

INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS ON RH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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National Assembly Member for
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HIV/AIDS

Prevalence

- **2.1%** for HIV1 and **0.8%** for HIV2 among women 15-49 years old attending antenatal clinic
 - HIV1 is now the main virus driving the epidemic in The Gambia; whilst HIV2 seems to be on the decline
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Actions

- in 2000 President Jammeh issued a call to action for all Gambians to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS and stated that no Gambian should be dismissed from a position because of a positive HIV status
 - Establishment of a National AIDS Council and National AIDS Secretariat in 2001
 - In 2003 the Gambia developed a 5-year National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan
 - The President's herbal treatment
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Maternal and Child Health: Current situation

- The infant mortality rate (IMR) also declined from 167 (1983) to 84 (1993) and 75 (2003) per thousand live births
 - Under-five mortality declined from 135 in 1993 to 99 per thousand live births in 2003
 - The maternal mortality rate (MMR) is 730 per 100,000 live births (2001)
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Actions taken

- ❑ Support of low cost, village-level health services
 - ❑ Provision of basic curative and preventive services in health centres and hospitals
 - ❑ Establishment of an effective immunisation programme
 - ❑ The development of a health policy for the period 1994-2000
 - ❑ The introduction of 6 Divisional Health Teams : Decentralisation of health service management;
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- ❑ Cost-recovery initiatives and the continuation of the Bamako initiative in 6 locations
 - ❑ Building of new district hospitals
 - ❑ Extensive maternal and child health programme also included family planning and AIDS prevention activities
 - ❑ Extension of the Primary Health Care system
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CONT.

- Health promotion and prevention of chronic diseases;
 - Strengthening the technical capacity and improving the quality of the health services at all levels;
 - Community participation in health promotion and disease prevention as well as financing and management of health services
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- Collaboration with the private sector;
 - Inclusion of contraceptives in annual budget as a first step toward ensuring the availability and sustainability of RH Commodity Security
 - Presidential pronouncement on free RH care for all Gambian women of childbearing age
 - Establishment of various advocacy networks
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WOMEN'S RIGHT: Actions Taken

- ❑ institutionalization of gender mainstreaming mechanisms, including Gender Focal Points in sectoral departments,
 - ❑ Enactment and implementation of the CEDAW
 - ❑ The establishment of the National Women's Council and the Women's Bureau
 - ❑ Wide dissemination of the National Women's Policy and CEDAW both at local and national levels
 - ❑ Introduction of the President's Empowerment of Girls Education Project
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YOUTHS: Current situation

- ❑ 42 per cent of the population under the age of 15 years and 22 per cent aged between 15 and 24 years
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ACTIONS TAKEN

- Improvement of The SRH of youth through the incorporation of access to information and services on sexual and reproductive health in adolescent health related programmes
 - The introduction of adolescent sexual and reproductive health services youth-friendly Reproductive Health Centres
 - The establishment of youth advocacy groups like the National Youth Parliament and the Network of Adolescents and Youth on Population and Development
 - The institutionalisation of POP/FLE in both formal and non-formal institutions
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KEY CONSTRAINTS AND LESSONS LEARNT

- The timely development and implementation of an effective resource mobilization strategy to support the population programme;
 - The importance of establishing partnerships and networking with key members of civil society to promote population and development initiatives;
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- The availability of reliable and relevant data sources to monitor progress in achieving programme objectives using a results-based approach
 - Socio-cultural beliefs and practices
 - High illiteracy among women
 - Oppositions from the conservative religious groups
 - Youthful population
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**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND
ATTENTION**
