



Implementation of the Programme of Action of the ICPD in Dominica

Successes, Challenges

Caribbean Subregional Experts Meeting

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DOMINICA

- 790 Sq. km, largest of the Windward Islands
- Population: 71, 233 (2006 est.)
68,365 (2001 census)
- GDP US\$ 319 million, 4% annual growth (2006)
- Economic activities: agriculture, tourism

GOALS OF ICPD

- Universal education
- Reduce infant, child and maternal mortality
- Universal access to reproductive health by 2015 to include:
 - Family planning
 - assisted child birth
 - prevention of STI

UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

The education act of 1997 mandates compulsory education for all children from 5-16 years.

Tertiary level of education is mainly privately financed but has not affected the enrolment as reflected in table 1.

Table 1: SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Level	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03
Primary	11900	11862	11816	11185	10652
Secondary	7126	7450	7456	7500	7456
Tertiary	799	727	754	877	1400

Source: Central Statistical Department

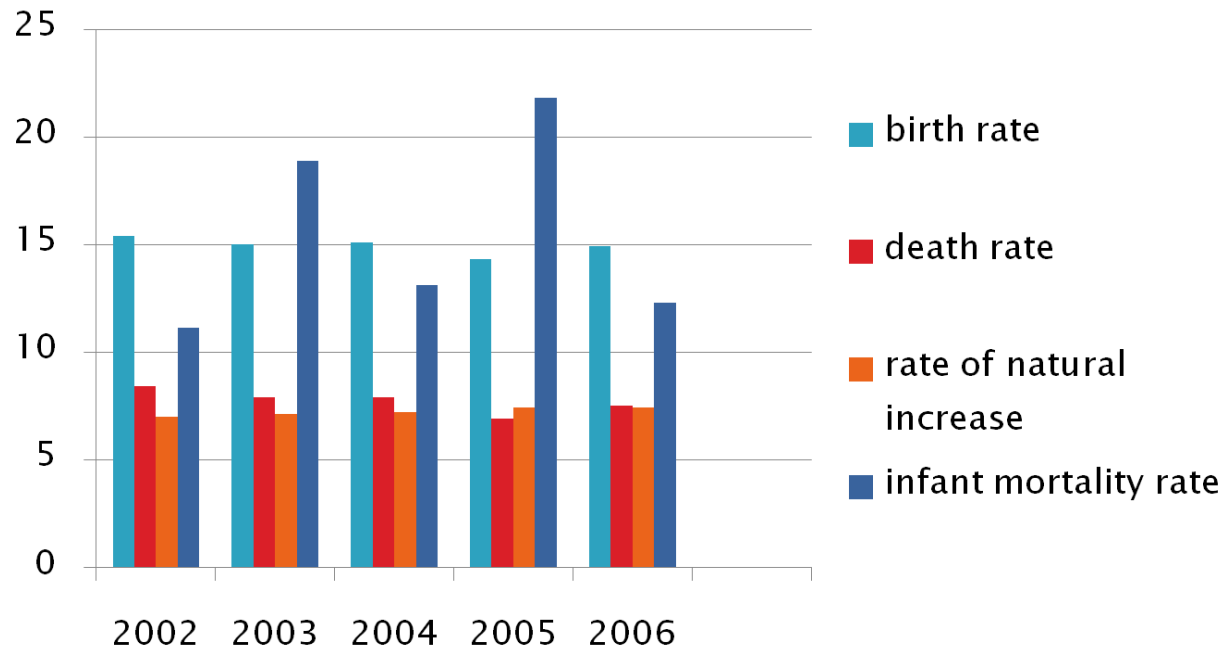
Table 2: ENROLMENT RATE

PERIOD		RATE
02-03	Average gross enrolment (all ages)	98.0
02-03	Net enrolment (5-11 years)	90.9

Source: Central Statistical Department

The difference in the gross and net enrolment suggests that about 9% of students of primary school age population are out of school.

VITAL RATES



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Is an integral part of Maternal and Child Health services and addresses the need of persons in the reproductive age group. This service is extended into other medical services.

- Offered in all public, private health facilities.
- Public health sector services are generally free of charge.
- Greatly complimented by the services of the DPPA

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Child Care services,
- Immunizations,



- Ante, intra and postnatal care
- Cancer screening services
- Family planning services
- Adolescent Health
- Health Education /promotion
- School Health
- Communicable diseases surveillance to include contact tracing

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Access to primary and secondary education is established. Universal secondary education was introduced in the early 1990 and became fully established in 2005.
- Introduction of school books scheme and school bus system in some remote areas.
- Pre-teacher training to enhance quality of education
- Development of MCH manual aimed at standardizing care. A recent review was completed in 2009.
- Shift from home to institutionalized deliveries with the assistance and supervision of a trained health practitioner.
- All MCH services are delivered by qualified health professionals.
- Introduction of ARV, s in caring for PLWHA.
- Effective PMTCT program.
- Provision of female condoms.
- Decline in Pediatric cases of HIV with the advent of ARV's.
- Quality of life of PLWAs improved with the use of free ARV's and support services
- Services for adolescents are integrated into the HFLE at schools and community youth programs and includes skills training among others.
- Increase awareness and use of condoms as a result of collaborative effort of DPPA and Ministry of Health.
- Increase in the number of sites distributing condoms

- Equal access to reproductive health services since services at PHC are free of cost.
- Decline in Teenage pregnancy but still a concern

CHALLENGES

- Lack of policies to support health programs
- Issue of paternity leave is still at discussion level
- Limited financial, human and other resources
- Limitation of Family planning services in Public sector- DPPA is the main service provider
- Inadequately equipped delivery rooms at district level.
- Prevalence of teenage pregnancy.
- Documentation to be improved at all levels.
- Inadequate teachers trained in special education.
- Absence of structure to address concerns of children with special academic needs.
- Absence of officers to tract school delinquents

ICPD REPORT

GENDER EQUITY, EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

ADDRESSING GENDER DISPARITIES IN EDUCATION

- No institutional barriers to access to education in Dominica by sex
- Education planners and policy makers engaged in sustained gender training and gender awareness building in the education sector.
- Created a cadre of education practitioners in direct contact with students who are gender aware and committed to the promotion of and equality, cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibility between boys and girls in a building block to equitable development.

POLICIES AND PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY

GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO IMPROVE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR THE ELDERLY

- Pension benefits from 60 years

MEASURES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Free medical care for all persons 60 years and above.
- Home care services under the “yes we care” program and by visiting health care providers.

MEASURES TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN GENERATION

- Execution of intergenerational programme in 2001.

MEASURES TO ENHANCE SELF RELIANCE AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE ELDERLY

- Increase in public assistance
- Income generating activities at some day care centers.

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE ELDERLY

- Legislative review of laws affecting older persons in Dominica in August 2003
- Recommendation made to government to review laws related to abuse
- Provision made for legal representation through the legal aid clinic.
- Collaborative work with welfare department to address sexual abuse of the elderly.
- Dominica National Council of Women address issues of battered women to include elderly.
- Education to empower elderly to address abuse and discrimination.