

**Caribbean Subregional meeting to assess the implementation of the
Programme of Action of the International Conference on
Population and Development (ICPD)
15 years after implementation**

Statement by Grenada Delegation – SPEAKING NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Grenada is a tiny country, 133 sq miles in the Windward Islands with a population of approx. 103,000 inhabitants.

ECONOMIC TRENDS

Grenada is highly indebted – our biggest challenge

Youth unemployment high (Core Welfare Indicators Survey (CWIQ) 2005)

Female unemployment is higher than male

Poverty rates - CPA 1998 32.1% CWIQ showed falling but CPA 2009 prelim 37.7% , the cycle of poverty continues

Indigent rate 1998/99 - 12.9% in 2007/08 - 2.4%

Vulnerable population 2007/08 - 14.6% shocks like HURRICANES etc

Rural women are over-represented among the poor and vulnerable,

- higher rates of unemployment,
- poor housing conditions,
- large number of children
- burden of providing care
- support to their children and others

Ministry of Agriculture concentrating on food security giving to men and women

- Chickens
- Seeds

Debushing programme moved to farm labour supporting clearing estates cultivated with nutmeg and cocoa. We are now seeing an increase in production and export especially for cocoa employment is being generated.

Women's vulnerability is exemplified by their living in poor households in poor geographic areas as single heads of households; this is the case for 50 percent of women who head homes in rural St. Patrick's, one of the poorest parishes, where the level of food need is Grenada's highest (CWIQ 2005)

CPA 2007/08 preliminary results St. Patrick's most northerly parish - while St. Marks's has the most indigent persons

On the other hand, more and more women, many of them young, are highly successful as business and professional workers. There are numerous educated, highly skilled women who work as senior managers in business and the state sector as judges, corporate executives and diplomats. Access to education by girls and women has facilitated greater access to a wider range of employment, occupational choices and careers.

Hurricane Ivan damaged the agriculture and tourism (hotel) sectors where poor women congregate at the bottom of the wage ladder, situation is turning around.

Small business entrepreneurs' programme was launched - programme aims to provide financial assistance to a targeted number of one hundred (100) small entrepreneurs to assist them in starting new initiatives, and or improving their current business. The sum of \$1.0 million is being injected into this program

- training in management and entrepreneurial skills
- provide finance – loans would range from \$500 - \$20,000

SOCIAL TRENDS

Education

Enrolment equity between genders

A graduate in every household - access to scholarships increased

Government of Grenada Textbook rental programme (\$25) for all children in the primary, secondary and private schools administered by the Ministry of Education

- To increase the enrollment and attendance
- To reduce the financial burden on parents and guardians who have to contend with rising cost of school books

Government policy to ensure equality in access to education

2009 is the year of the curriculum and much work is being done on broadening the scope of opportunities available to students at the start of the new school year in September since Grenada eighth in the OECS in TVET skills.

- Looking at extended school hours
- Minimize loitering on the streets after school
- change the demographic in the school population
- To improve the quality of graduates in the workforce of the tri-island state

The year 2010 has been identified by the Ministry of Education and Human Resource development as the year of the facilities, in a bid to focus more attention on Educational development. Since Hurricane Ivan we are continuing to repair by improving standards

This means that during the year increased attention will be given to improving the infrastructure of schools across the Tri Island state. However the ministry is of the belief that while new learning opportunities are provided the learning environment must also be conducive.

During 2010 focus will be placed on sourcing funds and improving infrastructure at schools across Grenada Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Challenge the number of community development centers have decreased due to Ivan.

Health

The National AIDS Directorate has now integrated into the Ministry of Health the World Bank project concluded on June 30. All agencies working on HIV/AIDS would now be focused under this one umbrella which will increase awareness in community.

The number of reported cases for HIV/AIDs has increased among the youth of population

Domestic violence unit was created in 2001.

Grenada National Organisation of Women (GNOW) is working with the police on domestic violence protocol, President of the Inter American Commission on Women addressed workshop. Recruited community programme for volunteers to act as buddies

Legal Aid and Counseling Clinic - Man to Man programme which counsels the abusers of domestic violence has been piloted in Grenada

Working to reduce institutionalizing victims

Encouraging fostering and budding

Shelter for women and girls funded by the island Power company.

Grenada Planned Parenthood Association (GPPA) has been working consistently in the community - well established family planning unit is in place, providing a wide range of services to all persons.

The Grenada Planned Parenthood Association provides a wide range of contraceptives, Pap smears, pregnancy tests, ovulation tests, breast and pelvic exams, counseling on health care of the reproductive system, counseling on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, counseling on relationships and child bearing and a number of related services, all geared to empower women and families.

The Ministry of Health also provides some contraceptive services throughout its district medical stations but on a smaller scale than the GPPA. Both institutions are working collaboratively to improve the reproductive health of the nation.

GRENADA YOUTH UPLIFTMENT PROGRAMME (GYUP)

Youth empowerment - to prepare Grenada's youth for the global economy and to fulfill the government's policy to develop our human resource to first world standards by the year 2020.

Components

- Training and Employment
- Certification and Education
- Personal Development

Social Development

Parenting programme training parents and prospective parents through PTA's work places and health care facilities both in the urban and rural areas, notably our churches are also on board with the project.

Roving care givers for children (0-3 yrs.) and geriatric patients – caregivers funded by ECHO.

UNFPA donated funds for pans for the youth tackling social problems through music

Policy on Ageing is being developed by the Ministry of Social Development since despite comparable material poverty in households headed by both older men and women, those with women ranging over several generations tend to be more viable, albeit still at an inadequate level, than those with only an elderly man

UN is helping with a consultant from the beginning of September 2009 for three months to finalize policy

Tertiary education credits for 30hrs. for attending in the elderly home

Government is preparing to increase the number of persons eligible for assistance under the Public Assistance Program from the present 4000 to 4600 with an audit of the present list up until year end.

Necessitous fund to assist students with transport to school

Maternal mortality at zero has not changed

Empowerment of women

Women in politics

Ministry started a sewing course for our women employing an expert for two weeks
GNOW advocating for womens rights
CWIQ 2005 - With nearly half of all households in Grenada headed by women, and with more women than men in the poorer quintiles in society

ENVIROMENTAL CONCERNS

Enviroment has been given priority now, it has its own minister
Seventy per cent (70) of fishes in the OECS are spawned in Grenada
Funding found \$45,000 US to be matched by OAS for preservation of the mangrove

HUMAN RIGHTS

The present administration has revived the Prison Board of Review and the Advisory Committee of the prerogative Mercy committee at Her Majesty prisons. Prisoners' cases are reviewed with an aim to have sentences reduced.

Grenada National Council of the Disabled GNCD continues to work with craft etc. but we need to do more in ensuring building are approved with them in mind.

Minimum wage draft report is now before Cabinet.

CHALLENGES

How we strike the balance of engaging persons eye to eye rather than through instruments. This affecting our social behaviour.