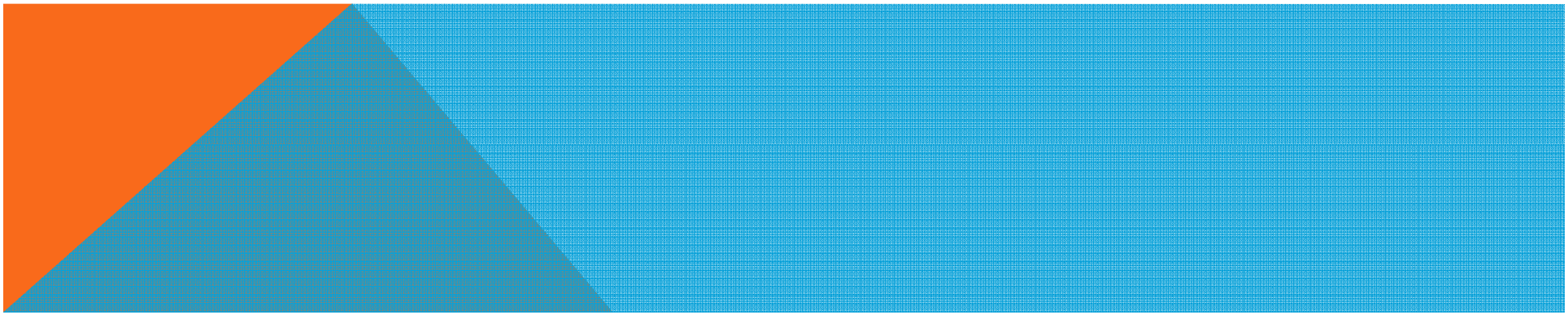
- Much data collected, little used
- Data is not always easy to access
- Often data collected is not accurate
- Lack of communication amongst agencies that collect and provide data
- Limited data disaggregated by age and gender

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS (NSDS)

- Anguilla launched a NSDS in 2012
- A NSDS is an overall national vision of the development of a country's statistical system including national, regional, and international needs
- Plays an integral part of a country's development and poverty reduction policy
- Serves as a framework for international and bilateral assistance
- Includes all parts of the data production units and addresses the issues related to the analysis and use of data
- Follows the international standards including quality
- Builds on all past and existing activities and experiences

WHERE DO WE USE STATISTICS

- Health
- Correction Services
- Social Services



EVIDENCE

"Evidence" has been described as a property of data that changes our beliefs about how the world around us is working. It is the basis upon which we derive inferences, come to conclusions, and make decisions. (New York: Oxford University Press; 1999).

OBJECTIVES OF GATHERING EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMATION FOR HEALTH

- To determine the vulnerability and public health impacts.
- To better develop and evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based response plans.
- To establish greater collaboration with partners and policy makers on adaptation and response strategies at the national, regional and international level.
- To assist key players and other partners in supporting our preparedness and response capability to public health threats.

OBJECTIVES OF GATHERING EVIDENCE-BASED INFORMATION FOR HEALTH

- To facilitate the early detection of changes in communicable diseases, trends, unusual events, clusters and outbreaks.
- To initiate appropriate control activities to limit the spread of adverse health conditions, ultimately reducing morbidity, mortality and negative economic impact.
- To identify risk groups and guide the implementation of relevant interventions to reduce potential health risks.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of our national programmes and provide a basis for shaping public health policy.

HEALTH DATA USED HEALTH PLANNING

- Epidemiological data (this includes census, survey, and other population statistics)
- Administrative data, which captures activity within the health care system.
- Journal articles and reports from various organizations provide summaries and analyses
- Performance indicators

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

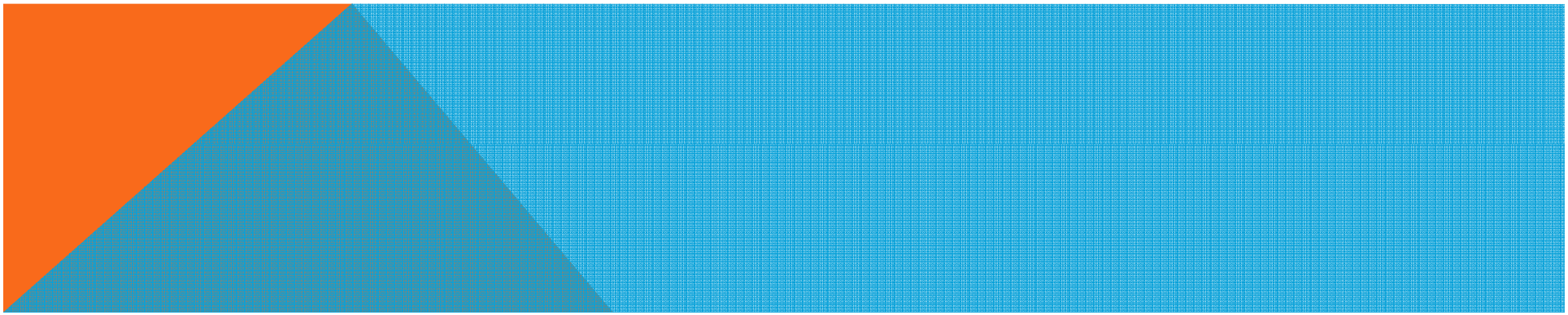
- Examining and monitoring performance against preset indicators such as those outlined in the national strategic health plan is a critical part of the planning process.
- The strategic plan is the operationalization or the road map of policy
- Indicators enable policy makers to monitor performance of the plan
- Baseline data is critical to this process

HEALTH POLICY AND PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Comprehensive School Health Policy
- Project Proposal for NCDs (STEPS Survey)
- Communicable Disease Surveillance Manual
- National Food & Nutrition Policy
- National Policy and Plan for CNCDs
- National Health Policy

HEALTH POLICY AND PROJECTS CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Solid Waste Management
- Vector Control
- Measuring performance of the Health Authority of Anguilla against the Annual Services Agreement



USE OF STATISTICS IN CORRECTIONS

- Monitoring recidivism rates
- Tracking compliance with Parole Licenses and Probation Orders
- Measuring effectiveness of Rehabilitative Services
- Justifying need for increases or decreases in services
- Performance Appraisal of Officers working in the system

USE OF STATISTICS IN CORRECTIONS

- Understanding the Prison population
- Assisting in understanding the link between substance abuse and other risk factors and criminal behaviour
- Targeting programmes for particular types of offenders
- Assessing Capacity Needs
- Assessing performance against Juvenile Justice indicators

CORRECTION POLICY CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Restorative Justice Policy & Programme
- Diversion Programmes
- Voluntary Drug Testing for Prisoners on Work Release
- Complaints Policy for Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre
- Rewards & Sanctions Policy for Juvenile Offenders

USE OF STATISTICS IN SOCIAL SERVICES

- To identify the extent, severity, characteristics and causes of poverty
- To determine factors such as economic and social policies, unemployment, and socio-cultural-legal characteristics which contribute to the generation, exacerbation or reduction of poverty
- To evaluate the effectiveness of current policies and programmes of Government Agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in terms of their impact on the poor and more disadvantaged groups of the population

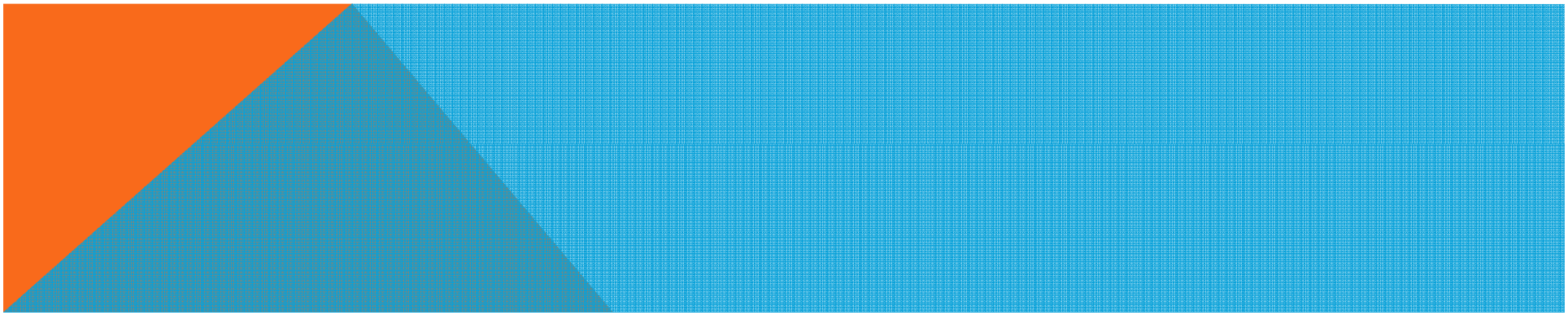
USE OF STATISTICS IN SOCIAL SERVICES

- To develop a programme of action which sets out strategies, policies and programmes to reduce poverty

- Monitor Utilization and Effectiveness of Social Protection Programmes
  - Public Assistance
  - Medical Exemption
  - Food Vouchers
  - Educational Assistance
  - Funeral Grants
  - Foster Care
  - Water Assistance

USE OF STATISTICS IN SOCIAL SERVICES

- To assess whether programmes are really targeting the most needy.
- To measure progress on MDGs



SOCIAL SERVICE POLICY AREAS RECENTLY ENACTED/CURRENTLY UNDER DEVELOPMENT

- Disability Policy
- Child Protection Policy (recently completed)
- Older Persons Policy (recently completed)
- National Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Substance Abuse Prevalence Study
- Feasibility Study for the establishment of an out-patient mental health facility

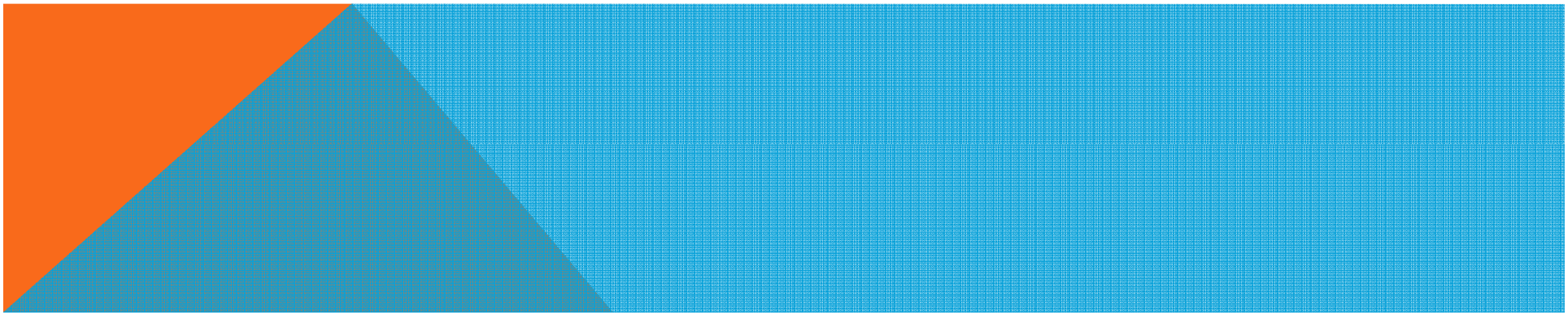
WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

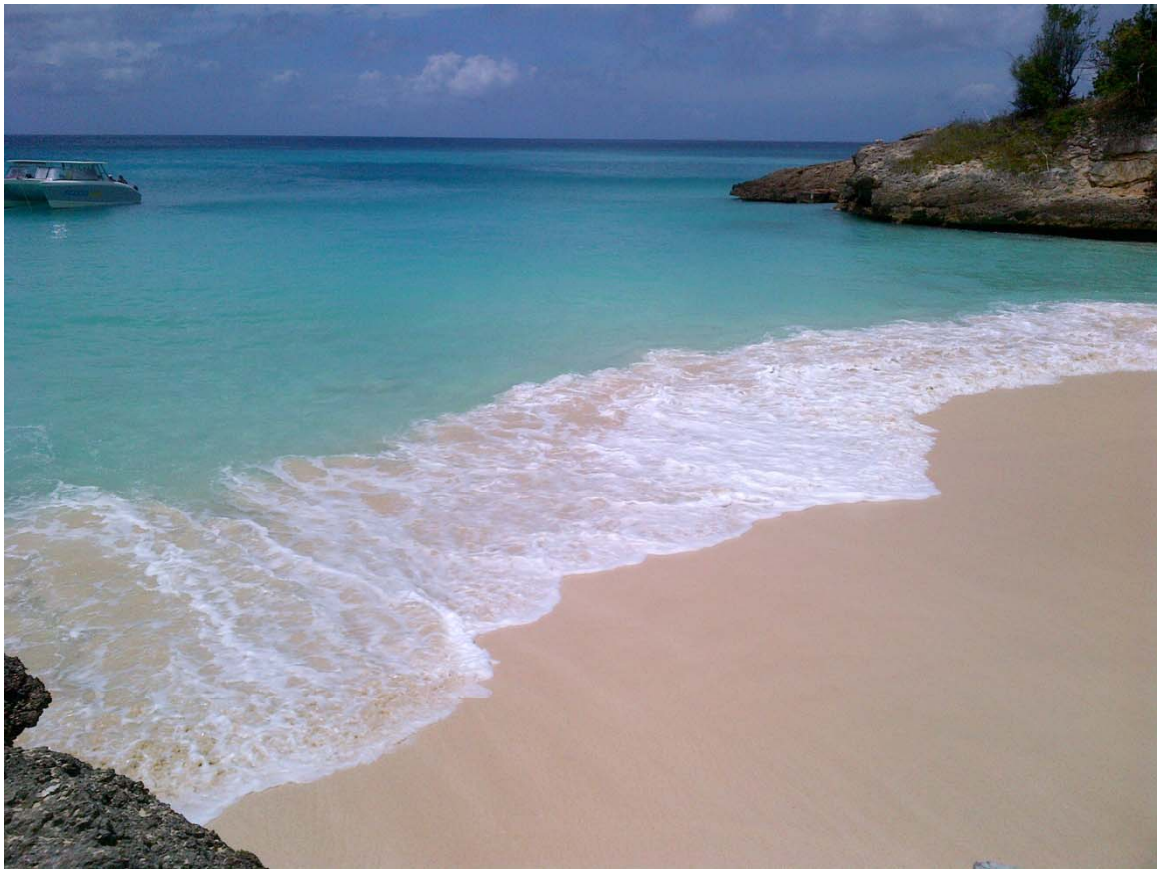
PAHO

UNICEF

CARPHA

EU



HOW DOES THE INVESTMENT IN STATISTICS PAY OFF?

Not one of the policies, programmes or projects mentioned could have been possible without some form of statistics. The challenge now is to ensure that we have accurate, reliable, relevant, timely and readily available statistics and that we use them to inform all dimensions of our work in the social sector. Polices and programmes based on quality statistics will yield high dividends in the future.