ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women



Agenda: Reproduction, Sexual and Maternal Health

Antigua and Barbuda is an independent commonwealth country comprising two islands with its capital Saint John’s. it is located where the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet. It is a small country with progressive development and aims at achieving the sustainable development goal set by the United Nations. Since ICPD+10, Antigua and Barbuda has made significant gains in addressing the issues of population and development, reproductive health and rights, educational advancement and gender equality, equity, and empowerment. In the period under review the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has made considerable effort to reduce poverty, and inequality and promote sustainable development.

Advancements in the health sector have resulted in improved sexual and reproductive health services and better pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers and children. The opening of the Mount St. John Medical Centre and additional health clinics, and improvements to existing community clinics have resulted in higher standards and greater access to care.

The government has started initiatives to provide well-developed health standards for women and policies regarding the violence witnessed by women. The strengthening of the National AIDS Programme to provide medicine for HIV-positive persons living in Antigua & Barbuda at little to no cost, and the development of community-based support networks has ensured that persons living with HIV and their families have access to much-needed care, treatment and support. The introduction of rapid-result testing and pre and post-HIV test counselling by the National HIV Programme and community partners such as the Caribbean HIV.

free of charge for survivors of rape and sexual abuse Legislative reform has resulted in greater attention paid to the needs of children and young people through the introduction of the Child Maintenance Act 2008. This act places further emphasis on partnership for the development of children, reinforcing the shared roles of mothers and fathers in meeting the needs of the child, through reconstituting notions of maintenance and care. The development of a Youth

Policy and program of action for Antigua & Barbuda have meant that strategic interventions to meet the needs of our young people are being developed, including skills training and national forums on youth crime and violence. Meeting the needs of vulnerable groups including the disabled and elderly has remained a high priority through social programs which provide relief in utilities and amenities.

There is still a need to progress and update the policies for child abortion and others, which shall help raise standards of living for women. Antigua and Barbuda despite its efforts, is still required to pay special attention to the reproductive and sexual health of women and become a keystone in establishing a world where men and women are treated fairly and rightfully.

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