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The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014

Outcome of the Caribbean Forum on Population, Migration and Development

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The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014

I: Population Dynamics, Youth, Ageing, Poverty and Inequality

II: Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

III: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

IV: International Migration

2

Part I

Population Dynamics, Youth, Ageing, Poverty and Inequality

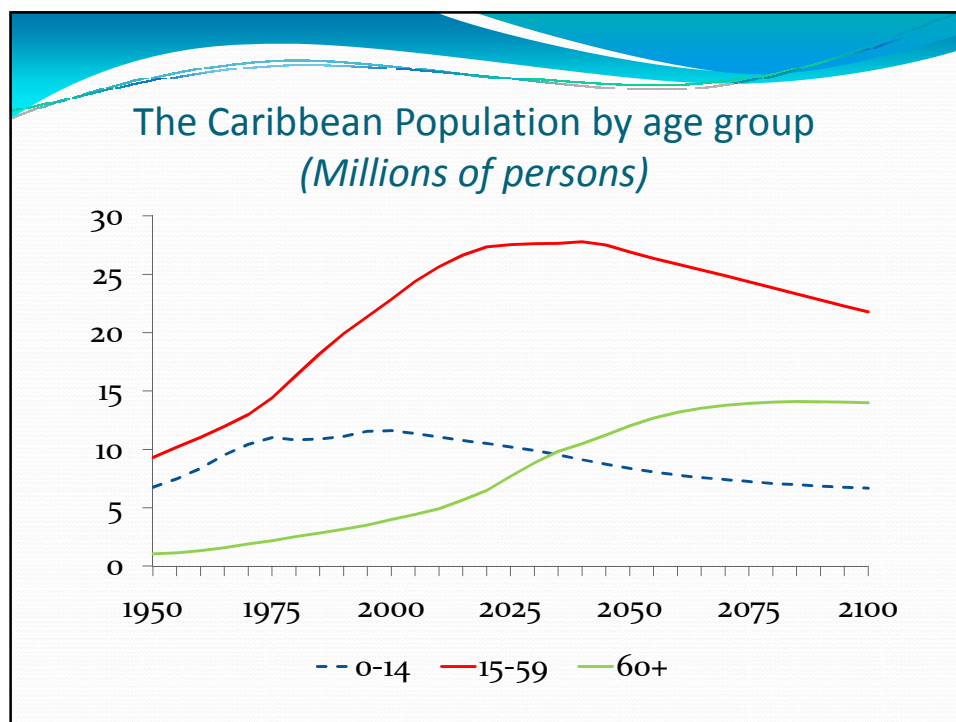## Poverty and Inequality in the Caribbean

- Extreme poverty eliminated except in Belize, Suriname, and Guyana

- Poverty persists

- Continuing high levels of inequality

- Uneven growth

- Severe impact of the global economic crisis

Determinants of Poverty and Inequality

- **Unemployment and underemployment**
- **Low skill, low productively, low pay work**
- **Extensive informal sector in some countries**
- **Weak social protection systems**
- **Single parent households**
- **Adolescent pregnancy**
- **Urban Rural differentials**

The Way Forward

- Promote measures to reduce poverty and inequality
- Encourage the development of economic sectors that will deliver high quality jobs
- Strengthen investment in human capital to maximize the benefit of the demographic dividend
- Introduction of a social protection floor with gradual improvements to the level of coverage
- Invest in children and adolescents to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty
- Labour market information systems should be strengthened to facilitate the skills match required by employers

The Caribbean Population by age group
(Millions of persons)

0-14   15-59   60+

Economic Security of Older Persons

- Only those in formal sector employment receive earnings related pensions
- Some countries provide non-contributory pensions although in most cases they are very low
- Some older persons still do not receive any form of pension
- Some older persons work beyond retirement age although often in informal employment
- Ability to work is limited by age, health or disability which can lead to poverty
- Coverage of social security systems and non-contributory pensions need to be improved

Social Participation of Older Persons, Equality, and Protection against Discrimination

- Loneliness and isolation is a major problem for older persons – men are more likely to report loneliness
- Financial situation, health and geographic location limit social participation
- Associations of older persons work to enhance the quality of life and represent the interests of older persons
- There is a need to promote a positive image of older persons and involve them in decision-making
- The rights of older persons need to be enshrined in legislation in order to protect against all forms discrimination, violence and abuse

Progress towards realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities

- Inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream education through the provision of support assistants
- Provide persons with disabilities with decent and appropriate work, as well as social protection
- Improved access to buildings and public spaces, as well as appropriate and affordable transportation
- Improved habitation and rehabilitation services through provision of prostheses, assistive devices, and training
- Provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services
- Legislation relating to disabilities
- Increase availability of data about persons with disabilities

Special measures to address the needs of adolescents and youth

- Ensure universal access to free, quality, comprehensive education (including formal, informal and vocational)
- Support and promote the rights of adolescents and youth to economic security by fostering youth employment, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities
- Eliminate violence against girls and boys
- Promote young people's leadership skills and ensure their meaningful participation in policy and decision making processes
- Establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms, policies and programmes for youth and adolescents

Part II

Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women

Challenges

- Employment discrimination and stereotyping

- Unpaid Work in the home and as carers a largely unrecognised contribution to national economies

- Low representation in political decision-making

- The Caribbean has one of the highest rates of sexual violence in the world

- Data gaps; lack of gender disaggregated data

The Way Forward

- Institutional strengthening and capacity development of National Women's/Gender Bureaux
- Quotas to increase female participation in national politics
- Policies to encourage women to take up leadership roles in the public and private sector
- Promote the inclusion of women in the formal employment sector and equal pay for equal work
- Develop initiatives for women in rural areas to gain skills and to have access to micro credit, and encourage entrepreneurship
- Strengthen legislation for the protection of women, girls and boys from abuse and sexual violence
- Outlaw child marriage

Part III

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Towards universal access to SRH services and rights

- Ensure the right of women to choose
- SRH services to prevent unwanted and unplanned pregnancies
- Remove all barriers to access
- Address anomalies related to the age of consent to sex, age of marriage and access to SRH services
- Provide safe legal termination of pregnancies
- Eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity
- Protect the human rights of people living with HIV

Towards universal access to SRH and rights

- Increase access of men and boys to SRH services and rights
- Design comprehensive HFLE programmes
- Train health care providers and educators with respect to the delivery of youth friendly SRH programmes
- Ensure that victims of gender-based violence have access to emergency contraception, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention and access to safe abortion services within the law
- Provide comprehensive SRH services with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable populations

Part IV

International Migration

International Migration: Barrier or Facilitator to Development?

THE COSTS:

- Brain Drain
- Lost return on investment in human capital
- Breakdown/disintegration of families – 'barrel children'

THE BENEFITS:

- acquisition of skills and employment opportunities
- Remittances
- the contribution of the diaspora including investment, development of businesses, the transfer of knowledge and skills, and the development of beneficial networks

Policies to Leverage Migration for Development

- Build capacity with the support of the diaspora including skills and technology transfer
- Encourage and support short and long term returning diaspora and facilitate greater interaction with the diaspora
- Promote diaspora direct and indirect investment
- Promote cultural exchange between the diaspora and locals to maintain cultural identity
- Promote circular migration to facilitate skills transfers
- Facilitate flows of remittances

Policies to Leverage Migration for Development

- Facilitate and encourage training in financial management of remittances
- Develop diaspora bonds
- Meet skills shortages through managed immigration
- Strengthen policies and support programmes for families of migrants
- Harmonise the implementation of the Free Movement Regime of the CSME
- Build capacity to manage borders in order to reduce irregular migration and trafficking in persons
- Ensure the human rights of migrants are protected

Conclusion

- The Cairo Programme set out an ambitious set of goals and objectives aimed, ultimately, at "meeting the needs and improving the quality for life of present and future generations"
- This review has shown that population concerns, and the ICPD Programme, remain of critical importance to the future sustainable development of the Caribbean
- The Road Map for Population, Migration and Development beyond 2014 makes a series of recommendations which would go a long way to completing implementation of the Cairo Programme