



PRELIMINARY

ABACO SHANTY TOWN ASSESSMENT REPORT, 2018

SHANTY TOWN TASK FORCE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR

SHANTY TOWN PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND REPORT

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SHANTY TOWN PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

January 2018 marked the government’s commitment to advance a significant social policy reform envisaged to humanely regulate and elevate the living conditions of persons residing in Shanty Towns. With the approval and direction of the Cabinet of The Bahamas, Ministry of Labour led a multi-agency Secretariat and Task Force to execute this reform. The reform shift is undergirded by the accentuated risks posed to occupants of such communities.

Shanty towns “break every regulation and law [on] safety standards in the country ... This cannot continue. They [occupants of Shanty Town communities] want better”

- *The Most Honourable Prime Minister*
Hubert Minnis

Inputs for the reform process will be comprehensive, including the following prongs: -

- A census and characterization of shanty town residents – the Assessment;
- Inspection of physical structures within shanty town communities¹;
 - Identification of regulated, mainstream and affordable housing options for relocation and integration of affected individuals and families;
 - Engagement with cultural mediators from Haitian NGOs and FBO;
 - Dialogue with international Human Rights bodies to ensure the process accords with the highest levels of dignity and respect for human rights; and
 - Legislative review for compliance with both international conventions and local laws.

ABACO’S KEY FINDINGS

- 777 – Participating households
- 84.9%, Response rate
- 47 years – Average respondent age
- 3,041 – Population size. The Mudd and Pea contribute 70.4% to the total population
- 632 – Minors attending school
- 20% - Undocumented respondents
- 352 – Households having a single bread winner
- 61.7% - Households earning less than \$400 per week
- 90.7% - Respondents living in a shanty town for at least 12 months
- 23.2% - Rented dwellings

Box A: Key Findings

2018 followed by the assessment in Abaco during the months of August and September, 2018. The results of the Abaco-based shanty towns (North and South Abaco) are

¹ This is particularly important in light of the belief that Shanty Town structures do not accord/conform with building codes. Such infractions “injure the public interest ... creates risk to human safety by construction of sub-standard housing, and is detrimental to orderly development and use of the environment”.

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contained in this report, with the main findings are outlined above (Box A). From a comparative perspective, Abaconian Shanty Towns have at least 1,629 more occupants than those in New Providence.

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

OBJECTIVE

To furnish the Minister of Labour with quantitative data on households² within Shanty Towns; and have that data guide and advance the work of the Cabinet appointed Shanty Town Task Force (SATF). The assessment seeks to obtain demographic information and to objectify selected variables – legal status, work status, income, access to utilities, school-aged minors and disabled population (see Annex I).

INCLUSION CRITERIA

To be included in the survey, the survey participant must

1. Reside in one of the Shanty Town communities identified in DEHS 2013 Report and/or by the RBPF
2. The Head of Household (HOH) must be at least 18 years of age

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. The Head of Household participant is under the age of consent
2. The Head of Household is observed to have a mental disorder, is developmentally/cognitively delayed or to be under the influence of a psychotropic agent(s)

SAMPLING FRAME

A convenience sampling approach will be used. A survey instrument consists of 27 questions which will elucidate defined characteristics of Shanty Town communities.

A 2013 Shanty Town Report noted that there were 1024 households³ in the Shanty Towns of Abaco. These households are dispersed over six (6) sites within two constituency districts of Abaco – North Abaco and South Abaco. The goal will be to assess every household/dwelling. However, a response rate of 85% would be deemed acceptable.

² For this exercise household is defined as any and all units with an entrance, even those units are attached under a single roof structure.

³ The Department of Environmental Health Shanty Town Report (2013) reports 730 houses within the New Providence-based shanty towns. A population growth of 20% over the intervening years is assumed bringing the target sample size for 2018 to 803 houses. For Abaco, using the same assumption of growth, and accounting for the recent fires, the target number of households would be 1,126.

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DISTRICT	Shanty Town Community	Household Count (2013)
North Abaco	Sands Banks Farm Road L&H (Treasure Cay) Leisure Lee Community	
South Abaco	The Mudd The Pea Elbow Cay (Hope Town)	

SURVEY LOGISTICS

The pool of field enumerators were drawn from the Departments of Environmental Health, Social Services and Public Health along with the armed forces – given their familiarity and prior work in these communities. To avoid intimidation, field enumerators will be attired in plain clothing and be accompanied by an interpreter. Field enumerators will also be provided an I.D. badge as a means of building trust among household respondents.

Enumerators and interpreters will receive a one-day training along with orientation and sensitization to both the tool (questionnaire) and the community. Enumerators and interpreters will be pre-assigned to districts as per Image 1.

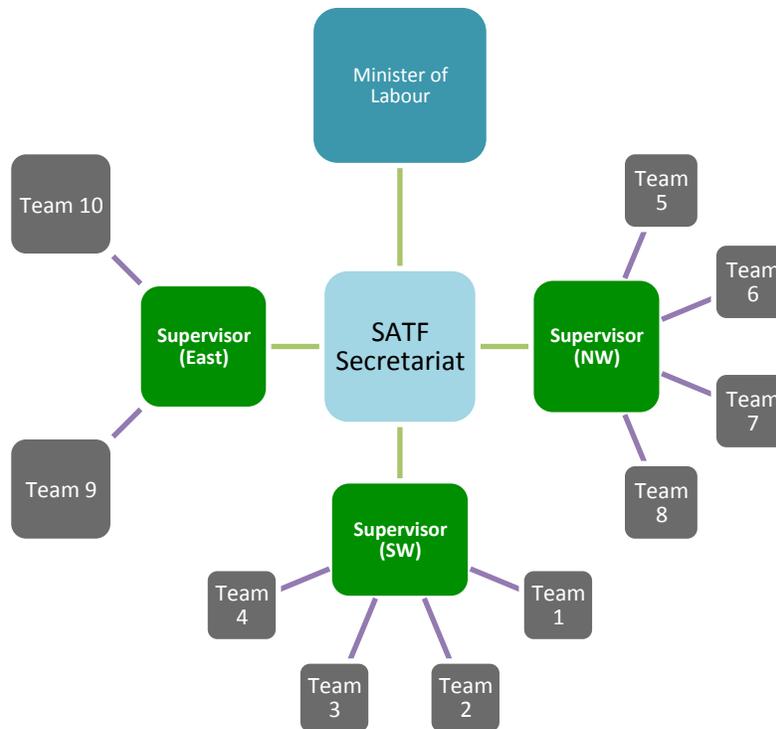


Image 1: Reporting Lines and Distribution of Enumerators

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Anecdotally it has been conveyed that the residents of Shanty Town communities are less likely to be in the communities during morning hours. The survey logistics consider these realities.

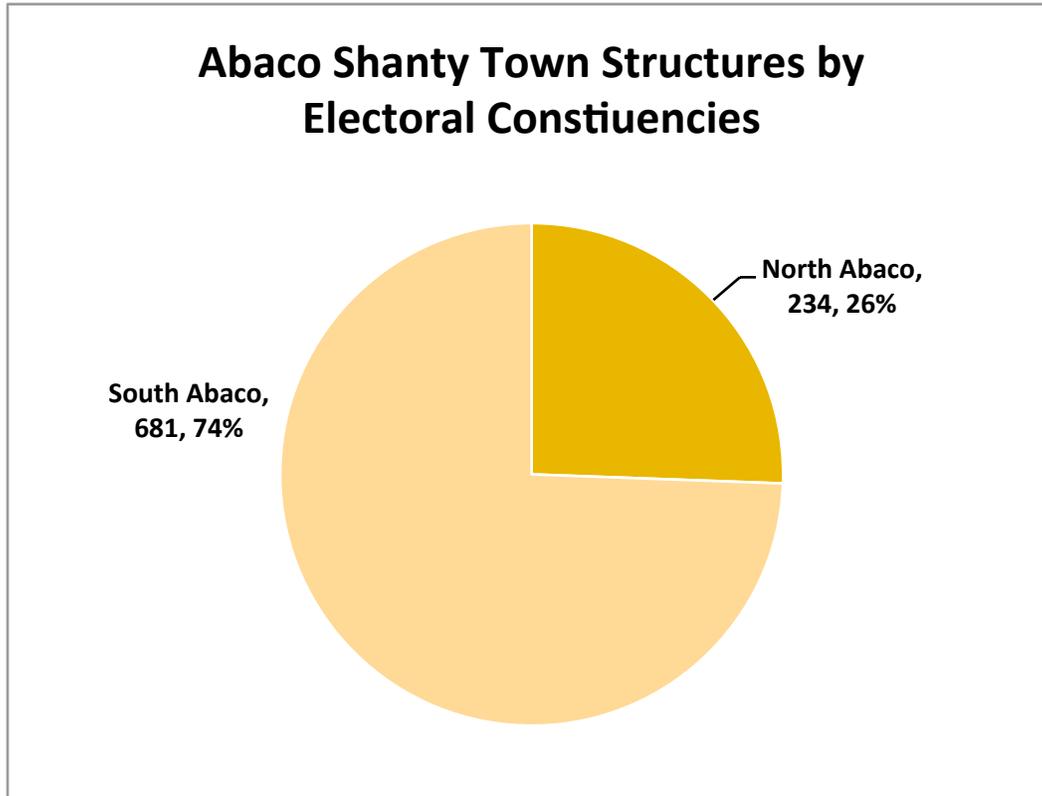
- Assessment administration frequency: Weekends only (Saturdays and Sundays)
- Total days in the field: 30th June to 4th September, 2018
- Assessment hours: Saturdays (10am – 7pm); Sundays (2pm to 7pm) and Weekdays (T & Th 5pm to 8pm) preferred
- Time needed to administer each assessment: 40 minutes



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ABACO FINDINGS: AN IN-DEPTH SHANTY TOWN PROFILE

The assessment identified 915 dwelling structures/buildings, almost double those identified in New Providence, but a 10.6% reduction from the 2013 Report. The achieved household response rate was 85% (84.9%), with 138 households not participating in the assessment⁴.



The Mudd is the most densely populated Shanty Town in Abaco followed by the Pea and Farm Road with percentage distributions of 51.4%, 19% and 15.2% respectively. The Mudd and The Pea are geographically situated in South Abaco, the economic hub of the island.

Shanty Town Communities	North Abaco	South Abaco
Sand Banks	79	
FarmRoad	139	
L&H (Treasure Cay)	16	
The Mudd		470
The Pea		174
Elbow Cay		37

⁴ Non-participation can either be result of an articulated refusal or the household being vacant or no one being home at the time of the assessment's administration.

AGE & SEX OF HOUSEHOLD RESPONDENT

Though the assessment sought to capture information from the head of household, the convenience sampling methodology allowed for any responsible adult to be interviewed. Of all respondents, males outnumbered females almost 2:1. This finding might reflect certain sub-culture idiosyncrasies as well as certain economic and employment realities within Shanty Towns.

Of all respondents, 59.7% were under 50 years of age, with an average age of 47. The age range spanned from 18 years to 87 years (see Chart 1).

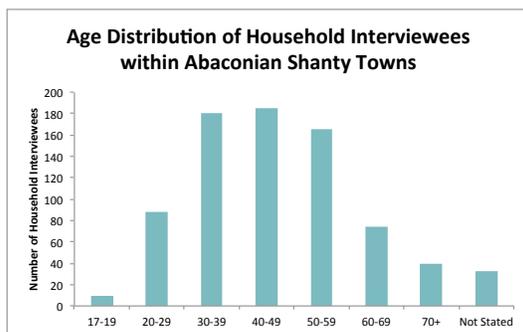


Chart 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

LEGAL STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD RESPONDENT

Approximately 2% (1.9% or 15) of household respondents chose not to answer the question on legal status.

In the New Providence assessment, a minority (6%) of respondents were undocumented. This contrasts with the 20% of the households respondents in Abaco's Shanty Towns who reported being undocumented. Legal status for

the remaining population is illustrated in Chart 2. Noteworthy, 41.1% of those reported work permits as the legal grounds for being in The Bahamas.

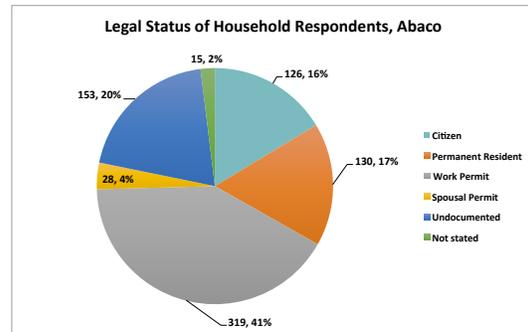


Chart 2: Legal Status of Respondents, also at Annex I

Shanty Town communities in South Abaco had the greatest share, 69.9%, of respondents who are self-reportedly undocumented.

With the exception of 'work permit' status, no statistically significant variations manifested when analyzing legal status by sex. Three hundred and nineteen (319) household respondents hold a work permit, 73% of whom are males.

OWNERSHIP STATUS OF DWELLING

Interestingly, an overwhelming majority (76.8%, 597) of household respondents reported occupancy via ownership of the dwelling which contrasts with occupancy via rental arrangements (19.9%, 155). The remaining households (2.8%, 22) either responded 'other' or gave no response. The understanding of 'ownership' to the respondent was not deeply explored. Meaning, the assessment did not determine whether the respondent believed he/she owned

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the land and/or the structure being occupied.

OTHER HOUSEHOLD OCCUPANTS

As stated earlier, 777 household respondents were interviewed. The assessment obtained information about other occupants living in the household. Collectively, 1,260 males and 1,004 females occupants lived in households with the household respondents. The additive population for Abaco's Shanty Town therefore, taking into account both the respondents and occupants, is 115% more than that of New Providence-based Shanty Towns (3,041 versus 1,410). See Table 1.

Shanty Towns	Respondents	Other Occupants		
		All Males	All Females	
Sand Banks	70	103	78	251
Farm Road	132	210	182	524
L&H	14	24	12	50
The Mudd	398	639	521	1558
The Pea	142	249	187	578
Elbow Cay	21	35	24	80
Total	777	1260	1004	3041

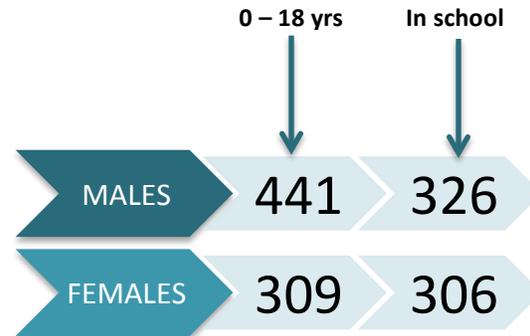
Table 1: Shanty Town Population In Each Community

To approximate a total population, factoring those 138 identified dwellings/households that did not participate in the assessment, the statistically calculated mean household size of 3.91 was used. This approach results in a calculated non-respondent population of 540. A best estimate then of the total Shanty Town population for Abaco stands at 3,581.

Occupants That Are Minors

Graph 1 reflects data for those occupants that are 18 years old or less. Almost all females within this age range are attending school. This is contrasted with only 74% of males in this age range attending schools. On average, school attendance among minors in Abaconian

Shanty Towns is higher (86.5%) than for New Providence-based Shanty Town minors (61.5%).



Graphic 1: Minor Between 0 to 18 Years

WORK AND WEEKLY INCOME

Seventy-three percent (72.8%) of household respondents are employed. Chart 3 details further the employment profile within Abaco's Shanty Towns.

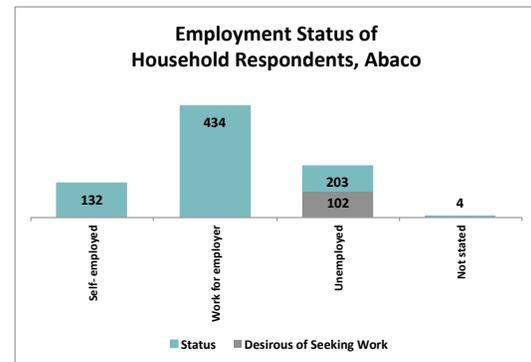


Chart 3: Employment Status

Of those who had not engaged in any work for the past six (6) months (unemployed), half (50%) were seeking work.

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The unemployment rate⁵ among household respondents is 15.3%. Looking at unemployment through the spotlight of legal status reveals that undocumented respondents comprise the largest share of the unemployed (Chart 4).

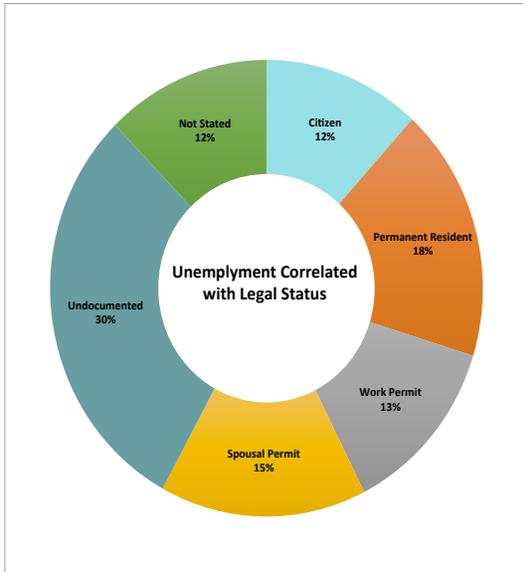


Chart 4: Linking Unemployment to Legal Status

Of note, all household respondents who were not currently employed, but who sought work, had received a job offer within the four (4) weeks preceding the assessment.

Indication was also made of whether or not other household occupants, other than themselves, were employed. As an aggregate, 45.3% of Shanty Town households only have one person in the household currently working (Chart 5).

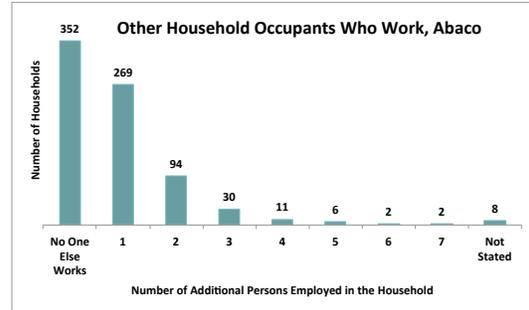


Chart 5: Other Occupants Who Work

Taking into account both formal and informal employment and all working occupants, 61.7% of households report total weekly income of under \$400. For New-Providence-based Shanty Towns this was 75.6%.

Household Weekly Income	Number of Households
Under \$400	480
\$401 - \$600	177
\$601 - \$800	69
\$801 - \$1,000	19
\$1001 - \$1,200	9
Greater than \$1,201	9
Not stated	10

UTILITIES

With the exception of cable services, the vast majority households in Abaco's Shanty Towns have basic utilities – electricity, indoor in running water, and flushed toilets (see Table 2).

UTILITIES	ABACO S.T. HOUSEHOLDS	COMPARED TO N.P. (Percentage Point Difference)
Running water	67.6% (525)	-28.4
Flushed toilet	80.2% (626)	+67.2
Cable services	6.6% (51)	-36.4
Electricity	78.6% (611)	+31.6

Table 2: Utilities Comparison

⁵ The unemployment rate is the quotient of the number of unemployed persons (people looking for work) divided by the labour force (people looking and people working).

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Similar to Shanty Towns structures in New Providence, generators are the primary source (74%) of electrical supply for structures in Abaco (Chart 6). Only 11.6% of these structures report receiving their electrical supply from BPL/BEC. The legality of the BPL/BEC connection was not explored.

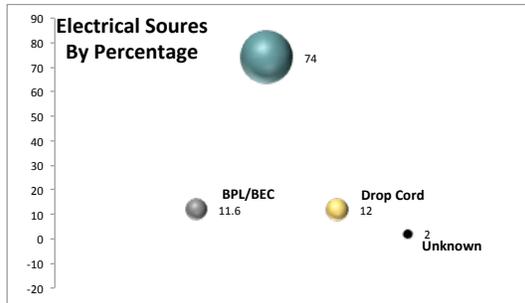


Chart 6: Electrical Source for Households With Electricity

Shanty Town communities have a disability. This includes both the household respondent and other occupants. The disabilities are as follows:

- Limb-related disability – twenty-six (26) persons
- Sight-related disability – four (4) persons
- Hearing-related disability – two (2) persons
- Speech-related disability – one (1) person
- Mental/cognitive-related disability – thirteen (13) persons

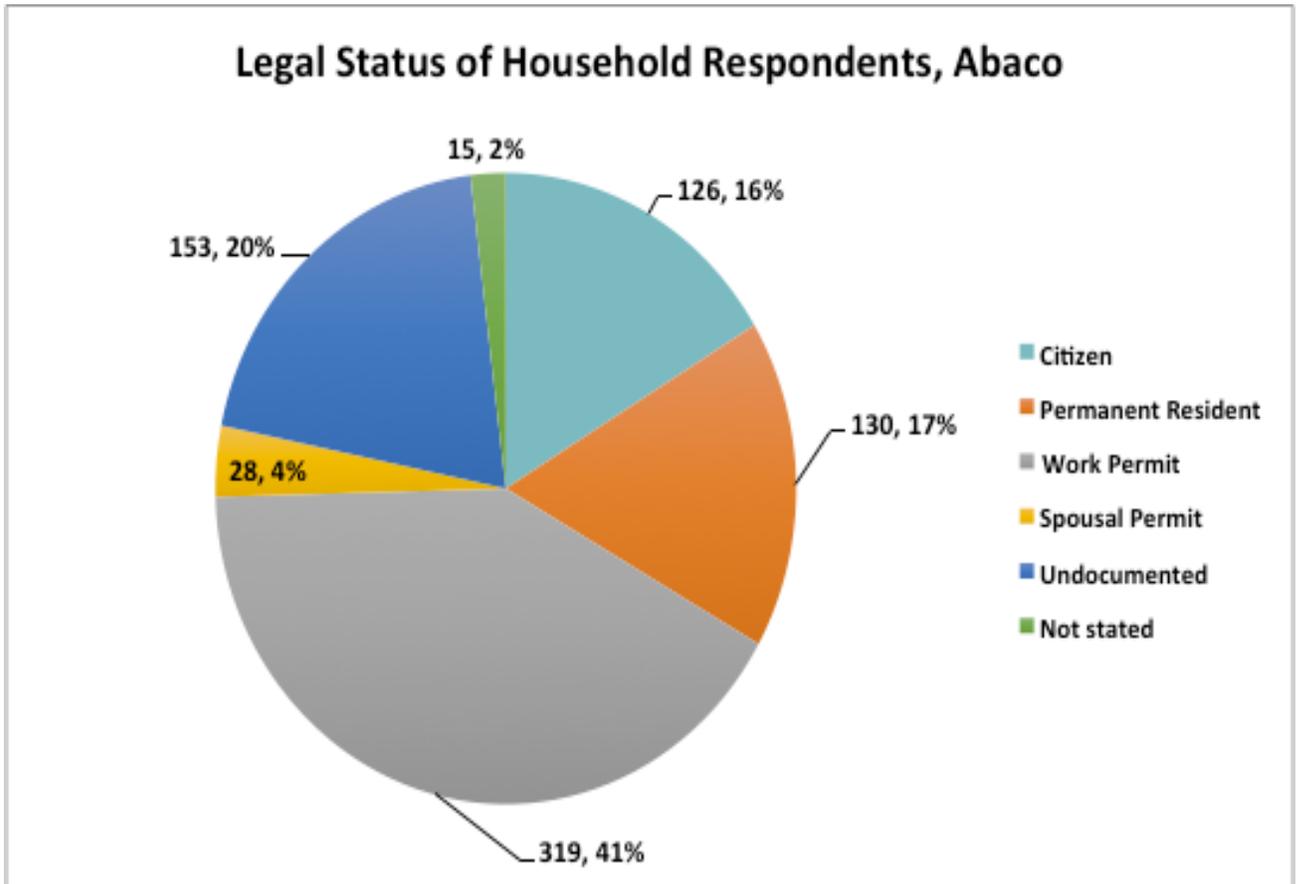
LENGTH OF STAY IN A SHANTY TOWN

Fifty-two (52.3%) percent of respondents have lived in a Shanty Town for at least one year. Eight (8%) have resided in a Shanty Town for less than one month.

DISABILITY PROFILE

The assessment revealed that 46 persons (5.9%) living in Abaco-based

ANNEX I: LEGAL STATUS GRAPH



SHANTY TOWN PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS AND REPORT

ANNEX II: Assessment Tool

SHANTY TOWN ASSESSMENT FORM, 2018

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IDENTIFYING NUMBER

POPULATED BY OBSERVATION

a1	Location (by constituency)	02-Elizabeth 11-Garden Hills 20-Carmichael 21-Golden Isles		
a2	Name of Shanty Town	01. Montgomery Avenue 02. Allen Drive 03. Cowpen Drive 04. Faith Avenue North 05. Golden Isles Road 06. Lazaretto Road 07. Hamster Road 08. Cowpen Road 09. Bacardi Road North 10. Bacardi Road South 11. Cool-Air Subdivision (Lumumba Lane)		
a3	Description of Dwelling	Colour (predominant) _____ _____ _____		
a4	Housing material	1. Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Block/Stone <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Wood <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Stucco <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Aluminium <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Combination (Specify: _____) 7. Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONS				
1	Name (Last, First)			
2	What is your sex?	1. Female <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Male <input type="checkbox"/>		
3	What is your age?	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 20px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 15px;"></td> </tr> </table>		

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4	What is your legal status?	1. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Permanent resident <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Work permit <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Spousal permit <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Undocumented <input type="checkbox"/>
5	What is your marital status?	1. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Widow/Widower <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Separated <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Did you do any work for pay or not for pay in the last six months?	1. Yes, for Self <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Yes, for Employer <input type="checkbox"/> (SKIP TO Q9) 3. No <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Will you be seeking or making yourself available for work in an establishment or in your own business within the next 6 months?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	If you were offered a job during the past 4 weeks would you have been available and able to work?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
9	How long have you lived in a shanty town?	1. Less than one month <input type="checkbox"/> 2. One month but less than 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Three months but less than 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Six months but less than 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Twelve months or more <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Type of tenure?	1. Own <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Rent <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Other <input type="checkbox"/>
11	Is there running water inside your dwelling?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
12	Does your dwelling have indoor flushed toilet?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
13	Does your dwelling have electricity?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
14	What is your source of electricity?	1. BPL/BEC <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Generator <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Drop cord connection <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Unknown <input type="checkbox"/>
15	Does your dwelling have cable?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>

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4	What is your legal status?	1. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Permanent resident <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Work permit <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Spousal permit <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Undocumented <input type="checkbox"/>
5	What is your marital status?	1. Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Widow/Widower <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Separated <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Did you do any work for pay or not for pay in the last six months?	1. Yes, for Self <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Yes, for Employer <input type="checkbox"/> (SKIP TO Q9) 3. No <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Will you be seeking or making yourself available for work in an establishment or in your own business within the next 6 months?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
8	If you were offered a job during the past 4 weeks would you have been available and able to work?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>
9	How long have you lived in a shanty town?	1. Less than one month <input type="checkbox"/> 2. One month but less than 3 months <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Three months but less than 6 month <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Six months but less than 12 months <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Twelve months or more <input type="checkbox"/>
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15	Does your dwelling have cable?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>

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16	Are you disabled?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/> (If 'NO' Skip Q.19)				
17	Is your disability?	1. Physical <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mental <input type="checkbox"/> (If 'Mental' Skip to Q.19) 3. Both <input type="checkbox"/>				
18	What is the nature of your physical disability?	1. Limb <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Sight <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Speech <input type="checkbox"/>				
19	Total number of males in household?	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				
20	Total number of males in household between the ages 0 to 18 years? Of those males, how many attend school? [School being public, private or homeschooled.]	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				
21	Total number of females in household?	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				
22	Total number of females in household between the ages 0 to 18 years? Of those females, how many attend school? [School being public, private or homeschooled.]	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				
23	How many people in the household work beside you?	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				
24	Total money/income of all persons from all sources in the last week? [Formal and informal income. Salaries, tips commission, monies from friends, relatives, partners etc.]	1. Under \$400 <input type="checkbox"/> 2. \$401 - \$600 <input type="checkbox"/> 3. \$601 - \$800 <input type="checkbox"/> 4. \$801 - \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> 5. \$1001 - \$1200 <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Greater than \$1200 <input type="checkbox"/>				
GENERAL INFORMATION						
25	Is any one else in the dwelling disabled?	1. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2. No <input type="checkbox"/>				

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26	What kind of disability does he/she have? (Tick all that apply)	1. Physically disabled <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Mentally disabled <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Both <input type="checkbox"/>
27	What is the nature of his/her disability	1. Limb <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Sight <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Speech <input type="checkbox"/>

Interviewer's Comments/Concerns: <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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Date Completed:

Enumerator's name:

Enumerator's signature: