



**THE GOVERNMENT
OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE
AND
DEVELOPMNET**

'CREATING A WORLD FIT FOR CHILDREN'



May 14-18, 2007

Inter American Symposium





PRESENTERS



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

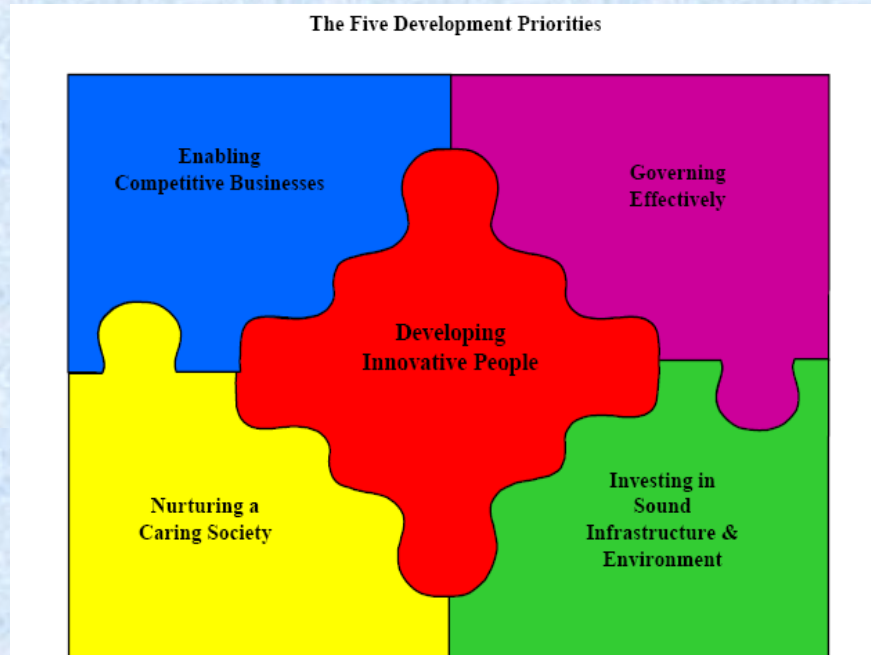


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VISION 2020 Draft National Strategic Plan: “A Model for Development”



Government's focus on early education through “comprehensive provision for child care” (vision 2020 page 5)



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Contextual Background



- The Millennium Development Goals
- The Goals of the world fit for children
- The UN convention on the rights of the child
- UNESCO's Education for All Goals
- The Caribbean Plan of Action



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Contextual Background



- Government's Vision 2020
- National Legislation-the Education Act
 - the Public Order Act
- - the Public Ordinance Chapter 12
 - the Environment Management Authority



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Collaboration of Services



- Champions of the collaborative process are: all the Ministries, and other stakeholders under the umbrella of the National Council for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCECCE)



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Ministry of Education



- Mandate for National Human development .
- Alignment of key activities of the Ministry of Education to meet set goals for National Human development .

Strategic Initiatives

- Seamless Education System including ECCE
- Restructuring and Transformation of the Sector



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Ministry of Education, cont'd



- Curriculum Reform
- Student Support Services
- Teacher Professional Development
- National Model for Education



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Early Childhood Care and Education



- Early childhood care and education offers support, learning, care and development for children under six. It includes all settings providing informal programmes to children families and communities. The settings include: day care centres, ECCE centres, nursery schools, and kindergartens.



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Early Childhood Care and Education



- The MOE's seamless approach to education has placed ECCE among priorities to drive modernization and transformation process.
- Facilitates smooth transition from ECCE to the tertiary level .
- Seamless movement of students as they acquire the requisite knowledge, skills, dispositions and attitudes required for success



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Early Childhood Care and Education



- State involvement since 1970
- Collaborative Alliance with NGOs and Community Based Groups
- Development of sector influenced by global, regional and national initiatives
- Emphasis on access, quality and equity



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Access: Birth to Three Enrollment

(National Survey, 2002)



Geographic Area	Private	NGOs	Institution	Total
St. George	597	072	002	671
Caroni	185	037	000	222
North Eastern	010	009	000	019
Victoria	117	067	008	192
St. Patrick	035	001	000	36
Tobago	068	038	002	108
 Total	1012	224	012	1248

LIVES

in Education!



Quality Standards for Children from Birth to Three



- Infant and Toddler Care
- Interaction
- Organisation
- Physical Resources
- Learning Opportunity
- Observation, Record-Keeping and Planning
- Rest Period
- Transition



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Access: Three to Five

Distribution by Centre Type and Student Population (ECCE Survey Report 2004-2005)



Educational District	Gov't and Gov't Assisted Centres		Private Centres		Total	
	No. Centres	No. Children	No. Centres	No. Children	No. Centres	No. Children
P.O.S & Environs	24	937	145	4753	169	5690
St George East	21	771	247	6758	268	7529
North Eastern	17	384	37	1093	54	1477
South Eastern	24	947	37	1220	61	2167
Caroni	23	806	131	3286	154	4092
Victoria	27	1068	99	3153	126	4221
St. Patrick	19	689	73	2083	92	2769
Sub-Total Trinidad	155	5599	769	22346	924	27945
Tobago	15	580	36	1160	51	1740
Trinidad & Tobago	170	6179	805	23506	975	29685



National ECCE Policy Initiatives



- Development of the National ECCE Curriculum Guide
- Teacher Development Policy
- Governance and Management Policy
- Universal Access for 30,000 children



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National ECCE Policy Initiatives



- Education Policy Paper, 1993 – 2003
- Universal access for 30,000 children.
- National Policy on Standards for Regulating Early Childhood Services
- Construction of 600 standardized centres
- Legislative Reform -Education Act

National Standards



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National ECCE Policy Initiatives



Governance and Management Policy

- Capacity Building
- Improved economic status-increased wages
- Provision of adequate and appropriate resources



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Resources at ECCECentre



EMPOWERING
TRANSFORMING
LIVES

in Education!

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The Way Forward



- Learning from shared experiences
- Policy development for 0-3 years
- Full development of the ECCE Sector from 0-5 years



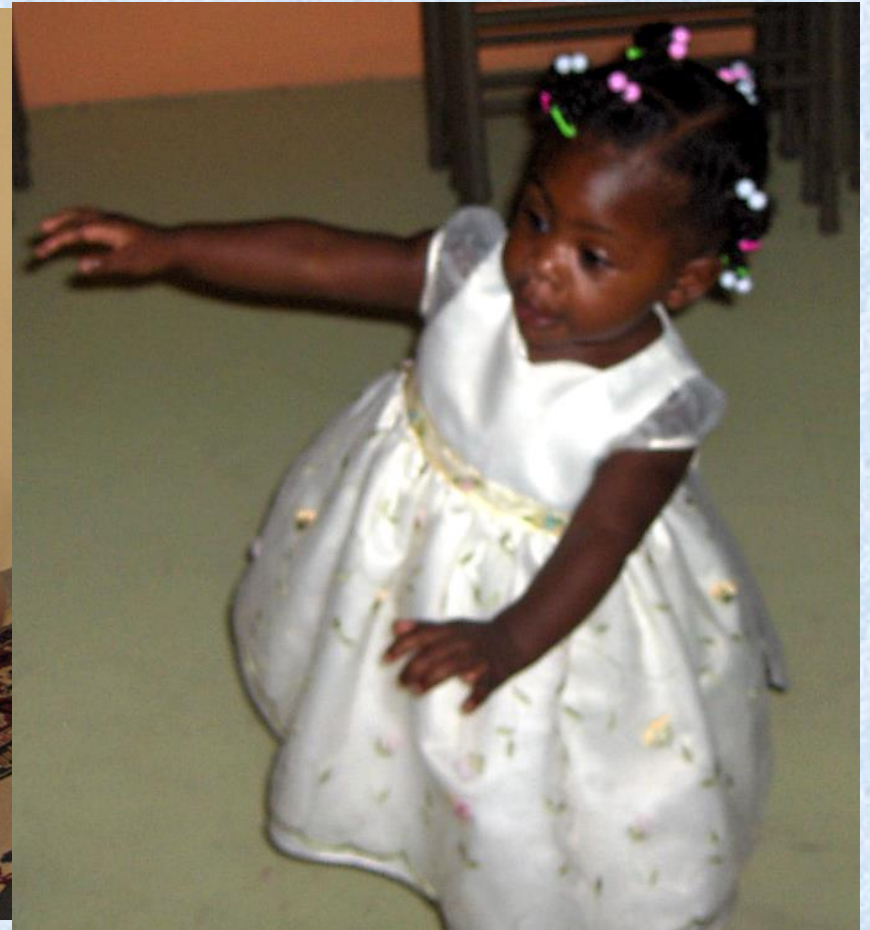
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Ministry of Health



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Policies and Services for Young Children Under Three Years Ministry of Health



Policies and Manuals

- Maternal and Child Health Manual for Trinidad and Tobago
- Prevention of mother to child Transmission (HIV) Policy (PMTCT) (Draft)
- Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) Policy (Draft)
- National Breast Feeding Policy (Draft)
- Immunization Manual for Health Professionals 3rd Ed.
- Public Health (Nursery School and Primary School Immunization) Act Chap. 28:03
- National School Health Policy (Draft)



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Services Provided...



- Trinidad and Tobago has adopted the “continuum of care” approach to maternal, neonatal and child health which span from antenatal, childbirth, postpartum into childhood.
- Emphasis is placed on antenatal and postnatal care and care of the newborn
- Pregnant women are given free ante natal care.
- Blood testing for Hb ,HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.
- Iron and folic acid tablets given to all pregnant women.



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Services Provided...



- Health education given on topics pertaining to the stage of pregnancy, nutrition and the importance of breast feeding.
- Six weeks appointment for post natal examination of infants and mothers. Home visits to infants and mother after birth.
- Exclusive breast feeding from birth to 6 months encouraged.
- Surveillance of babies born with low birth weight.
- Monitoring of growth and development 0-5years
- Baby friendly hospitals.
- Infants born to HIV+ mothers provided with milk formula every month (Replacement Feed Assistance).



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Services Provided...



- Children are referred to specialist. Growth monitoring and assessment .
- Oral care from 2 1/2 years, oral examination, counseling on brushing techniques, nutrition and healthy snacks.
- Expanded Programme of Immunization schedule is designed to have all infants comprehensively immunized against the vaccine preventable diseases.



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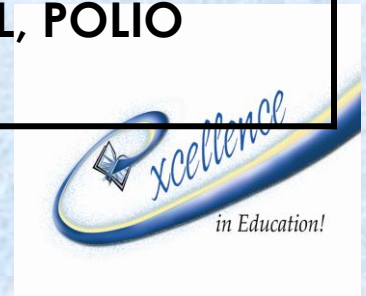
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IMMUNIZATION



DOSE	AGE	TYPE OF IMMUNIZATION
1ST	3MTHS	PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO
2ND	4-5MTHS	PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO
3RD	6MTHS	PENTAVALENT ORAL POLIO
	12-15 MTHS	YELLOW FEVER, MMR,
1 ST BOOSTERS	1-2 YEARS	DPT, ORAL, POLIO





Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre.



- Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre is a project of the Ministry of Health .It is the only one of its kind in the country.
- The object of the centre was to develop within one complex a variety of social services for the preschool child.



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Inter-Disciplinary Child Development Centre.



- The functions of the centre are to provide early child health services to include breast feeding.
- To provide a day care centre and a nursery school .
- To offer research and training in early child hood stimulation.



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Sick Children Specialist Services



- Port of Spain General Hospital – Neonatal Care Unit.
- Ministry of Health provides free Antiretroviral Treatment to persons with HIV/AIDS accessing the Public Health Facilities



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Sick Children Specialist Services



- ❑ **Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex-(EWMSC)**
Pediatric Care and specialist services such as
Oncology ,cardiology .
- ❑ **EWMSC TELEHEALTH** initiative launched in 2005. It
provides local health professionals with connections
to consultants from the sick children hospital in
Toronto Canada



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MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



- The Ministry of Development is the core social sector Ministry responsible for coordinating the implementation of Government's social development objectives. Our overarching goal is to ensure the effective functioning of the social sector, towards improving the standard of living of all citizens – particularly those at risk.



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SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY - FOCUS ON THE FAMILY



- **Income Support for Families**
 - Public Assistance Grant
 - Conditional Cash Transfer Programme
 - Subventions to Non-Governmental Organizations



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SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY - FOCUS ON FAMILY



- National Policy on the Family
- Parenting Education Programmes:
 - National Parenting Programme
 - Support Programme for Parents
 - Adolescent Mothers programme



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POVERTY REDUCTION



- Improvement of delivery of poverty reduction services through Regional Social Human Development Councils:
 - Micro-project fund
 - Micro-credit fund
 - Network of information and resource centres



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POVERTY REDUCTION



- Strengthening of the Institutional Framework for poverty reduction
- Strengthening of the information system on poverty and poverty reduction programmes



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IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN THROUGH LEGISLATION



- **The Children's Amendment Act**
- **The Children's Community Residence, Foster Homes and Nurseries Amendment Act**
- **Adoption of Children Amendment Act**
- **Status of Children Amendment Bill**
- **Family Court Bill**
- **International Child Abduction Bill**
- **The Children's Authority Act**

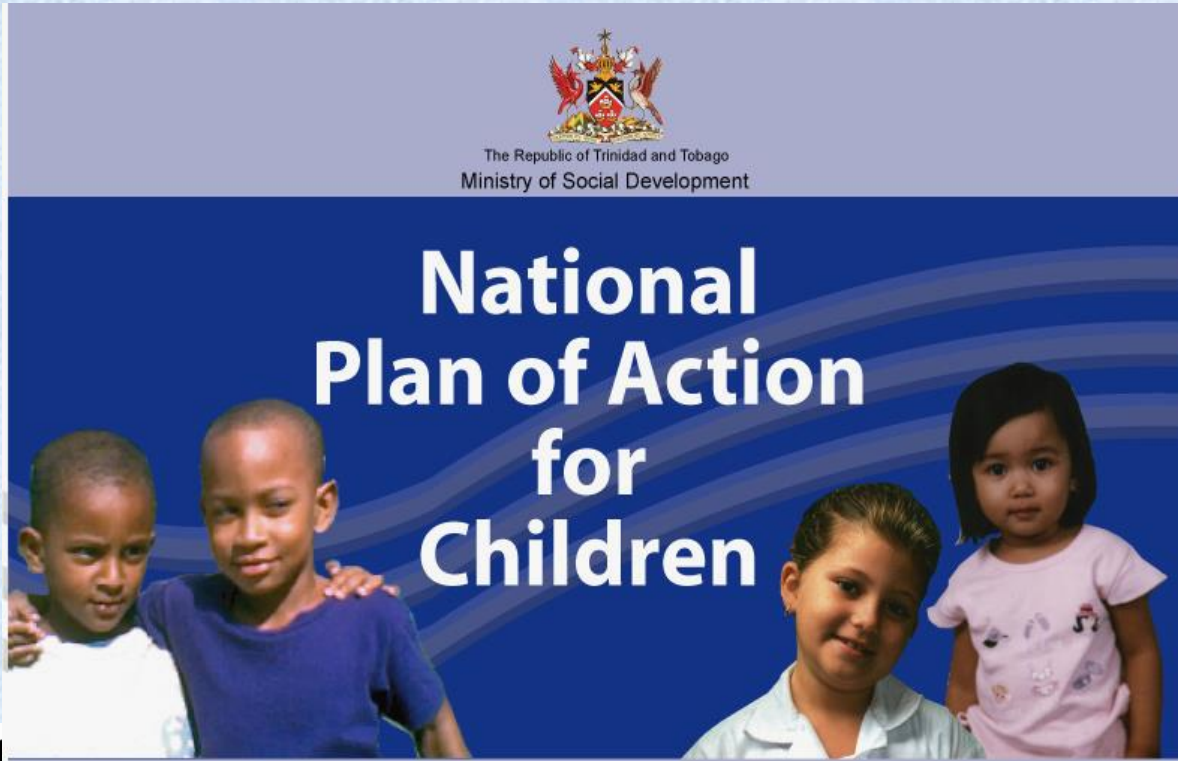


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IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN THROUGH COORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES



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IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE NATION'S CHILDREN THROUGH COORDINATION OF PROGRAMMES



The National Plan of Action for Children identifies 4 major priority areas for action across the Governmental and Non-Governmental sectors:

Promoting Healthy Lives

- ❖ **Providing Quality Education**
- ❖ **Protecting Against Abuse, Exploitation and Violence**
- ❖ **Combating HIV/AIDS**



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The Government of Trinidad and Tobago

Creating a World Fit For Children



- Socially, our human resources have been given high priority in the development of national strategies which are outlined in the Government's strategic plan for development as articulated in the Vision 2020 document. The goal is to improve the quality of life of all citizens through poverty eradication, universal access to education ensuring equity and quality, empowerment of women and universal access to high quality health services.



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Collaboration of Services



- All the Ministries and Tobago House of Assembly are involved in the process.
- There is a national collaborative approach across all ministries towards achieving national development



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Collaboration of Services



- Emphasis is placed on the family structure and communities, as well as education and the health of the people



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Thank you



THE END





- Trinidad and Tobago is a twin-island Republic at the southern-most end of the Caribbean archipelago, with a population of approximately 1.3 million people of diverse races. This diversity has a significant impact on the national policy initiatives of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago which are premised on a philosophy of inclusion regardless of ethnicity, gender or social background.



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A Model for Development



- Trinidad and Tobago has articulated “Vision 2020” -- a programme for the economic, political and social development of the country – whereby Trinidad and Tobago will attain developed country status by the Year 2020.
- Five development priorities have been identified and central to the achievement of these priorities is the development of innovative people. Since the strong link to human resource development is the quality of the education system, the Ministry of Education has been given the mandate for creating the enabling environment that will facilitate the achievement of national human development. The Millennium Development Goal and the goals of the “World Fit for Children” document are in cohesion with our vision for a caring society by the year 2020:”citizens are well educated, embrace diversity and have their basic and special needs adequately and



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