

### **Mauritius assists Seychelles to graduate to SDDS**

Following a request from the Seychelles Government to that of Mauritius, Stats M is assisting the Seychelles to graduate to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the IMF.

Stats M director, Aimee Cheung fielded two missions to Seychelles to share the Mauritian experience with colleagues from Seychelles and to chart a way forward for graduation to SDDS; labour statistics was identified as a priority area.

From 10 to 14 June 2013, the CEO of the Seychelles National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Laura Ahtime and Principal Statistician Helena De Letourdis came on a study tour to Stats M to learn from the Mauritian experience on producing quarterly labour statistics which are one of the requirements to graduate to SDDS.

The NBS team had working sessions with Deputy Director Meera Ganoo and her team on the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey (CMPHS), the survey instrument in place in Mauritius to provide quarterly labour statistics. They discussed how the CMPHS can be adapted to suit the Seychelles context in particular the survey plan and procedures, sampling and questionnaire design, fieldwork, data processing and dissemination.



### **Stats M staff receive training in basic fire fighting techniques**

Stats M staff working at the head office benefited from training in 'Basic Fire Fighting Techniques' on 7, 10 and 11 June 2013.

The training sessions were dispensed by Premanand Ramdahen, Principal Safety and Health Officer from the Occupational Safety and Health Unit of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (MCSAR). He gave a lively and interactive presentation on:

- Fire, classes of fire and how it breaks;
- Prevention of fire and basic fire fighting techniques;
- Firefighting equipment available at workplaces; and
- Emergency preparedness plan for dangerous occurrences and safe evacuation techniques.

Stats M is liaising with MCSAR for holding other training sessions for officers who work in outstations as well as those who missed the previous round of training.

### **Stats M gives a presentation on poverty to key officials from concerned ministries and institutions**

Stats M Statistician Chandranee Rughoobur gave a presentation on poverty statistics on Friday 21 June 2013 at the strategic management meeting of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED).

Financial Secretary, Ali Mansoor chaired the meeting whose purpose was to take stock of latest poverty-related statistics in order to better inform poverty alleviation programmes dispensed by Government.

The meeting was attended by key officials from Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reforms Institutions; Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment; National Empowerment Foundation (NEF); United Nations Development Program (UNDP); and the World Bank staff working on Social Protection.

Chandranee's presentation on poverty statistics was based on the latest 2012 Household Budget Survey data. She gave an overview of the different poverty lines that could be used and presented the poverty rates obtained therefrom. She indicated to what extent households of different income groups benefit from free education, free bus transport and universal old-age pensions, disability pensions, widow's pensions and Social Aid. The findings on the impact of universal pensions on poverty captured the interest of the audience and Stats M was requested to broaden the analysis to cover other social assistance schemes.

### **Appointment of Principal Statistical Officers**

Following a selection exercise by the Public Service Commission, Senior Statistical Officers Smet Chaumoo and Nalini Devi Meenowa were appointed as Principal Statistical Officer in a temporary capacity for a period of six months as from 01 July 2013.

\*\*\*\*\*