Countries of the Caribbean Tackle Challenges for Data Collection and Management in Regional Workshop

Montego Bay – Representatives of 13 countries are participating in a specialised workshop finishing today (09/25), through which the United Nations Migration Agency (IOM) and its initiative for Caribbean Migration Consultations (CMC) promotes an improvement coordination and collaboration in the collection and analysis of migration data in the region.

“Data analysis has been one of the main weaknesses for an adequate management of migration in the Caribbean. The availability of relevant and high-quality information is still very limited”, noted Marcelo Pisani, Regional Director of IOM for Central America, North America and the Caribbean.

“In response to this need, we organized a workshop that enables decision-makers to know best practices for collection and management of migratory data, gathering important representatives of migration agencies and statistical institutions to better comprehend and use data linked to migration, refugee protection and development policies”. IOM collaborated with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and UNHCR in executing this event under the CMC framework.

The initiative has the objective of analysing the migration data needs in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda, Participants will identify challenges, gaps and needs, as well as opportunities resources and best practices utilized by other participants for the management of migration information, with the purpose of developing feasible mechanisms to improve collection, analysis and exchange of information in the region.

Accurate and relevant migration data could allow States to strengthen and better focus their response to natural disasters and human movements, increasing the positive impact of interventions, projects and programmes.

“Interventions designed using quality data have the opportunity for far greater effectiveness in migration management, as well as for the protection and assistance of identified and targeted groups”, says Brendan Tarnay, IOM Project Coordinator for CMC. “Quality data and data sharing can significantly reduce the number of duplicated records in public services. The work and collaboration at this CMC meeting, will lead to greater inter-agency communication and data sharing, a priority already identified by participating governments.

The regional workshop was possible due to the support of the United States Department of State, the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, as well as the cooperation of the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR) and IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC).

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