ST. KITTS & NEVIS

2018 NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE MONTEVIDEO CONSENSUS ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
NEVIS ISLAND ADMINISTRATION (NIA)
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3
LIST OF REFERENCE DOCUMENTS USED

8. UN ECLAC Format for National Progress Report
9. St. Kitts and Nevis Country Gender Assessment 2014 by CDB
# ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
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<tr>
<td>NIA</td>
<td>Nevis Island Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKN</td>
<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDB</td>
<td>Caribbean Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCC</td>
<td>Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSME</td>
<td>Caribbean Single Market &amp; Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPA</td>
<td>Country Poverty Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECCU</td>
<td>Eastern Caribbean Currency Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAME</td>
<td>Fashion and Music Expo</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>LDC</td>
<td>Less Developed Country</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESP</td>
<td>Education Sector Plan</td>
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<td>NMRF</td>
<td>National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up</td>
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<td>Nevis Disaster Management Department</td>
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<td>Non-Traditional Occupations for Women</td>
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<td>National Social Protection Strategy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Organization of Eastern Caribbean States</td>
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<tr>
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<td>St. Kitts Electricity Company</td>
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<td>St. Kitts Nevis Youth Parliament Association</td>
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<td>UN/ISDR</td>
<td>United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</td>
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SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

INTRODUCTION


The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development outlines a number of key priority measures that were articulated and adopted by the thirty-eight member and associate countries as part of the first session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, Uruguay in August of 2013. The ninety-eight measures serve as a road map, providing guidance to countries on how to craft policies and programs that can advance the socio-economic imperatives of the various member states as it relates to population development.

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis continue to grapple with issues and challenges that impact the pace and quality of population development. The constant burden of having to address financial, social, health and gender inequalities have been daunting in the face of a large economic debt burden, the lingering impact of the 2008 global economic recession, the financial fallout from the closure of the sugar industry and the specter of increase crime. Nonetheless, over the past ten years the Federation has recorded numerous gains, advancing various human and social development imperatives, including but not limited to enhancing gender equality, strengthening universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and augmenting the social protection systems for the ageing population.

This Report identifies the national policies and key strategies adopted by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to ensure that every human being, particularly the most vulnerable segments of our population, achieves basic human development in the identified critical areas.
FIRST PART

1.1 - National Coordination Mechanisms

In November 2017, a Steering Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was established to treat with critical issues of development, emanating from these two important agreements. This committee which coordinates the Government’s response and implementation strategy under the framework of the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus, draws representation from various ministries across the government service and civil society. It includes:

1) The Ministry of Health and Gender Affairs  
2) The Ministry of Education  
3) The Ministry of Agriculture  
4) The Department of Legal Affairs  
5) The Ministry of Social Development (Youth and Social Services)  
6) The Chambery of Industry and Commerce

The Social Policy and Sustainable Development Unit within the Ministry of Social Development serves as the driving force in the coordination and reporting mechanism.

The committee is charged with the following functions:

1) Monitor and evaluate the progress made on the various priority measures and indicators contained within the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

2) Issue reports on the progress made within the framework of existing international commitments.

3) Facilitating outreach, advocacy, awareness and coordination with stakeholders.

4) Initiate policies and programs within the relevant government ministries/departments that achieve the priority measures laid out in the Sustainable Development Agenda and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

5) Provide advice and strategic guidance to the government on matters for legal and policy reform relevant to the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
To date, the committee has had three sessions in which the issues of relevance to the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development were discussed and key priority measures extracted and aligned to the sector specific plans of each ministry/organization.

1.2 – Preparation of the Report

This national progress report was prepared by the Ministry of Social Development through its Social Policy and Sustainable Development Unit, which functions as the permanent liaison with the Regional Conference on Population and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The views of civil society concerning key thematic areas of the report were gauged through a series of consultations which were staged over the course of the past year. Firstly, at the national level, the Department conducted a Women’s Forum on Sustainable Development in November 2016 and a Men’s Forum on Sustainable Development in January 2017. Both activities invited the participation of members from the public sector, academia, the business community, the industrial workforce, public health and the legal fraternity to provide policy opinion on matters pertaining to enhancing gender equality, strengthening our labour and social protection systems, enhancing the rule of law and improving good health and well-being in its various forms.

The Department also staged a two day Sub-Regional Women’s Forum on the 22 and 23 of March 2017, which brought together delegates from the OECS member states to share best practices for implementing key thematic areas of sustainable development.

An extensive review of recent policy documents, reports, country assessments and policy briefs related to public health, poverty reduction and gender equality issues in St. Kitts and Nevis was further conducted in order to augment the report. The report is also the product of the invaluable contributions of various government departments and ministries, particularly the Ministry of Health and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Education and the Departments of Youth and Social Services.
SECOND PART

2.1 - Brief General Description of the Country

The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis is the smallest English-speaking independent state in the western hemisphere. It is located in the northern part of the Leeward Islands chain in the Caribbean and encompasses a total area of 104 sq. miles. Its estimated population is 46,398 persons in St. Kitts and 11,415 persons in Nevis. St. Kitts and Nevis retains a relatively youthful population, with persons sixty-five (65) years and older comprising about 8.4% of the population. The majority of the population is of African origin. Approximately 32% of the population resides in the urban areas and English is the official language spoken.

St. Kitts and Nevis is a parliamentary democracy with a constitution that provides for a federal system of government. The central government is located in Basseterre, the country’s capital, and is responsible for foreign affairs, national security, justice and the domestic affairs of the island of St. Kitts. The Constitution also gives autonomous responsibility to the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) for the domestic affairs of the island of Nevis.

According to the World Bank classification, St. Kitts and Nevis which is a member of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), is a high income country and has continued on a
path of transformation from being a classic plantation economy in the post-emancipation period to a services oriented economy, participating in the international economy through tourism, financial services, and to a lesser extent, export-oriented light manufacturing and information processing. Most of this transformation took place in the last quarter of the 20th century.

After struggling with high levels of indebtedness and low growth in the period coinciding with the closure of the sugar industry, St. Kitts and Nevis has seen an economic resurgence with relatively high growth rates over the past 6-7 years, reaching as high as 6% of GDP. This has helped to position the islands amongst the better performing countries in the world, in terms of quality of life for the mass of its citizenry. Nonetheless, despite its high income status and economic achievements, the fiscal and economic position of the Federation remains fragile and St. Kitts and Nevis as a country is vulnerable to external shocks such as commodity price fluctuations, global economic turndowns and natural phenomena, such as hurricanes and flash floods.

Health conditions in Saint Kitts and Nevis are favourable to human development. Several factors have contributed to improvements in this sector, namely: the country has embraced a primary health care approach with its strategies of community participation, health promotion and intersectoral collaboration and it has ensured that health care is accessible and affordable to the entire population. Consequently, life expectancy is high, infant mortality is low and maternal mortality is virtually nonexistent.

Life expectancy at birth is also an important indicator which shows the conditions of life at a given time, since it represents the number of years a newborn would live if the mortality patterns in force at the time of birth do not change throughout their lifetime. The studies shows that in 2017, the estimated life expectancy for males was 73.5 years and 78.4 years for females, with women therefore having a greater life expectancy than men. (Indicator A.8 Healthy life expectancy / life expectancy at birth by sex). (Priority area A. 7)

2.2 – National background and trajectory in the treatment of population and development issues

St. Kitts and Nevis has long been engaged in the promulgation of population and development policies to the benefit if its people. Such policies have over the years been made manifest in the areas of poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS and other related issues. Several departments and institutions have provided support to the overall pursuit of the country’s population and development agenda. These include:-

- The Ministry of Social Development
- The Ministry of Health and Gender Affairs
- The Ministry of Sustainable Development
- The Department of Labour
- The Nevis Maternal Health Fund
The Government’s commitment to the mainstreaming of population and development issues is also evident in the formulation of a number of critical policies and documents over the years, including the National Social Protection Strategy 2013-2017, the National Strategic Health Plan for HIV/AIDS 2009-2013, the National Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2016 and the Draft Ageing Policy. Though the institutional capacity stands to be strengthened, particularly as it relates to monitoring and evaluation, the Ministry of Social Development in Nevis and the Ministry of Sustainable Development in St. Kitts have done a relatively commendable job in serving as the two main institutional actors in coordinating and promoting actions concerning population and development.

THIRD PART

3.1 – Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus

CHAPTER A - Full Integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights

ERADICATION OF POVERTY

St. Kitts and Nevis has made steady progress over the past decade in reducing poverty and engineering the socio-economic mobility of its people. In respect of living conditions, there is evidence that a large percentage of persons own their homes. Wooden buildings were being replaced with concrete structures and fewer households depend on pit latrines than before. Major strides have also been made in the provision of education services, particularly with regard to primary and secondary education, and to a lesser extent, tertiary education. This is critical given that the 2007/2008 Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) indicated that the incidence of poverty is highest among household heads with little education and that higher educational attainment is associated with higher socio-economic status. (Priority Area A17 indicator 1.4.2 of the SDGs)

Indeed, the noted inroads in reducing poverty have been achieved through critical social interventions targeted at the most vulnerable in society. The National Social Protection Strategy (NSPS) 2013-2017 establishes a framework for the comprehensive social protection of all citizens, particularly special vulnerable groups that are considered to have a high level of exposure to specific risks. In particular, it prioritizes for social intervention and protection the elderly, single mothers, the unemployed, teenage mothers, the working poor, persons with disabilities and at risk youth. The NSPS has as one of its guiding principles “respect for human dignity, equality and human rights.” To that end, the NSPS encompasses the strengthening of a wide range of policies and programs across the social sector including social safety nets, social welfare services, and social insurance and labour market policies. Through the NSPS, there has been an expanded school meals program, the launch of the implementation process of the National Health Insurance Scheme, foster care allowance for foster families, disability grants for the disabled poor and the Yes to Success Program which targets young persons who are minor offenders or on the verge of becoming such; by offering them counselling and skills training in
areas such as electrical work and culinary arts. (Priority Area A6 and A8 1.a2 and 3.82 of the SDGs)

Through its Community Housing Program initiated in 2014, the Ministry of Social Development has been able to provide the vulnerable and underprivileged with improved housing facilities, either through newly constructed homes or enhancements to their existing homes. The program was conceived to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable citizens and helps them to advance from a state of indigence. Over twenty (20) persons have thus far benefitted from this program since its implementation, particularly the elderly and single mothers who falls into the category of the working poor. (Priority area A5 indicator 1.4.1 of the SDGs)

On November 30, 2017, St. Kitts and Nevis launched its Enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) which will employ modern data processing systems in order to better analyze, map, monitor and report on the various dimensions of social and economic well-being. (Priority Area A22 indicator 3.2 of the Operational Guide)

Some of the challenges that threaten to derail the gains made in reducing poverty include the fact that the tourism sector, particularly the hotel sub-sector (which accounts for substantial employment), remains highly volatile and extremely vulnerable to external shocks, such as natural disasters and slumps in the international economy. One devastating hurricane can place hundreds employed in the tourism and hotel sub-sector on the breadline. Thus, there is a continuing need for economic diversification and expansion of employment options.

Given the extreme vulnerability of St. Kitts and Nevis to natural disasters, particularly hurricanes, there is a need to upgrade infrastructure for climate change, particularly the housing stock, and rigorously enforce strong building codes in order to minimize loss of property to citizens and the consequent debt and financial burden which would flow from such a situation.

There is a gender dimension reflected in poverty, with women being more greatly affected by poverty than men. The 2007/2008 Country Poverty Assessment showed that among the poor 52.2 percent were women and 47.8 percent were men. In respect of indigence, female residents of St. Kitts were more likely than males to be among the indigent. Consequently, critical risk groups such as teenage mothers and single mothers need to be kept in sharp focus for social intervention.

There is also the need for more ongoing and constant assessment of the poverty situation in St. Kitts and Nevis, as currently a comprehensive analysis of the situation is done once every ten (10) years in the form of the Country Poverty Assessment. The result is that timely, accurate, current and relevant data on the poverty situation is not always readily available.

Poverty was estimated to be 31.5 percent, and indigence 17.0 percent in 1999. Thus, the poverty rate was halved and indigence eliminated in the period since then. The Poverty Gap Ratio, which estimates the depth of poverty or the “poverty deficit” gives a measure of the extent or intensity of poverty, as it reflects how far below the line the poor are located. The ratio gives the amount of resources (as a percentage of the poverty line) needed to bring poor individuals up to the poverty line, assuming perfect targeting. The FGTP2 index or severity of poverty index, gives
heavier weight to the poorest of the poor and thus, reflects the degree of inequality among the poor. These indicators have also been examined at the district (Parish) level (Table 1.1) (Priority Area A2 indicator 1.2.1 of the SDGs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nevis Parishes</th>
<th>Headcount</th>
<th>Poverty Gap</th>
<th>Poverty Severity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Pauls’</td>
<td>18.1818</td>
<td>2.3380</td>
<td>0.5409</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John</td>
<td>21.6374</td>
<td>4.4807</td>
<td>1.1550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. George</td>
<td>12.500</td>
<td>1.7214</td>
<td>0.8559</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>17.5000</td>
<td>3.5906</td>
<td>0.8559</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. James</td>
<td>8,0000</td>
<td>0.7063</td>
<td>0.1203</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 1.1 HEADCOUNT, POVERTY GAP AND POVERTY SEVERITY RATIOS – NEVIS

**National Poverty Reduction Strategy**

The Saint Kitts and Nevis National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) outlined the macro-economic and social policies and programs that were pursued over the five year period, 2012-2016. It promoted social transformation, poverty reduction and improvement of the overall living conditions. In that regard, the point of departure of the strategy was that poverty reduction cannot be focused narrowly on the specific conditions of the poor but had to address the wider economic and social conditions that trap sections of the population in poverty or vulnerability in the first place.

The Strategy was also inspired by the commitment the country had made in respect of the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the adoption of a number of conventions to which the Government had signed onto in keeping with the objective of abiding by standards set by the international community.

This policy document was developed in a participatory process in which a wide cross-section of stakeholders were involved in both islands. The NPRS proposes poverty reduction targets for the short, medium and long term, identifies indicators and details annual and intermediate targets. It sought also to identify the resources to be mobilized to achieve the desired results. The NPRS provided a framework within which the Government, development partners and other stakeholders within the country (civil society, the private sector, local authorities), collaborated tangibly and, at the very least, established how their respective roles and functions contributed to the reduction of poverty in this very small country which seeks to provide a high quality of life to its citizens. The NPRS sought to be comprehensive in its focus and integrating in thrust.
HUMAN RIGHTS

St. Kitts and Nevis has sought to intensify awareness and inclusion of human rights principles in its development process. In 2015, the country completed its Universal Periodic Review and is currently in the process of preparing to fulfill its obligations under this important mechanism once again in 2020. The Federal Government also established in 2017, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF) which is a cabinet approved, inter-ministerial committee created to assess and report on the Government’s efforts to protect human rights in St. Kitts and Nevis. The NMRF, which draws on representatives from critical government ministries and civil society has the responsibility of engaging with international and regional human rights mechanisms and is expected to respond to recommendations from the United Nations Treaty Bodies after which it is required to coordinate and track national follow-up and implementation of the treaty obligations and the recommendations emanating from these mechanisms. (Priority Area A23 indicator 3.3 of the Operational Guide)

Given the grave abuses and infractions suffered by women, St. Kitts and Nevis also passed a new Domestic Violence Act in 2014 which broadens the definition of domestic violence, stiffens the penalties for breaches and enhances the protection available for victims.
SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION - COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Natural hazards, which are becoming more intense and frequent as a result of climate change, can reduce socioeconomic development gains, further entrap the poor in a cycle of poverty and increase the vulnerability of others. An important component of achieving environmental sustainability and poverty reduction is managing and building resilience to the risk that the St Kitts and Nevis population is exposed to in the face of natural disasters. Human security in the 21st century, therefore, does not only address the challenges brought on by crime and human conflict but requires governments and people to respond to climate change and disaster risks and be engaged in activities that would reduce vulnerability and lead to greater equity, resilience and sustainable outcomes. There is growing recognition that the risks associated with climate-related natural disasters and climate change are closely linked, and therefore, some solutions are common to both issues. In the case of SIDS like St Kitts and Nevis, a coordinated effort may be best in addressing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation concerns.

The islands are susceptible to a range of disasters including tropical storms and hurricanes, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and volcanic eruptions. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on St Kitts and the Nevis Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) on Nevis are the two main agencies responsible for disaster management in the Federation and for management of emergency operations during times of aggravated conditions. Both work closely with first responder agencies, such as the Red Cross, the St. Kitts Nevis Defence Force, the Police Force and the Fire and Rescue Service in providing security for residents on both islands: this includes the conduct of disaster management training programs and workshops.

Given the potent threat which climate change poses to small island developing states such as St. Kitts and Nevis, a valiant effort has been made to intensify sustainable production and use of resources. With a large geothermal resource and moderate to high wind and solar resources, St. Kitts and Nevis has sufficient renewable energy resource potential to meet some or all of its current and future electricity needs. The Robert Llewelyn Bradshaw International Airport now offsets 100% of its electricity with a 1 MW solar photovoltaic farm. In 2016 a second 500 kilowatt solar farm was commissioned on the outskirts of the Federation’s capital, Basseterre, and in 2014 a light bulb exchange program was launched to replace existing residential lighting with 323,000 LED bulbs. St. Kitts and Nevis has also embarked on a US $6 million project to install over 10,650 high efficiency LED street lamps which is expected to decrease greenhouse gas emissions from street lighting by 53 percent per year and reduce the Government’s street and flood lighting electricity bill by 44 percent by 2019. The St. Kitts Electricity Company

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1 Hazard is defined as: “A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation. Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydro meteorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards)” UN/ISDR. Geneva 2004.

2 Vulnerability is defined as: “The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards”. UN/ISDR. Geneva 2004.
(SKELEC) also began a smart meter pilot program during a smart grid upgrade. On Nevis, a 2.2 MW wind power plant has been commissioned. The government has also developed a low-interest solar loan program for residential consumers and has called for residents and businesses to increase solar water heating use.

St. Kitts and Nevis has also embarked on a project to further transform its energy and transportation sector through the introduction of electric school buses. This project, currently in its pilot phase, is the result of a partnership between the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and will support the procurement and installation of two solar-powered battery charging stations and at least three electric buses to replace ageing and inoperable diesel and gasoline buses in the current fleet. Local capacity will be built through training and exposure to install and operate the charging stations and the buses during the pilot phase. A successful pilot demonstration will serve as the basis to develop appropriate policies and legal frameworks that support the scaling up and transformation to a significant electric fleet of motor vehicles for public transport over the medium to long term.

The challenge in so far as sustainable production and combating climate change is concerned, is that climate change mitigation and adaptation is costly. Added to this is that the cost of harnessing renewable energy, particularly in the initial phase is substantial. More opportunities for capacity building and skills transfer in renewable energy technology development and installation is also desirable as a means of ensuring that the local populace can effectively contribute to this energy transformation, not to mention the opportunities for entrepreneurship that this provides which would also help to tackle poverty and unemployment.

**WORK LABOUR**

In St. Kitts and Nevis, there was an increase in the average hourly wage of 12%, from $8.00 per hour before 2014 to $9.00 per hour as of July 2014. When the data is examined, generally, 51 percent of the participants in the labour force were male and 49 percent female. However, there were some differences by socio-economic status. In the lowest quintile, 61 percent of participants were male compared to 39 percent female and the percentage female rose to over 50 percent in the second, third and fourth quintiles and then declined again to 43 percent in the fifth quintile. There may be at work here sociological factors on the role of the woman in the home at both ends of the income scale, as well as differentiations of ‘female’ and ‘male’ jobs in the labour market. (Indicator A13 - Average income per hour of employed women and men)

**LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE FOR PERSONS AGE 15 AND OVER BY SEX**

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<th>SEX</th>
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<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
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<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>61.0</td>
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<td>39.0</td>
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<td>51.0</td>
<td>55.4</td>
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<td>1,489</td>
<td>1,378</td>
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CHAPTER B – Rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth

EDUCATION

Education is one of the “Key Pillars” which advances the rights of children, adolescents and young people in the Federation of St. Kitts Nevis. Education in St. Kitts and Nevis is free up to the end of secondary school. The government also provides text books and a free lunch for children who are in need. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GoSKN), through the Ministry of Education (MoE), has developed a five-year Education Sector Plan (ESP) for 2017–2021 to provide strategic direction for the accomplishment of key policy priorities to improve education delivery and administration in the Federation. The ESP builds upon the imperatives communicated in the MoE White Paper on Education Development and Policy 2009–2019, which has guided the delivery and management of education since its publication. It also takes into account lessons learned from the implementation of the White Paper, including the need for a strong performance assessment framework and the required cost and finance components to sustain efficient and effective planning and execution.

The ESP responds to many developmental priorities formulated at national, regional, and global levels. At the national level, the plan is guided by the 2005 Education Act and related regulations. It supports sustainable development efforts articulated in documents including but not limited to the 2006–2016 National Adaptation Strategy, the 2012–2016 National Poverty Reduction Strategy and the subsequent 2013–2017 National Social Protection Strategy, as well as the 2013 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Policy.

Critically, the plan also responds to crucial issues identified in the locally derived 2016 MoE Education Sector Diagnosis and the externally driven 2016 UNESCO Education Sector Policy Review, which was commissioned to analyze major policy gaps in education, including governance, planning and management and monitoring and evaluation. The education sector is therefore better poised to meet its obligations as laid out in various local, regional and international obligations. (Priority Area B6, indicator 9.1 of the Operational Guide).
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT - DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH

The Department of Youth is tasked with the responsibility of developing programs and projects to harness the talent of our young people and empower them to positively contribute to national development. The Department does this through its emphasis on critical life and social skills such as leadership and character development. The Department views its mandate of youth development as one which is dynamic and believes that the approach to the problems confronting our young people must be holistic. Consequently, every effort is made to integrate critical themes which undergird the work of other key ministries/departments into the work carried out by the Department of Youth. Given the myriad of challenges with which our youth are confronted, the Department of Youth has sought to carve out a successful youth strategy based on the pillars of education and training, employment, entrepreneurship, culture and identity.

Best practices have been realized in several priority areas of the Montevideo Consensus. The most outstanding and successful programs are:-

ST. KITTS NEVIS YOUTH PARLIAMENT ASSOCIATION

The St. Kitts Nevis Youth Parliament Association (SKNYPA) is a statutory body which was established in 2001 to advocate for the rights and opportunities of all young persons between the ages of 10 and 29. The Mission of SKNYPA is to be an enabling agent for the open and honest discussion of national issues and to be the driving force for positive youth involvement in politics and the legislative process in St. Kitts and Nevis. It is a non-profit, non-government, non-partisan youth organization geared towards being the voice of youth of the Federation. SKNYPA is vibrant and pro-active and has taken part in many local, regional and international fora that give voice to critical issues of national interest, while providing a power base for young
people to excel in the decision-making process. (Priority Areas B.3, 4, 8.1, 8.2 of the Operational Guide)

**YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB)**

The Youth Advisory Board is a youth-driven body that is intended to bear the responsibility of providing meaningful input to the decision making process of youth-serving initiatives, ensuring that new and existing programs meet the needs of young people and promotes an unorthodox manner of volunteerism, accountability, responsibility and community cohesiveness. There is the challenge of funding for the board to be launched. (Priority Area 8)

**YOUTH ON THE GO**

“Youth on the Go” is a Radio Program designed to provide young persons with the opportunity to express their opinion on matters of national interest. This weekly program which began in 2017 airs on the local radio station. The program caters to persons between the ages of 5 to 35 years. (Priority Area 8)

**FASHION AND MUSIC EXPO (FAME)**

FAME is a vibrant platform that affords participants, particularly the youth, the opportunity to develop their interests and skills in the arts (fashion design, singing, playing an instrument, modelling, videography, photography etc.) It seeks to prepare young people for future careers in the creative industries and non-traditional occupations related to the arts. It also serves to raise awareness of the importance and dynamism of the creative industry sector. From 2016 to present approximately 500 young people between the ages of 12 and 29 who are artistically inclined were trained. The challenges which confront the program are insufficient funding, the vision of the program is not fully embraced by decision makers and lack of opportunities for young designers made available by government to hone artistic skills, such as customizing wearable pieces for pageants.

**COSTUME DESIGN WORKSHOP**

Costume Designing and Modeling is a vibrant component of the culture of St. Kitts and Nevis. Costumes are worn during Carnival, Culturama and many community festivals. Costume making is therefore a viable entrepreneurial enterprise. The Costume Design Workshop which started in 2014, emphasizes the honing of the creative and artistic capabilities of our youth, and seeks to attract young people who are interested in refining their designing and modeling skills. Approximately 80 participants have been impacted so far. The challenge is that the facilitator is not a resident, thus there are constant uncertainties due to the availability of a facilitator/s. There is also the issue of sourcing committed sponsors for this valuable but costly endeavour.
COMM-SERVE
This program which is set to be launched during Youth Month (April 2018) will seek to heighten awareness and awaken the interests of young people to volunteer in their communities. (Priority Area 9)

EASTER CAMP
Easter Camp engages young people enrolled in our various institutions of primary and secondary learning in enlightening activities during the Easter break. It caters for children between the ages of five (5) to sixteen (16) years. Each year, the theme of the camp changes to reflect on prevailing social trends. Campers are usually meaningfully engaged in the creative and performing arts, field trips, games and motivational speaking, in an effort for the campers to learn vital life lessons and life skills. Approximately 1000 young people (campers and volunteers), have been positively impacted by the Annual Easter Camp. For the year 2017 and 2018, the theme of the Easter Camp centered on the Sustainable Development Goals, where for each day, students learn about the relevance of a different Sustainable Development Goal, through site visits, role plays and interacting with various career professionals. The limited availability of funds and limited statistical capacity within the department poses some challenge to the full potential of the program being realized. (Priority Areas 9, 16)

FACE OF YOUTH MONTH
The Face of Youth Month activity, initiated in 2016, is a unique competition that is geared towards selecting the most outstanding male and female faces to serve as Ambassadors for the Department of Youth and Sports. The overall objective is to give young people a platform to properly enhance their public speaking ability and empower them to boost their self-confidence. (Priority Area 9)

SUMMER JOB ATTACHMENT PROGRAM
This Program is geared towards giving hands on employment training to school leavers and to assist with the smooth transition from school to the world of work. As the name suggests, this training takes place during the summer vacation and successful applicants of the program are given a weekly stipend. The initiative was started in 2002 and targets school leavers of the fourth and fifth forms and colleges. On average, sixty young people apply annually for the program, even though there is sometimes a lack of prospective jobs available for placements due to circumstances beyond the department’s control. Challenges include the fact that non-nationals do not receive the same opportunities as nationals. (Priority Area 10)

PROFESSIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP (KEYS)
The Professional and Development Workshop was brought on stream in 2017 to fill the gap of providing young persons with tools that could better prepare them for the world of work. This program encourages the development and demonstration of proper work ethic by current workers.
who were not afforded the same job preparation exposure as school leavers and by young people who are currently employed in the labour force. To date thirty persons have benefited from this training.

MOST REMARKABLE TEENS

The Twenty-Five Most Remarkable Teens Award is a national award ceremony which partners with the public and private sector to select the most remarkable students and youth in St. Kitts and Nevis who have excelled in their various areas of endeavour. This important program was introduced in 2012 in an effort to highlight and encourage young people between the ages of 12 and 19 to pursue excellence and harness their talent for the betterment of their communities. Approximately sixty teens would have been awarded to date. The awardees are given the proverbial “Red Carpet Treatment” at the “Cabinet Level” where sitting ministers of government read out their bio-data and present the honourees with their awards in a Special Sitting of Parliament. The ceremony is aired live on radio and television as part of a full media blast to promote positive young role models.

BULLYING AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The department has deemed it necessary to introduce bullying awareness in every school to sensitize all students on the negative impacts and nature of bullying. The last Friday in October is designated as Bullying Awareness Day. During this period a special assembly is held to display the different bullying awareness projects spearheaded by the various schools. The program was introduced in 2015 and targets students between the ages of 5 and 18. Approximately 4,000 students, teachers and speakers have been an integral part of the program.

CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

Challenges facing St. Kitts Nevis in addressing the Rights, Needs, Responsibilities and Requirements of Girls, Boys, Adolescents and Youth are diverse and multi-dimensional. There is never enough funding to adequately address important and ongoing programs. The issue of data collection that could measure gains is limited due to lack of technical skills and the human resource needed to develop and maintain a robust plan of action that could be monitored and evaluated over time. There is also the issue of “political will and clearly defined roles and responsibilities, as in the case of SKNYPA.

As the process moves forward for the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus and the SDGs the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis will move to further address challenges that hamper or prevent the full integration of programs that are geared towards addressing the Rights, Needs, Responsibilities and Requirements of Girls, Boys Adolescents and Youth.
Chapter C - Ageing, Social Protection and Socioeconomic Challenges

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social Services is consciously aware of its mandate to positively impact the lives of all, to assists in particular the most vulnerable and to alleviate and eliminate poverty in all its forms. In spite of its financial and human resource constraints, the department continues to deliver programs to the Nevisian populace in a professional manner. The department also strongly supports accords and treaties to which the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is a signatory and seeks to deliver sustainable programs aligned to these accords.

Notwithstanding the limitations faced within the department, over the years, success has been realized in many of its programs and initiatives, especially since the adoption of the National Social Protection Strategy, which is all inclusive. The department continues to strive to ensure that its programs are meeting its stated purpose and serving the most vulnerable in society. Using diverse methodologies of engagement, the department mobilizes its resources to promote the various programs it delivers.

The Department of Social Services has various divisions which include: Administration, Family and Probation Unit and the Senior Citizens Division. This report will focus mainly on the Senior Citizens Division and ongoing programs.

National Census data for 2011 indicated that three thousand, six hundred and ninety six persons (3,696) were aged 65 years and older in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, accounting for eight percent (8%) of the population. Of the total number of persons 65 years of age and older, two thousand, one hundred and twenty eight (2,128) were females which equates to fifty eight percent (58%) of that age cohort. For males the total number over the age of 65 was one thousand, five hundred and sixty eight (1,568) or forty two percent (42%) of the senior population. It was further found that two thousand, five hundred and seventy individuals (2,570) were over 65 years of age in St. Kitts representing six percent (6%) of the total population on that island. For Nevis, one thousand, one hundred and twenty six persons (1,126) were aged 65 years and over reflecting two percent (2%) of the total population.

Population over 65 years disaggregated by age cohorts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Cohort</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 – 69 years</td>
<td>1,019</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 74 years</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 – 79 years</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 84 years</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In seeking to ensure that the ageing population on Nevis experiences a healthy environment to live and enjoys their twilight years, the Department of Social Services through its Senior Citizens Division has over the years sought to initiate and implement programs that are gender inclusive and caters to the holistic well-being of its senior population. Recognizing the need for seniors to be treated with dignity and acknowledging their worth, the division continuously adapts to changes in their social environment and as such has diversified the programs offered, giving special attention to social protection and minimizing socioeconomic challenges that they may face.

The Ageing Policy being developed at the Federal level has three priority areas from which the division develops its programs:

i. Ageing and Development

ii. Advancing health and wellbeing into old age; and

iii. Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

The overarching long-term objective of this National Policy on Ageing is to allow the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to meet the goals set forth in the National Strategic Plan to alleviate poverty and have improved living conditions for all. Furthermore, programs are developed around priority goals set by the department annually which forms part of the broader Sustainable Development Agenda.
The National Policy on Ageing is also framed within the three (3) priority directions of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and the Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Given that the government has to take the leadership role in the development of programs and initiatives beneficial to seniors, the Senior Citizens Division in seeking to address these issues is cognizant of the fact that proper planning, budgeting and coordination are required before implementation. Programs therefore must be aligned with the national agenda and properly executed with intense monitoring in order to have favourable results. These must be done whilst creating a comfortable atmosphere conducive to human development and growth. It is therefore incumbent on the division to implement user friendly programs that would impact those most vulnerable and susceptible to shocks within our society.

The Senior Citizens Division has many active programs that address the needs of seniors over the short, medium and long term and are designed to meet the challenges and embrace the opportunities presented by a growing, healthier and more active ageing population. Indeed, as the population of older persons increases here on Nevis, more sustainable programs are developed and implemented. (Priority Area C1 indicator 20.3 of the Operational Guide)

The following is an indication of ongoing programs and the number of persons impacted, while also highlighting challenges faced and prescribing possible solutions for the future.

**SENIORS SUBSIDIZED UTILITIES PROGRAM**

The Seniors Subsidized Utilities Program offers a fixed government assistance with payment of electricity for senior citizens 65 and over who live alone and who have no fixed income. Those seniors are exempted in the amount of $30 on water and $150 on electricity on a monthly basis. Approximately 260 seniors are currently benefitting from this initiative, while over 320 have benefited since its inception.

**Challenges**

- One of the major challenges with this program is the process of targeting. Potential beneficiaries are required to complete a simple questionnaire, which needs to be revisited and redesigned, especially with respect to the presentation of particulars surrounding income and expenditure.
- In its present format the initiative is not sustainable.

**Recommendations**

- Total review and modification of this program is required. This may include a new registration process with new qualifying criteria so that only the most vulnerable are beneficiaries.
- The qualifying criteria needs to be amended with a tier system initiated so that there is more equity in the program.
- A panel should be established for assessing and reviewing applicants and to assist with ensuring compliance with the criteria.
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASH (PAC)
This program offers conditional cash transfers mainly through the bank accounts of qualified persons who were assessed and found to be in need. This cash transfer ranges from one hundred (EC$100.00) Eastern Caribbean Dollars to three hundred (EC$300.00) dollars monthly. However, in special cases, the amount can go up to five hundred (EC$500.00) dollars. Although this public assistance allowance benefits mostly nationals, it is not limited solely to nationals as it embraces the most vulnerable and indigent people on the island. It is estimated that approximately forty (40) clients are benefitting monthly from the PAC program.

CHALLENGES
• The PAC is susceptible to abuse, for example, the length of time people stay on the program (sometimes for years) before they are removed.
• Lack of timely reviews and strict policing result in persons who should be removed from the accounts being further credited with funds.
• There is also the challenge of verifying information provided by clients as some individuals are not entirely truthful or forthcoming with the required information.
• Additionally, at times political interference makes it difficult to add or remove persons from the list.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• A more rigorous review process utilizing the data provided through the National Household Registry (NHR) and other means test as verifiers should be employed as a means of making the process more transparent and helping to channel resources to the most needy in the society.
• Establish review time frames and make officers responsible for reviewing cases and clients’ situations.
• More consideration should be given to the number of members in the household and assistance be given accordingly.
• Life verification certificates be submitted monthly

HOT MEALS PROGRAMME
This program was initiated over seventeen (17) years ago and is currently serving sixty nine (69) persons [Males – 35; Females – 34] on a weekly basis. The program caters to mostly needy persons who are unable to or have limited resources in order to provide meals for themselves. The kitchen operates five days per week but beneficiaries only receive a meal three days per week. This is because the island is split into two zones and served as follows: Mondays,
Wednesdays and Fridays - Gingerland to Westbury via St. James and Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - St. John’s to Cotton Ground via St. Paul’s.

**CHALLENGES**

- One of the major challenges of the program is that some persons who get meals have families who can and should provide for them but do not so the onus falls on the department to provide for those individuals.
- Concerns about the “gap days” or the “void” where the department is not quite sure if on the days meals are not delivered that the clients do otherwise get a meal.
- Budget allocations are usually insufficient for purchasing materials for meals which limit the quantity and variety of meals that are prepared.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That serious consideration is given to the annual inflation on prices of food therefore requiring additional funds to be allocated in the budget. (Priority areas 18, 22, 29)

**FOOD VOUCHER**

Food vouchers are issued on a monthly basis to approximately sixteen (16) persons/families to the value of one hundred ($100.00) to three hundred ($300.00). These vouchers are made out directly to the identified supermarket and recipients are allowed to shop for food and personal hygienic items up to the stipulated amount. The receipts are returned to the office for processing and payments. (Priority areas 19, 20, 30)

**CHALLENGES**

- Some persons stay on the program for lengthy periods even though at times situations have changed. This is often due to a lack of rigorous reassessment and follow up.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- That there be stipulated time frames for beneficiaries with constant reviews of family’s situation and adjustments made accordingly.
- Educational sessions should be held with beneficiaries on how to manage personal resources.
- The minimum amount be set at $200.00 given the cost of foods and a critical analysis of the composition of the households be carried out to ensure that the amount granted is enough to maintain the family before vouchers are issued.
SENIORS RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Created as a method of curbing senior isolation and to mitigate against the onset of Alzheimer’s and dementia which is often prevalent in elderly persons. This program creates the opportunity for seniors to leave their homes and visit community centers throughout the island where they socialize with their peers. Presently over one hundred (100) seniors meet regularly for educational and recreational sessions divided into five (5) recreational groups, one in each parish. The gender demographics show that there are ten (10) regular males and ninety-one (91) regular females who participate in weekly meetings at community centers island-wide.

CHALLENGES

- The major challenge with this program is getting males and younger seniors to join the groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rigorous campaigns targeting males and younger seniors and providing education on the benefits of socialization.
- A more diversified program at the meetings may also help to attract other seniors.
- The division needs to promote the program more aggressively via the media.
  (Priority Areas 18, 22, 29).

COMMUNITY CAREGIVERS PROGRAM

This initiative creates the link between families and the department. Workers are given responsibility for seniors who they visit on a daily basis and assist with their personal care. Though not required to do house chores, where there is a need, especially in the cases of seniors living alone, such chores are done. Verbal and written reports are produced on a monthly basis on each person visited during the reporting period.

CHALLENGES

- Due to their locations, some seniors are not visited by care givers.
- Too many seniors are assigned per care giver making it difficult to spend quality time with some seniors.
- Most caregivers have to walk long distances because they do not have personal transportation.
- Some of the present caregivers may be better suited for a different work environment as their attitudes are not always positive.
- Monitoring of workers is difficult due to their locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• To help improve the overall program continuous training is needed to ensure reinforcement of skills and to improve the attitudes required for this specialized area of personal interaction.
• A better targeting mechanism should be implemented and officers in the division should be given the opportunity to interview prospective workers in this area to gauge the best fit.
  (Priority areas 18, 22, 29).

CELEBRATION OF MILESTONES
The department recognizes seniors when they reach the significant milestones of 80, 90 and 100 years of age at which time they are given a certificate and a fruit basket. All seniors over the age of 90 are given fruit baskets on their birthdays. Some of these presentations are documented with the consent of family members.

CHALLENGES
• Verification of births.
• Some of our seniors reach milestones and are not celebrated due to lack of information.
• Incorrect data information provided.
• A database that is not current and updated.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• Verification of births and names should be done with the Registrar General’s Office.
• Continuous update of database

  (Priority Area 18)

SUBSIDIZED TRANSPORTATION - FREE BUS PASS
On record are two hundred and fifty four (254) participants: Seventy one males and one hundred and eighty three (183) females. (Priority Areas 20, 30 31)

CHALLENGES
• Some seniors who currently benefit are employed and/or have their own vehicles and as such are in positions to adequately cover transportation costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS
• That a more vigilant process be employed for new beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION
With the implementation of the action plan and guided by the parameters set forth in the National Policy on Ageing, the Department of Social Services through its Senior Citizens Division is seeking to create enabling environments and an inclusive society for all. Faced with the realities of an ageing population, the department has begun the process of ensuring that our seniors’ rights are protected and that they are allowed to participate in areas of nation building. With initiatives implemented that have greatly improved their standard of living, favourable reports have been submitted and Nevis is now seen as a model for the care of senior citizens throughout the region.

CHAPTER D – *Universal Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services*

**HIV/AIDS - PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT**

The first case of HIV/AIDS was diagnosed in Nevis in 1987. As of December 2017, there were seventy (70) recorded cases of HIV. The epidemic is distributed evenly by sex, with thirty-five (35) males and thirty-five (35) females. At the time of diagnosis, 19% of those infected were between 35-39 years of age. The prevalence of HIV in the general population is 0.14 *per capita%*. This prevalence has remained consistent over the past eight years, with the lowest prevalence rate of 0.10 recorded in 2013. At present, 17 persons are in care and treatment which represents 100% of those in the program. Of these, 88% are virally suppressed, an increase from 86% in 2014.

The Ministry of Health has recorded many successes with regard to HIV/ADS, since the establishment of an HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit in 2001. This Unit, along with a Clinical Care Team, forms part of a larger network of providers which facilitate HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment services. In 2017, St. Kitts/Nevis became the second country in the Americas after Cuba to have eliminated mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS and Syphilis. An Action Plan to Strengthen and Sustain the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission is in draft and includes among other things the use of an electronic perinatal information system to track information on antenatal patients in an effort to ensure positive delivery outcomes. In 2017, Nevis became one of the first islands in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to have implemented this electronic system. The island is committed to the implementation of the 90-90-90 strategy to ensure that by 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.
The figure below shows the total number of reported HIV/AIDS cases throughout Nevis from 1987 – 2015. The lines also indicate the increase or decrease in cases by year and gender.

This figure below shows the total number of reported HIV/AIDS cases throughout Nevis from 1987 – 2015 by Age Range and Gender.

At present there is no legislation specific to HIV/AIDS but various policies, procedures and plans have been developed to ensure the delivery of quality care, and the removal of barriers to access. A National Testing Policy (2008), is in use, and a revised policy is currently in draft. Providers also utilize the OECS HIV/STI Guidelines (2017) which have been adopted as official guidelines for St. Kitts and Nevis. The National Health Plan 2017-2021 also lists HIV/AIDS as one of the communicable diseases of priority.

**STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION**
Many of the initiatives that address stigma and discrimination in the health sector have been borne out of HIV/AIDS initiatives. In 2011, a study among Men who have Sex with Men (MSMs), revealed that 30.9% of them reported being treated differently because of their sexual preference. In 2012, a general campaign highlighting the importance of human rights was launched. “Making St. Kitts/Nevis Better: Equality for All”, took the form of consultations, essay contests among other activities to educate persons on human rights.

A survey conducted among 307 healthcare workers in 2013 revealed that over 40% would be worried if they had to provide invasive care procedures on persons living with HIV (PLHIV). This survey revealed other concerning results including the hesitancy of persons to work alongside a colleague with HIV (38%), among other findings. As a result of these findings various initiatives were implemented including the establishment of a Code of Conduct for health facilities where patients can report acts of stigma and discrimination (D20).

**SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**

Access to sexual and reproductive health services is free in the primary healthcare system. Services are provided at all six health centers on island. These centers provide information and services related to family planning as well as the pregnancy process at antenatal, delivery and postnatal stages. Maternal deaths are rare in Nevis, with only one death recorded in the last 15 years. Maternal health, however, remains a priority, as well as the reduction of infant mortality. In 2012 the infant mortality rate was 16 per 1000 live births. In 2016 this rate was 26.1. For the five-year period 2012 to 2016, the average rate was 20.04.

In an effort to ensure that pregnant women receive specialized care an Obstetrician/Gynecologist was attached to the six health centers starting in 2016. All pregnant women benefit from visits to this professional at least twice during their pregnancies, with high risk cases having several scheduled visits. In 2018 a pediatrician will also be attached to these facilities.

With regard to family planning, contraceptives are available in the form of condoms, oral contraceptives, injectable, implants and intrauterine devices. Emergency Contraception is available at private pharmacies without a prescription.

In addition to health centers, the Health Promotion Unit is also part of the Public Health Department and also provides education on sexual and reproductive health. One of their primary focuses is health education in schools, including topics on safe sexual practices. The total teen birth rate per 100 live births was 16.8 in 2012. In 2016 this rate decreased to 12.2. (Priority area B8 indicator 11.1 of the operational guide)

At the secondary healthcare level, over 99% of births take place at the hospital, and all births are facilitated by skilled birth attendants who are trained in midwifery and/or an Obstetrician (D16). There is an established system which links public health facilities and the Alexandra Hospital, the lone hospital on island, which validates the frequency of antenatal visits.
Legislation regarding sexual and reproductive health is not yet in effect. This area is covered in the National Health Plan 2017-2021 in both the Communicable Diseases and Family Health sections. The development of a sexual and reproductive health policy has been identified as a priority for the next two years. Survey data regarding sexual and reproductive health is limited. A 2011 Knowledge Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices (KABP) Survey specific to HIV/AIDS captured information relating to male and female condom use.

The dearth of information related to family planning and sexual and reproductive health in general could be strengthened with the revival of the national family planning association. This association has been dormant for over 15 years and can be a key partner in gathering information on this subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Persons in Care and Treatment by Gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons in care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons on Antiretroviral treatment (First Line)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of persons on Antiretroviral Treatment (Second Line)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total Medication Dispensed 11,928*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of persons Counsellingl and Tested 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ABORTION**

Abortion for any reason is illegal as outlined in the St. Christopher and Nevis Offences Against the Person Act, Chapter 4.21, sections 53 and 54 (Indicator D11). There are, however, hospitalizations resulting from complications from abortions which may be spontaneous. In 2013, there were 17 cases, and in 2017, 22 (D10).

There has not been tremendous advocacy at the grassroots level to address this issue. A Family Planning Association can be one such entity to do so.

**Condom Distribution**

**Background**

Condom distribution and specialized Behavior Change Communication (BCC) campaigns continues with the aim to increase usage and to reduce incidence. The unit continues to supply health centres, service deliver points and the general public with male and female condoms. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials were also distributed to the general public.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of male condoms distributed</td>
<td>11,773</td>
<td>9689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of female condoms distributed</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Of dental dams distributed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. Of lubricants distributed</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>4044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Condoms</strong></td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>10,132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Condom distribution decreased by 15% in 2015*

**OTHER RELATED HEALTH INITIATIVES**
The Federation of St. Kitts/Nevis recently established a Commission to launch Universal Health Insurance. This initiative will strengthen services in sexual and reproductive health as well as other areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Unit of Measure</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Info</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**D1**  
Number of new HIV infections per 1000 uninfected population by:  
- **a)** sex, number of new infections: 0  
- **b)** age, number of new infections: 0  
- **c)** key population, Key populations are varied and not reported on for this assessment

**Source:**  
- Health Statistics Unit, 2018  
- Community Health Records, 100%

**D2**  
Percentage of health centers offering sexual and reproductive health services, %: 83

**Source:**  
- Health Statistics Unit, 2018  
- Community Health Records, 100%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| D3  | Indicator for monitoring the eradication of the epidemic  
   i) Percentage of persons living with HIV  
   ii) Percentage of persons with HIV who are receiving treatment  
   iii) Percentage of persons undergoing comprehensive HIV treatment who succeed in suppressing viral load | %               | 0.1  | 0.14 | Health Statistics Unit, 2018 | 100 (2014) | 100 |
<p>| D4  | Percentage of health-care centres that have implemented updated protocols, intercultural focused and relevant to different ages, on sexual and reproductive healthcare by gender | %               | No information | No information |
| D5  | Percentage of men who practice the basic elements of sexual and reproductive health prevention and self-care | %               | No information | No information |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D6</td>
<td>Rate of use of contraceptive methods by women and men by method</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D7</td>
<td>Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D8</td>
<td>Maternal Mortality Ratio Per 100,000 live births</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Health Information Unit, 2018</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D9</td>
<td>Percent of health centers that have implemented updated maternal care protocols</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D10</td>
<td>Number of hospitalizations resulting from complications arising after abortion</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Alexandra Hospital, 2018</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The country has legislation allowing for the voluntary interruption of pregnancy for the following causes:

a) when the woman wishes it;
b) in case of rape or incest;
c) when the woman’s life is in danger;
d) to protect a woman’s health;
e) other causes.

Abortion is against the law for any reason.

St. Christopher and Nevis Offences Against the Person Act, Chapter 4.21, Sections 53 and 54.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>2013 Information</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2017 Information</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D13</td>
<td>Percentage of infertile or sub fertile couples and individuals receiving assisted fertility treatments</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Unit of Measure</td>
<td>2013 Information</td>
<td>2017 Information</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D14</td>
<td>Number of initiatives to establish regulatory frameworks for assisted reproduction submitted to the competent authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, 2018</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D15</td>
<td>Percentage of live births that were preceded by 4 or more antenatal check ups</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Alexandra Hospital, 2018</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D16</td>
<td>Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Alexandra Hospital, 2018</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D17</td>
<td>Proportion of women aged 15-49 who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The country has laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to reproductive health services, information and education.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Unit of Measure</th>
<th>2013 Information</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>2017 Information</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D19</td>
<td>Percentage of people reporting that they have been the victims of discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity</td>
<td>No Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D21</td>
<td>Percentage of people who are aware of their rights and the conditions for access to sexual and reproductive health care</td>
<td>No Information</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No information</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D22</td>
<td>Number of public institutions running policies, programs and projects aimed at sexual and reproductive healthcare with an approach grounded in the protection of sexual and reproductive rights</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, 2018</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER E – Gender Equality

INTRODUCTION

The Gender Affairs Department represents the men and women, boys and girls at all levels on the island of Nevis in ensuring that plans and programs are in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Belem do Para Convention, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention for the Elimination for All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), just to name a few. This therefore will help us to achieve improved status, productivity and relations between our men and women, boys and girls through collaboration with governmental, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. This accomplishment has created a more gender friendly society which understands the difference and similarities between men and women, boys and girls, with all having equal access to opportunities, benefits and resources which can develop the full potential of all our citizens.

The St. Kitts and Nevis Country Gender Assessment (CGA) commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in 2014 provides a gender analysis of the economic, social and governance sectors in St Kitts and Nevis (SKN). The pursuit and achievement of gender equality and women’s empowerment is one of the two cross cutting themes in the current results-based management framework of the CDB. The CGA of St. Kitts and Nevis reflects a commitment to a dynamic engagement between the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GOSKN) and CDB around how to achieve this goal by deepening and strengthening policies and strategies to transform gender relations in the country.

The CGA first examines the policy and institutional framework for the promotion of gender equality in an effort to probe the effect and impact of policy on development in the specific context of St. Kitts and Nevis. The aim has been to seek an answer to the question of whether good policies are enough to achieve gender equality. The research firmly established that over the years, the country has passed a number of laws and implemented important measures towards advancing the human rights of women and girls alongside those of men and boys. However, despite these measures, the CGA found that the answer is ‘no’ to the question of whether good policies and strategies were enough to achieve gender equality and equity.

This is so for a number of reasons: firstly, the broad context and specific conditions within which the policies and strategies operate are key determinants of success. The economic realities of St. Kitts and Nevis as an open, small island ‘dependent’ economy, prone to natural hazards and disasters and in the grips of a Standby Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), leave very little space for measures to address the harsh conditions facing the majority of the population, and women and children in particular. What space is found comes from returns from public investments, such as the Citizenship by Investment Program through which the People’s Employment Program (PEP) is being funded. However, it is recognized that this cannot continue indefinitely which is why ensuring that investments in PEP yield sustainable livelihoods, especially for women who are among the most vulnerable.

Secondly, policies that integrate gender equality and equity will not bear fruit if problems are misdiagnosed. In general, the CGA found that there is a strong view in the marketplace that gender equality must be seen less in terms of addressing women’s issues and
that the focus must now be on men who are said to be the ones who are really marginalized. There is therefore a tendency towards polarization of the core issues where it is not so much a matter of addressing the specific gender needs and interests of men and women but of setting up a competition between both sexes. Thirdly, good gender equality policies do not yield results without the ability to secure resources for action, monitor and evaluate implementation and demand accountability.

**KEY GENDER EQUALITY INDICATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>SOURCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Human Development Index (HDI) (2012)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.745</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour force Participation Rate (2009)</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>St. Kitts Nevis Labour Force Assessment, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rates (2009)</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>Labour Force Assessment, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>US$13,330</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDICATOR</td>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>FEMALE</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>SOURCES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>US$13,330</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Wage (Annual)</td>
<td>30,123EC$</td>
<td>28,079EC$</td>
<td>$29,056EC$</td>
<td>Statistics Department, St. Kitts and Nevis, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income below the poverty Line (2012)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PAHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kitts Nevis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PAHO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total primary school completion (2012)</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td></td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This indicator is also known as “gross intake rate to the last grade of primary”.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth (2012)</td>
<td>72 years</td>
<td>76.8 years</td>
<td>74.4 years (avg)</td>
<td>Health in the Americas, 2012 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same Throughout its life.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Health in the Americas, 2012 Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertility rate (2013)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>CIA World Fact Book, St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
resulting in relative stability in terms of total numbers.

| Maternal mortality rate (2013) | 3.14% | - | Government of St Kitts and Nevis, Statistical Department |
| % of 15-24 year olds who had sexual intercourse before age 15 (2010-2011) | 21.2% | 7.2% | 13.9% | OECS/UWI |
| Males/females in Parliament (2013) | 14 (93.3%) | 1 (6.7%) | 15 (100%) | Gender Affairs Bureau, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis |
| Males/females in Nevis Assembly (2013) | 4 (80%) | 1 (20%) | 5(100%) | Gender Affairs Bureau, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis |
| Males/females in Judiciary at all levels (2013) | 73 (54.9%) | 60 (45.1%) | 133 (100%) | Government of St. Kitts and Nevis |
| No. of presiding judges (2013) | 2 (66.7%) | 1 (33.3%) | 3 (100%) | Government of St. Kitts and Nevis |
| No. of presiding magistrates (2013) | 8 (100%) | 0 | 8 (100%) | Commissioner of Police, St. Kitts and Nevis |
| No. of reported cases of gender-based violence (2008) | 46 per 10,000 women | - | PAHO |
| No. of victims of homicide (2012) | 18 (100%) | 18 (100%) | Commissioner of Police, St. Kitts and Nevis, 2012. |
| No. of persons in | 66 (54%) | 56 (46%) | 122 (100%) | Ministry of |
Gender inequality can become a problem for girls from the time of birth and can continue up to womanhood. This sort of inequality can cause gender disparity resulting in women and girls being deprived of opportunities that can hamper their livelihoods, frustrate their ability to ascend to leadership positions, cause poverty, discrimination and expose them to more violence and abuse.

Priority actions under the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development bring into focus some of the programs that have been implemented by the Gender Affairs Department over the past few years dating from the year 2014 to 2017 which are centered on gender equality.

### PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED

1. **GENDER ISSUES IN THE WORKPLACE**

Researchers have found that for years gender-based issues in the workplace have been a pressing problem throughout the world and merits serious discussion and attention. One of the most prevalent issues is sex-based discrimination where men are given greater preference than women for doing work, accompanied by the fact that women are sexually harassed in the workplace.

There are also other gender issues which arise at the workplace which can lead to stress, low self-esteem and lack of confidence, unproductive workers and conflict in the workplace. The goal of this program is to: “Promote opportunities for decent working conditions in the workplace and to enlighten workers of their rights and benefits.”

The objectives of the program were to:

1. Share information with other coworkers in a group setting
2. Have a better understanding of gender-based issues
3. Promote equality between women and men in the workplace
4. Promote a better working relationship in the workplace
5. Lobby to have sound workplace policies and programs

This program was initiated in 2014 and was effected over a one year period and repeated in February 2018 with participants from the public and private sectors. This program is intended to be an ongoing initiative to be held bi-annually. Sexual harassment in the workplace was recognized as a priority issue, as complaints were shared in strict confidentiality and some were discussed openly at the forum.
Individuals were selected from the public and private sector to represent their workplace as a focal point. There were approximately 93 persons attended with 27 work places from the private and public sector represented.

**Target group:** Private and public sector workers, ages 18 to 60 years

**Challenges/Gaps**

- Individuals, especially government workers, were afraid to speak out openly about the issues they encounter at the workplace due to fear of discrimination or punishment at work.
- Not much support from government own television station in promoting programs.
- Some of the focal points for some of the establishments did not attend all sessions.
- Many of the focal points selected by the employers, managers or supervisors were very reluctant to share information received at the seminars for fear that they may create conflict amongst their superiors.

In 2017 a staff member at the Gender Affairs Department was instructed to conduct research to identify any form of statutory rules, regulations and/or legislation that would support victims who have been exposed to discriminatory/abusive conditions in the workplace and to make recommendations. Unfortunately, no specification was made for sexual harassment in the workplace within the laws of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis.

**RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

- An inclusion about sexual harassment in the workplace must be added as a subsection or be aligned with the terms of another Act with similar definition in order for a person to be punished by law for being guilty of doing such act.
- St. Kitts and Nevis needs to build a legislative framework to offer effective protection against sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Workplace polices are needed which make reference to sexual harassment in the workplace.
- Continued research on best practices in developing sexual harassment policies to ensure that the eventual legislation is adequate.

The other topic that created much interest was, “**Strengthening Women’s Participation in Political Leadership and Public Life**”. The interest was further stoked by the views of male attendees who offered their perspectives as to why women have not been able to ascend to leadership positions in politics. The following views were proffered:-

- Women lack confidence in political leadership and decision-making due to the fact that there exists a prevailing stigma that their rightful place should be in the home taking care of the family.
- Women are not ready to have open representation in decision making for their own business much less a leadership role in politics.
Politics is for males. It is not a woman’s business as a woman would not be able to survive given the tough nature of the job which demands a lot of time and effort.

Women lack the financial resources to run political campaigns.

**Target group:** Private and public sector workers, ages 18 to 60 years.

**CHALLENGES/GAPS**

- The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis has not create a system for training persons in politics or mentorship programs for women in leadership roles. Therefore, there is limited avenues for female political participation at the highest level.
- The media tends to promote the men as political leaders but cast females as incapable and ill-suited.
- The women lack financial resources to run political campaigns.
- Lack of support from other women.
- It’s a cultural belief that only men should be political leaders.
- Men in power often ostracize and sideline women who they perceive as threats to their domain.
- There is no political will from other women who have made it to parliament to empower their cohorts.
- Men think that women have too many responsibilities in their homes and cannot take on the challenges of administering the affairs of the country in a political and leadership role.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Increase avenues for female political participation.
- Conduct Political Campaign Management classes.
- Recognize women in politics and retain them as mentors for young women and girls who have an interest in politics.

Priority Areas covered were: 47, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55 and 56

**2. GENDER SENSITIZATION AWARENESS PROGRAMS**

These are on-going programs that are done with men and boys, women and girls. These include seminars, dramas, interviews, formation of men’s group and radio talk-shows which are done to educate and encourage partnership against Gender-Based Violence.

Some of the topics presented and discussed include:

- “Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Generational Attitude towards Domestic Violence and Gaining the Power to Change”
- “A Price too High to Pay: Understanding the Economic Impact of Domestic Violence on Society”
- “Let’s Talk Man-to-Man: Men Are Abused Too”
“Tackling Gender-Based Violence: A look at how to empower communities against the phenomenon”

**CHALLENGES/GAPS**

- Not many men show an interest in many of the programs offered, as their perception is that gender programs are for women only.
- The local television station seldom promotes or shows gender programs.
- Attendance at forums is often low.
- Personal finances are sometimes used to execute programs.
- Men prefer to get personal invitations to programs, which creates problems for the gender staff and takes up time.
- Shortage of staff at the Gender Affairs Department.
- Most men programs are held after-hours and thus, it creates a problem for the staff members as they have to give up personal time.

Priority Areas covered:  57

Target groups are women and girls, men and boys – All Ages

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Employ more men at the Gender Affairs Department as Gender Officers to assist with men programs
- Gender Affairs should create its own media arm/outlet to promote and to sensitize persons about the programs at the Gender Affairs Department, example, Facebook and other means of social media
- More financial resources should be invested in gender programs
- A direct telephone line with cell phone access should be given to the Gender Affairs Coordinator since most persons only have cell phones. This will eliminate the use of personal phone use.

3. **NON-TRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS FOR WOMEN (NOW)**

This program was initiated in March 2016 and is to be held bi-annually. Over the past years we have seen an increase in the number of women assuming managerial and occupational positions such as head mistresses, bankers, permanent secretaries, lawyers just to name a few. Here on Nevis, we have witnessed very few women working in non-traditional jobs. Accordingly, the Gender Affairs Department decided to create new programs so that women can acquire other critical vocational skills. Some of these are jobs in which women are seldom employed or seen doing. Examples include tile laying, brick laying, plumbing, carpentry, shoe repair, upholstery, painting, heavy equipment operator, general maintenance, refrigeration and construction.

Women should be able to acquire non-traditional jobs without fear of discrimination or inhibition as a result of cultural and social norms. The Gender Affairs Department embarked on this
program that will help women to acquire skills in these non-traditional occupational areas through ‘on the job’ training and training seminars. The goal of this program is to create non-traditional job opportunities for women and to thereby enable them, to acquire job skills that are not often performed by women.

“Why would a woman want to be involved in a non-traditional occupation?”

1. It gives women greater satisfaction by expanding career opportunities.
2. It pays more money.
3. You can be your own boss.
4. A woman can work up to 70 years or as long as she wants doing a non-traditional job.
5. Non-traditional jobs tend to have established career ladders, enabling women to work their way up the ladder.
6. It has many benefits when compared with traditional female jobs.

C H A L L E N G E S / G A P S

- Women are faced with discrimination from the men.
- Women complain of sexual harassment by the males.
- Skilled men are reluctant to train women as some think that the jobs are too strenuous for them and require men only.

T h e T a r g e t G r o u p of women are those that are not skilled, those who would not have completed school, women who have an interest in non-traditional jobs to help to enhance their income and unemployed women.

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

- Promote the program more vigorously.
- Have open forums with skilled men and women who have an interest in gaining skills.
- Attach women to skilled workers to do on the job training.
- Use the STEP (Skills training Empowerment Program) program to help pay women who are doing on the job training.
- Recognize more women who are doing non-traditional jobs.

4. SECOND CHANCE TEEN MOTHERS PROGRAM
The “Second Chance Teen Mother’s Program” provides valuable assistance to teen mothers in the form of counselling, job-finding skills and mentoring. Some of the activities include:

- Professional Development Workshops
- Career Exposition
- Parenting skills training workshops
- Financial assistance program to pay for educational advancement
5. RETIREMENT SEMINAR

This program was initiated to empower employees with the knowledge of better understanding the strategies for a successful and smooth transition to retirement under the theme: “Retirement: A New beginning! Be Prepared!” Topics presented and discussed were:

- Social Protection for Retirees
- Banking and Finance: Building a Solid Financial Foundation
- Preparing Your Mind and Body for Retirement
- Investment Options with the Government Prior to Retirement
- “Life Begins at Retirement”: Entrepreneurship, Self-employment, Second Careers and Fun
- Social Security and Retirement: How the Scheme works for you Before and After Retirement
- The Role of the Ministry/Department of Human Resources in Preparing employees for Retirement
- Insurance - Universal Health Insurance Policies

This program commenced in February 2016 and ran over a four month period with participants from the public and private sectors and is due to be held bi-annually.

6. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

This celebration was brought into full focus in March 2014 and spreads over the entire month of March with many activities. Some of the activities done include:

- Women’s trade show and cultural presentations
- Awards Ceremony and Cocktail for Women of Excellence
- Mom’s Night Out
- Profiling of Women on local radio stations
- Motherhood - A Legacy of Love
- Women’s Forums
- Live radio programs

**Target Groups:** Women and Girls

7. INTERNATIONAL MEN’S DAY CELEBRATION

This celebration was brought into full focus in November 2013 and continues through the entire month of November with many activities, including:-

- Radio Talk Shows and Panel Discussions
- Profiling of men on local radio
- Morning Devotions on local radio stations
- Social Evenings with educational seminar and games
• Health Walks and a Bike-a-thon
• Collaborating with other community men’s groups and the Health Promotion Unit to raise awareness on men’s health and social issues.
• Leadership and motivational seminars for men
• Awards Ceremony for men who have made significant contributions to the community, family and who also stand out as role models

**Target Groups:** Men and Boys

### 8. UNITED NATIONS WOMEN’S 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This campaign was focused on the Sustainable Development Goals with emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind. Highlights for this program included:

• Educational talks on domestic violence in the secondary schools
• Street Interviews with the general citizenry on issues of domestic violence
• Walk-a-thon and Bike-a-thon

**Target Groups:** Men and Boys, Women and Girls
3.2 – Analysis of the Implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development

The indicators and priority areas articulated in the Montevideo Consensus Report have shown that the Nevis Island Administration has made great strides in key areas of development as it relates to a wide cross section of the island’s population. Some programs have been successful for decades. The implementation of the programs fall in line with the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

The NIA is also working strategically to implement the 2030 SDGs. The report indicates that many of the strategies that have been developed to address poverty, education and sustainable development are as a direct result of adherence to local, regional and international commitments.

The challenges that are being faced in the areas of finance for adequate funding of programs is a direct result of the large debt owed by the Federation and the subsequent tightening of the government’s purse. Inadequate funding invariably has a long standing negative fallout on vulnerable populations that depend on government to subsidize all areas of livelihood.

The enormous challenge associated with lack of data to support the success of programs and inform future plans leaves a major void in ascertaining practical and tangible outcomes to many of the programs. That issue is longstanding, where programs are done without proper collation of data, monitoring and evaluation of the programs.

The lack of the ability to advance draft policies through the legislative process is evident by the number of important draft policies that have been worked on for several years without being passed into law. Many of the programs now being implemented are as a result of the intentions of such draft policies.

This Montevideo Consensus Report is a baseline document that will serve as a key tool in assessing the NIA’s commitment to implementing the priority areas of the Montevideo Consensus at all levels of development from 2014 to 2018 and beyond. It also brings to the forefront some of the successful programs that have turned out to be best practices.
FOURTH PART

4.1 – Conclusion

Reporting on the Montevideo Consensus is a valuable opportunity to evaluate how the country is progressing in terms of its local, regional and international commitments. The Nevis Island Administration 2018 Montevideo Report on Population and Development successfully articulates the progress made in St. Kitts and Nevis in the areas of full integration of population dynamics into sustainable development with equality and respect for human rights; the rights, needs, responsibilities and requirements of girls, boys, adolescents and youth; aging, social protection and socio-economic challenges; universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and gender equality.

The report can be used as a roadmap to help ministries, departments and development stakeholders to stay on course with population development initiatives. The report can also be used as a vital tool to attract funding and other resources needed to reach the relevant goals articulated and to advance the socio-economic interests of vulnerable groups and the country on a whole.