

International Conference on Population and Development

***Expert Meeting Preparatory to
ICPD 15***

Population and Development in Antigua and Barbuda



Its Status and Challenges

Development

- ‘development’ in a country is measured by its **people**, their ability to contribute, enjoy, and sustain a certain level/quality of life.
- The strongest resource is its people and as the saying goes ‘***where there is no vision the people perish***’.
- Just as an individual can grow and not develop properly-so can a country.

National Development Agenda

- Fiscal Stabilization
- Economic Growth
- Service Delivery
- Social Development
- Physical & Human Resource Development
- Information Communication Technology
- Public Sector Transformation.

Integrated Development Process (IDP)

- **Issues** that are *cross-cutting and inter-sectoral* by definition and nature
- **Prescriptions** that are *holistic*
- **Solutions** that are *tactical*
- **Strategies** that are *inter-related and inter-dependent*



National Vision

- *‘To create a sustainable economy through **balanced, integrated** development strategies that ultimately provide an improved quality of life, while ensuring social stability and integrity of the environment.’*

Demographic Indicators

Population

Census 1991 > 63,896

Census 2001 > 76,886 (^20%)

Midyr Pop'n (2008) > 87,506 (^13.8%)

Mid-Year Population (2001-2008)
...increasing at an average annual
rate of **1.86%**.

Between 2001-2008...

- **Dependency Ratio** **38.7%.**
- **Workforce Population** **61.3%.**
- **Rate of Natural Increase** **10.4 %.**

- **Average Life Expectancy**
 - 2001-8 **73** years (M) **78** years (F)
 - 1990's **72** years (M) **75** years (F)
 - 1970's **62** years (M) **65** years (F)

Implications for **social policy and planning.**

Demographic Indicators Cont'd

Births

- Crude birth rate < than between 1970-90
- Live births from total deliveries **98.7%**
- Live births to women under 20 yrs **<20%**

Deaths

- Crude death rate averages around **6%**
- Infant mortality rate < fluctuates, but still less than between 1970-90

Migration ...still data critical

The MDGs Link

The Goals for **National Development** are closely associated with **on-the-ground-policies, programmes, and projects** to help the **population** enjoy the achievement of Poverty Alleviation (1), Health Reform, (4-6) Quality Education (2), Employment Generation (3,8), Environmental Protection (7), and Crime Prevention, among others

Social Indicators

Poverty > **18%** Living in poverty
4% Indigent; **10%** Vulnerable

Education

High net enrollment in primary schools.

Male net enrolment in primary schools is higher than female but the situation is reversed in the secondary and tertiary institutions.

The **Literacy rate** among 15-24 year olds averages over 90%.

Areas of Concern

- Quality of education and its importance to life skills;
- Low levels of performance;
- Need for a **literacy** survey;
- Measurement of functional & cyber literacy;
- Need to increase enrolment in early childhood education;
- Tracking of students from Grade 1 through to Grade 5.

Gender Empowerment

- Population Census 2001 revealed **55%** of women were engaged in non-agricultural sector
- Proportion of seats held by **women** moved from **3%** (1990) to **11%** (1995) to **17%** (2007) ...but still below the recommended 30% minimum
- National Youth Policy (2007) ‘empowering tomorrow’s leaders today’
- Lower levels of performance among male students than females
- Prevalence of domestic violence and sexual abuse of youths, especially minors

Health Care

- Marked improvements in **pre- and ante-natal care** and **immunisation**.
- Very low **maternal mortality rates** between 1995 and 2007 with **zero** recorded deaths for 11 of these years.
- **Access** to skilled health care personnel and essential medications is approximately **95%**.

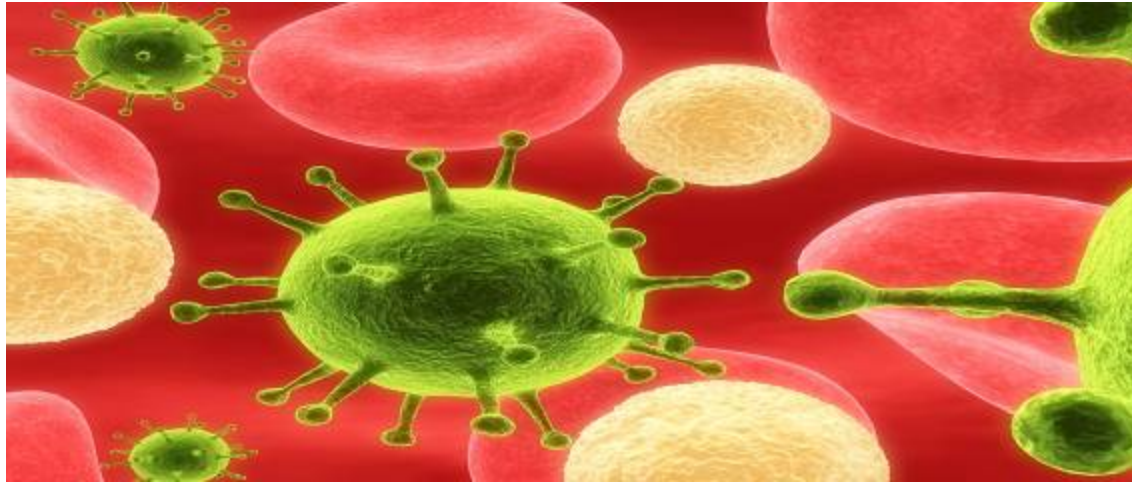
HIV and AIDS

- **Strong supportive environment** to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Considerable progress has been made in reducing **mother-to-child** transmission of the disease.

But

- Despite the continuous public education programmes and counseling services, the spread continues, especially among **females and the youth**.
- The future effects of this observation on the **reproductive cohort and the working age population** is becoming quite a challenge.

Diseases



- Incidences of Samonellosis, Dengue, Gastroenteritis, and Acute Respiratory Infections, and Tuberculosis, reduced.
- Malaria, not endemic (imported cases)

Non Communicable Diseases

- **Real threat !!!** > Heart, Hypertension, Diabetes, Cerebrovascular and Malignant Neoplasms are ranked among the **five** leading causes of death (2000-2007).
- **Serious implications !!!** > The National Food and Nutrition Policy.

Public Order & Safety

Between 1990 and 2007...

- Increase in **Crimes** against the person, and property. Increase in drug abuse and trafficking, mainly cannabis and cocaine, were also significant.
- Prevalence of **Drug Abuse** among the youth is also a cause for concern.
- These social ills do not only affect the population but impact heavily on the **economic base** – especially tourism.

Environmental Indicators

Access to Water

- 1991 Census (**68%** of households)
- 2001 Census (**79%**)
- 2005/6 Poverty Assessment (**85%**)

Improved Sanitation (53%, 73% and 77%)

Access to Housing whether owned, leased, or rented (**98% and 86%**)

Squatting and Overcrowding emerging ...

Economic Indicators

Between 2000 and 2007 the annual GDP per capita averaged EC\$26,769.

It has been ranked '**high**' on the Human Development Index, but ...

it still has severe constraints including ...

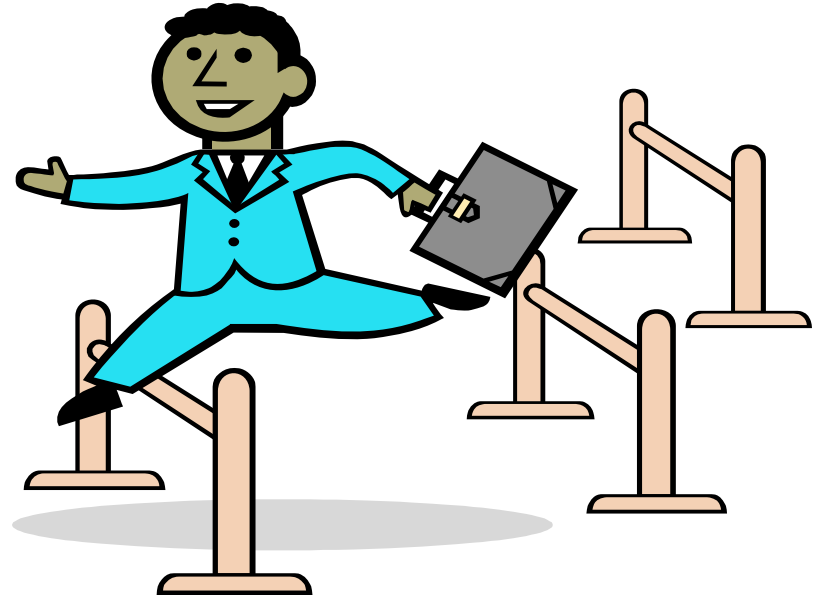
- 'a **high** debt burden, a **narrow** export base, **vulnerability** to hurricanes and other natural disasters.'

Stabilisation Programme

- Re-introduction of Personal Income Tax
- Re-valuation of the Property Tax
- Introduction of the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST)
- Tighter Expenditure Controls
- Debt Management

Next Steps

Getting
over
the hurdles



- Re-branding & Re-packaging

Step One

Consultation within and between Ministries

- Facilitate better **collaboration and cooperation** within and between ministries
- Eliminate 'turfdom' with the emphasis being on **results and impact.**
- Reduce overburdening of some staff and underutilization of others thereby making the public sector more cost effective and productive in its **service delivery.**

Step Two

Engagement or inclusion of the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the wider civil society

- “provide feedback” thereby encouraging “public acceptance”.
- facilitate participation in shaping strategies through the **bottom up approach**

Step Three

National Population Task Force



to “integrate population variables into development plans by spearheading the design and implementation of population policies”.

Step Four

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Integral to this process.
- Critical to facilitate survey tracking and analysis.

There is need for improvement in this area.

Institutional strengthening of the data gathering process is Key!!!

Step Five

Data Gathering

Strengthen the National Data Gathering Machinery (Statistical Offices plus)

to provide data that is timely and functional (useable). It is only so that the findings can be effectively put into policy, planning, and resultant resource allocation.

Yes... Surveys are costly

- but integral to the M&E process.
- Planning without data is useless and results in wastage of much needed resources.
- There is the urgent need for inter-censal surveys such as literacy, labour force, and living conditions

Conclusion

- The **sustainability** of development depends on the population while the population is responsible for the development of the country.
- It is clear that all the variables are **inter-linked and mutually re-enforcing**. The success one cannot afford to be achieved at the expense or detriment of another.

Population and Development

Hence the need to continue the campaign for an **integrated approach** to development planning.

Thank You