

BRIEFING FOR UNFPA MEETING IN ANTIGUA

St. Kitts and Nevis is a small island developing state with a population of approximately, 50,000 inhabitants. In 2003 a Technical review was conducted of the experiences in the implementation of the ICDP' plan. During this period, some progress and achievements were made, which include the implementation of the adolescent mother programme which has become a best practice for UNICEF

Fifteen years later, after the implementation of the ICDP, there has been some progress to accelerate the implementation process. However, despite the challenges and constraints, there is still a great deal of work to done.

Listed below is the progress made in the following areas;

Reproductive health and reproductive rights

- Availability of the emergency contraceptive pills.
- Availability of the female condom at public health center
- The procurement and availability of commodities
- A batterers intervention programme
- Gender base violence project.
- Workplace presentation on Sti's
- Weekly radio health programme
- Focus group discussions with the private and public sector
- Distribution of health brochures in public and private places

Programmes to address hiv/aids

- Voluntary counseling and testing in all health centers
- Access to free antiviral drugs
- Draft policy on hiv/aids for the education sector
- Collaboration with Caribbean alliance for hiv/aids on treatment for special groups
- Consultation on Human rights for people living with hiv/aids
- TV ads and street campaigns with the emphasis on prevention programmes
- Workshops on hiv/aids for the disabled and the elderly

Programme to address the need of adolescents

- Consultation with social partners
- Adolescent mothers programme (best practice for UNICEF)
- Group counseling workshops for adolescents
- Free access to reproductive health information at all health facilities
- Youth empowerment skills training programme

- Youth radio programme by the department of youth
- Establishment of a mental health clinic to address adolescent drug use
- Youth parliamentarians conducting mock parliament debate on youth issues
- Legislation for small and micro business with a focus on youth entrepreneurship training
- Mentoring programme

Gender equity and equality empowerment

- Bill on the age of consent
- Domestic violence amendment
- One additional high school built
- Life skills project for teenage boys
- Signing of the optional protocol
- Sexual and reproductive health workshop for men
- Counseling programme for men
- Gender base violence project
- Gender policy training for government officials
- Establishment of a research and document centre
- Training in Democracy and Governance

Policies and programme for the elderly

- Social security under review
- Draft ageing policy
- Ongoing home care programme

International migration

- Trafficking legislation
- Secretariat for returning migrants

Persons with disability

- Consultation, panel discussions and conference to raise awareness
- Access to employment
- Installation of ramps in public and private places
- The establishment of senior citizens homes

Challenges:

- (i) Data collection
- (ii) Gang violence
- (iii) Teenage pregnancy
- (iv) High national debt
- (v) Drug abuse
- (vi) Human resource and financial constraints

