

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE  
CHILD  
RESPONSES TO ISSUES TO BE TAKEN UP IN CONSIDERATION OF THE  
INITIAL REPORT OF THE BAMAMAS (CRC/C/8/Add50)**

**A. Data and Statistics**

1. **Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age groups, migrant groups, including those without proper documentation, islands, urban and remote areas) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 on the number and proportion of children under 18 living in the State party.**

There is no disaggregated statistical data available at the Department of Statistics for the years 2001 – 2003.

2. **In light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide additional data disaggregated for the years 2002, 2003 and 2004, on budget allocations and trends (in absolute figures and percentages of the national and local budgets and/or GDP) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:**

While no specific allocation has been made for the implementation of the Convention, allocations are provided in various Ministries to provide for services to children and their families.

**2(a) education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary education**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>ABSOLUTE TOTAL</b>	<b>% TOTAL NATIONAL BUDGET</b>
	<b>(MILLION - B\$)*</b>	
<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>210.3</b>	<b>19.9</b>
<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>206.7</b>	<b>17.4</b>
<b>2003/2004</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>20</b>

**\*CAPITAL + RECURRENT BUDGET**

**The Ministry of Education is unable to provide data disaggregated by type of education.**

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**2(b) health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, vaccination programmes, adolescent health care and other health care services for children, including social insurance);**

**2(b)(i) Health Care (Different Types of Health Services)**

	<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>
<b>MCH</b>	<b>\$ 54,954.00</b>	<b>\$56,538.00</b>	<b>\$56,538.00</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adolescence Health</li> <li>• Education Management</li> <li>• SCAN (suspected Child Abuse)and Neglect</li> <li>• School Health</li> <li>• Other Child Health Related Programmes</li> </ul>			
<b>Vaccination Programmes</b>	<b>\$ 21,672.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,350.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,922.00</b>
<b>Neuro Developmental Services</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 91,000.00</b>

**Source: Ministry of Health**

**NOTE:**

- 1. Prevailing Public Policy mandates that primary health care is provided free of charge for all children who reside in The Bahamas, including children of documented and undocumented immigrants.**
- 2. The amounts shown are primarily for new initiatives to be undertaken in the respective periods, and do not include recurrent expenses and personal emoluments. It had been estimated that primary care programmes for children cost the Government in excess of \$500,000.00 per year, which also does not take into account capital development projects aimed at improving access to quality community health services for children e.g. Neonatal Intensive Care, Neuro-developmental Services and Psychiatric Care.**

**2(b)(ii) National Drug Council-Programmes and Activities  
2003**

<b>Intervention Programmes (School)</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>
<b>Youth Family and Community Leaders (Hobbies Fair, Jr. Junkanoo, Youth Seminars)</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>
<b>Family Island Demand Reduction Programme</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>

**Source: Ministry of Health**

**2(b)(iii) Health Care (Related to Social Insurance)**

The National Insurance Board (NIB) a statutory body provides social insurance through survivors and assistance benefits. The chart below notes survivors and assistance benefit payments to 21 years.

**SURVIVORS' BENEFIT PAYMENTS (up to 21 years of age)**

<b>SURVIVORS BENEFIT PAYMENTS (up to 21 years of age)</b>			
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>SBD</b>	<b>1,008,044</b>	<b>1,022,897</b>	<b>959,102</b>
<b>SBO</b>	<b>437,091</b>	<b>477,851</b>	<b>430,227</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,447,136</b>	<b>1,502,750</b>	<b>1,391,332</b>
<b>SAD</b>	<b>665,361</b>	<b>602,907</b>	<b>515,770</b>
<b>SAO</b>	<b>409,251</b>	<b>402,437</b>	<b>349,592</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,074,613</b>	<b>1,005,345</b>	<b>865,362</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,521,749</b>	<b>2,508,094</b>	<b>2,256,695</b>

**KEY:**  
**SBD - Survivors' Benefit Dependent**  
**SBO - Survivors' Benefit Orphan**  
**SAD - Survivors' Assistance Dependent**  
**SAO -Survivors' Assistance Orphan**

## 2 (c) Support Programmes For Families

### (i) Department of Social Services' Safety Net

#### Support Programme for Families

National Lunch Programme Allocation.

	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004
<b>National Lunch</b>	<b>989,800</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>
<b>Department's Total Budget</b>	<b>\$19,970,912</b>	<b>\$21,835,070</b>	<b>\$22,386,762</b>
<b>National Budget</b>	<b>\$1,125,368,299</b>	<b>\$1,190,024,326</b>	<b>\$1,207,782,879</b>
<b>% of Department's Total</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>% of National Budget</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>

Financial Assistance

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
<b>Foster Care, Clothing &amp; Subsistence Allowance</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>	<b>\$1,699,383</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>Department's Total Budget</b>	<b>\$19,970,912</b>	<b>\$21,835,070</b>	<b>\$22,386,762</b>
<b>National Budget</b>	<b>\$1,125,368,299</b>	<b>\$1,190,024,326</b>	<b>\$1,207,782,879</b>
<b>% of Department's Total</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>% of National Budget</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
<b>Child Care Assistants</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>

**Source: Department of Social Services**

### **Expenditure for Food Assistance to Families**

<b>2001/2002/</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
<b>\$2,725,409</b>	<b>\$2,549,329</b>	<b>\$2,385,897</b>

### **Grants to Non-Governmental Organizations for Support Programmes for Families**

#### **Support Programmes for Families**

<b>INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>2000-2001 BH\$</b>	<b>2001-2002 BH\$</b>	<b>2002-2003 BH\$</b>
<b>Bahamas Red Cross/Milk Scheme</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Bahamas Planned Parenthood Association</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>19,000.00</b>
<b>Family Life Centre – Flamingo Gardens</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>
<b>Salvation Army Emergency Shelter</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>	<b>75,00.00</b>	<b>75,000.00</b>
<b>Links/Safe House for Women</b>			<b>75,000.00</b>
<b>Elizabeth Estates Children Home</b>	<b>299,890.00</b>	<b>299,890.00</b>	<b>299,890.00</b>
<b>The Nazareth Centre</b>	<b>150,00.00</b>	<b>150,00.00</b>	<b>150,00.00</b>
<b>Ranfurly Homes for Children</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>	<b>28,000.00</b>
<b>Bilney Lane</b>	<b>75,810.00</b>	<b>75,810.00</b>	<b>75,810.00</b>
<b>Great Commissions</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>

**Source: Department of Social Services**

**(ii) Budget Allocation with the Ministry of Education for  
Support Programmes for Families**

<b>Areas</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
<b>Special Services</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
<b>Sensitivity Programme</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
<b>Guidance Counseling Education Testing Supplies</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>
<b>Special Education Travel</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**2 (d) (i) Children with Disabilities;**

	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>	<b>2003/2004</b>
<b>Disability Affairs Division Operating Budget *</b>	<b>220,500</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>

- This is the total budget for the Division, which includes programmes and services for children and families.

In the 2004/2005 Budget funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 were placed in the Department of Social Services budget specifically for children with disabilities under sixteen years for families with little income.

**2(d)(ii) ANNUAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING  
PROGRAMMES FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WITH  
DISABILITIES**

<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>2001-2002 Annual Amount</b>	<b>2002-2003 Annual Amount</b>	<b>2003-2004 Annual Amount</b>
	<b>BH\$</b>	<b>BH\$</b>	<b>BH\$</b>
<b>Bahamas Association for Physically Disabled</b>	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
<b>Disabled Persons' Organization</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Training Center for the Disabled</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Bahamas Northern Council for Disability</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Bahamas Infant Stimulation</b>	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00
<b>Bahamas National Council for the Disability</b>	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
<b>Abilities Unlimited</b>	10,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
<b>Hopedale Centre</b>	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00

**Source: Department of Social Services**

**Ministry of Social Services & Community  
Development**



**2 (e) The protection of children who are in need of alternative care including care institutions;**

**BUDGET  
ALLOCATIONS FOR  
THE SUPPORT OF  
CARE  
INSTITUTIONS**

<b>INSTITUTIONS</b>	<b>2000-2001 Annual Amount</b>	<b>2001-2002 Annual Amount</b>	<b>2002-2003 Annual Amount</b>
<b>Bahamas Children's Emergency Hostel</b>	\$ 156,830.00	\$156,830.00	\$ 156,830.00
<b>Salvation Army Emergency Shelter</b>	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
<b>Elizabeth Estates Children's Home</b>	\$ 299,890.00	\$299,890.00	\$ 299,890.00
<b>The Nazareth Center</b>		\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
<b>Bilney Lane Children's Home</b>	\$ 75,810.00	\$ 75,810.00	\$ 75,810.00
<b>Columbus House for Girls/Harmony House</b>	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
<b>Old Bight Mission, Cat Island</b>		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
<b>Colby House for Boys</b>	\$ 52,992.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00

<b>Grand Bahama Children's Home</b>	\$ 150,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
<b>Ranfurly Homes For Children</b>	\$ 28,000.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$913,521,000.00	\$1,034,300.00	\$1,181,322.00

<b>Foster Care Allowance</b>	<b>\$ 457,600.00</b>	<b>457,600.00</b>
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**Source: Department of Social Services**

**2(f) Programmes and activities for the prevention and protection from child abuse, child sexual exploitation and child labour;**

The budgets of the programmes and activities noted below are included in the total budgets of Health, Education and Social Services. The disaggregated data is not available at this time.

**2 (f) (i) MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

Joint efforts with the Crisis Centre and Department of Social Services are geared towards the empowerment of Teachers, Guidance Counselors, School Attendance Officers and School Psychologists through professional development activities. A referral protocol involving sexual exploitation and child labour has been established. This Ministry conducts a series of Parent First Training for families of children in some special and regular schools.

**2 (f)(ii) DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES,  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Child Abuse Prevention Month activities take place in the month of April to sensitize the community to protect children from the scourge of child abuse.

Workshops on parenting are presented and are of seven weeks in duration. These are provided to assist in the development of effective parenting skills in clients referred to the Department.

Every November, Rehabilitation Month Activities focus on some aspect of the protection of juveniles with special emphasis on those involved in the criminal justice system.

A 24- hour Child Abuse Hotline is provided by the Department of Social Services to receive reports of child abuse to enable follow up counseling for children and parents. The Department also hosts a Bi-Monthly Radio Programme, which includes issues affecting children.

## **2 (f) (iii) MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

- Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) Team - brings together a multi-disciplinary team to intervene with and treat children who have been sexually abused.
- Adolescent Health Centre – provides health care for adolescents and an opportunity for them to access health information.
- Parent Craft Programmes - provided at the community clinics throughout the archipelago for expectant mothers and recently begun offering sessions for fathers.

- Child and Adolescent Unit at the Sandilands Rehabilitative Centre – provides in and out patient care for children who are emotionally ill or development delayed.
- Neuro-developmental Clinic – provides an early intervention programme for at risk infants and children.

## **2(f) (iv) Non Governmental Organizations**

### **The Crisis Centre**

The Centre offers a comprehensive child and family violence treatment programme with the full range of services:

- Crisis intervention
- Court accompaniment
- Case management
- Long term treatment for victims
- Support and therapeutic services to non-offending caregivers
- Support and therapeutic services for family members
- Advocacy
- Community education
- 24 Hour Hot Line

The Centre receives an annual grant from the Government in the amount of \$30,000.

## 2 (g) Juvenile Justice

The Simpson Penn Centre for Boys and the Willie Mae Pratt Centre for Girls are residential treatment facilities for children and young persons between 10-16 years of age. The budget allocation for specified years are as follows:

	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4
<b>Simpson Penn Budget</b>	<b>550,461</b>	<b>697,104</b>	<b>732,021</b>
<b>Willie Mae Pratt Budget</b>	<b>495,820</b>	<b>621,852</b>	<b>654,177</b>
<b>National Budget</b>	<b>1,125,368,299</b>	<b>1,190,024,326</b>	<b>1,207,782,879</b>
<b>Simpson Penn Budget as % of National Budget</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>0.06%</b>
<b>Willie Mae Pratt Budget as % of National Budget</b>	<b>0.04%</b>	<b>0.05%</b>	<b>0.05%</b>

**Source: Department of Social Services  
Ministry of Social Services & Community Development**

- With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by gender, age group, immigrant groups, urban and remote areas) for the years 2001, 2002, 2003 on the number of children:**

**3(a) separated from their parents;**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TYPE</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
		<b>New Providence</b>	<b>Grand Bahama</b>	
<b>2002</b>	<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>212</b>
	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>22</b>
	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>158</b>

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TYPE</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
		<b>New Providence</b>	<b>Grand Bahama</b>	
<b>2003</b>	<b>Foster Care</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>208</b>
	<b>Adoption</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>9</b>
	<b>Institutions</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>175</b>

**3(b) Children Placed in Temporary Care By Year, Age and Gender (2002-2003)****New Providence and Cat Island****2002****2003**

<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Nazareth Centre</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Bahamas Children's Emergency Hostel</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Ranfurly Homes for Children</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Bilney Lane Children's Home</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Elizabeth Estates Children's Home</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Colby House</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>A Shepherd's Nook</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Old Bight Mission Home</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>102</b>

### Children Placed in Temporary Care (Grand Bahama)

	<b>2002</b>			<b>2003</b>		
<b>INSTITUTION</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Columbus House for Teen Girls #1</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Columbus House for Teen Girls #2</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Halfway House for Boys</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Halfway House for Girls</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Grace House for Teenager Mothers</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Columbus House for Boys #1</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Columbus House for Boys #2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Columbus House for Boys #3</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Grand Bahama Children's Home</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>73</b>

### 3 (c) Number of children Residing in Foster Families

New Providence

YEAR	GENDER			AGE			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	0-5 YRS	6-11 YRS	12-18 YRS	TOTAL
2001	93	120	213	95	78	40	213
2002	97	105	202	85	78	30	202
2003	100	101	201	75	86	40	201
TOTAL	280	326	616	255	242	110	616

Number of Children in Foster Care

New Providence

YEAR	HAITIAN	JAMAICAN	BAHAMIAN	TOTAL
2001	35	2	176	213
2002	26	0	176	202
2003	19	0	182	201
TOTAL	80	2	534	616

- Grand Bahama

-	2001	-	5
-	2002	-	10
-	2003	-	7



3(d) Number of Children Adopted Domestically or Through  
Inter-Country Adoption

Number of Children Adopted Domestically by  
Nationality

Year	Adoption Granted	Bahamians	Jamaicans	Haitians	Trinidadians	USSR	Honduras	Males	Females
2001	22	14	5	1	1	1	0	9	13
2002	22	16	2	0	0	0	1	10	11
2003	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	6	3

Source: Supreme Court Registry  
Office of the Attorney General

4. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by sex, age,  
urban or remote areas) covering the period 2001 – 2003 on  
the:

(a) Number and Percentage of Children with Disabilities

Disability/Illness Sex And Age Group	Total	Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Mobility	Movements	Gripping	Lear ning	Behavioural	Men tal	Oth er
<b>Persons With Disability</b>	675	122	73	173	105	79	54	258	109	220	56
<b>Male (10-19)</b>	400	68	33	109	58	44	31	166	74	141	26
<b>Female (10-19)</b>	275	54	40	64	47	35	23	92	35	79	30
<b>Persons With Illness</b>	641	53	16	21	21	15	15	56	26	36	339
<b>Male (10-19)</b>	326	26	7	11	8	10	6	39	15	25	167
<b>Female (10-19)</b>	315	27	9	10	13	5	9	17	11	11	172

Source: Department of Statistics

- 4 (b) number of children with disabilities either taken care of in the family or living in institutions;

**Living in Institutions - 2001-2003**

**I. Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre**

**Robert Smith/Child & Adolescent Unit**

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
15	2

**II. Princess Margaret Hospital**

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
8	20

**III. Child Care Institutions**

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Visually Impaired	1	1
Developmentally Delayed	15	0
Hearing Impaired	0	2

**The number of children living in families is not available.**

**4(c) number of children with disabilities being enrolled in regular education, how many benefit from the special education system and how many are not in school;**

YEAR	REGION	ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION		ENROLLED IN REGULAR EDUCATION		NOT IN SCHOOL		TOTAL	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2000/2001	URBAN	328	282	19	10	N/A	N/A	347	292
	RURAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	TOTAL	328	292	19	10	-	-	347	292
	GRAND	610		29				639	
	TOTAL								
	%	95.5		4.5		-		100	

YEAR	REGION	ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION		ENROLLED IN REGULAR EDUCATION		NOT IN SCHOOL		TOTAL	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2001/2002	URBAN	245	129	24	13	N/A	N/A	269	142
	RURAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	TOTAL	245	129	24	13	-	-	269	142
	GRAND	374		37		-		411	
	TOTAL								
	%	91.0		9.0		-		100.0	

YEAR	REGION	ENROLLED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION		ENROLLED IN REGULAR EDUCATION		NOT IN SCHOOL		TOTAL	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2002/2003	URBAN	249	163	28	15	N/A	N/A	277	178
	RURAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	TOTAL	249	163	28	15	-	-	277	178
	GRAND	412		43				455	
	TOTAL								
	%	90.5		9.5		-		100	

**Source: Ministry of Education**

#### **4 (d) facilities and services available for children with disabilities**

##### **4(d)(i) Ministry of Education**

The Special Services Section of the Ministry /Department of Education provides Assessment, Intervention, Screening, Parent Training, Teacher Training, Consultation and Collaborative services in the areas of Speech Therapy, School Psychology and Guidance and Counselling.

##### **Special Schools for children with disabilities are:**

###### **New Providence**

- 1 The Stapledon School for the Mentally Retarded
2. Bahamas Red Cross Centre for the Deaf
3. The Salvation Army School for the Blind

### **Private Schools in New Providence**

1. Academia
2. Blairwood Academy
3. Hopedale

### **Schools in the Family Islands**

1. The Beacon School, Freeport, Grand Bahama
2. The Centre For Exceptional Learners, Eleuthera
3. Every Child Counts, Abaco

### **Regular Schools that accommodate Special Children**

Resource Room – The prime purpose of this programme is to enable students with mild special education needs to receive assistance from the special education teacher in Language, Reading, Mathematics and Writing without being removed from the main stream of the educational system.

### **Resource Room Programme**

Uriah McPhee Primary

T. G Glover

Claridge Primary

Carlton Francis Primary

Gerald Cash Primary

United Estates Primary – San Salvador

Special Classes – or self-contained classes are used most often for students with moderate disabilities. The special education teacher provides most or all instruction. Students are in most cases separated from the regular classroom.

### **Self-Contained Classes**

Palmdale Primary

Garvin Tynes Primary

Sadie Curtis Primary

Thelma Gibson Primary

Stephen Dillett Primary

A F Adderley Junior High

S C McPherson Junior High

C. C. Sweeting Junior High

C. C. Sweeting Senior High

### **Grand Bahama**

Maurice Moore Primary

Jack Hayward High

## **4 (d) (ii) Ministry of Health**

The Ministry of Health introduced the Neuro-developmental Clinic in 2001 to provide a national early intervention programme for infants and children who are at

birth deemed to be at risk. This programme offers neuro-diagnostic testing by a multi-disciplinary team and is supplemented with additional services offered from Bahamas Infant Stimulation and hospitals in New Providence and Grand Bahama.

The Sandilands Rehabilitative Centre offers services through its Robert Smith Ward, an in-patient Unit for developmentally delayed children and young persons as well as a daycare programme and small special school for this population.

#### **4 (d) (iii) The Ministry of Social Services & Community Development**

The Disability Affairs Division, coordinates the efforts of government agencies and non-governmental organizations and is the focal point for activities related to the World Programme of Action concerning persons with disabilities. This Division has the mandate to advocate for the development and implementation of direct services and public awareness programmes to ensure the care and rehabilitation of children with disabilities.

**4 (d) (iv) List of Non-Governmental Organizations and Facilities  
available**

**to Children**

1. Bahamas Association for the Physically Disabled
2. Bahamas Infant Stimulation Programme
3. Bahamas Red Cross Society for Deaf
4. Bahamas Speech, Hearing and Language Association
5. Crippled Children's Committee
6. Down's Syndrome Association
7. Eyes Wide Open – A parent organization for  
Children with disabilities
8. Bahamas National Council for Disability
9. The Northern Bahamas Council for Disabilities
10. R.E.A.C.H. (Autism)
11. Salvation Army Center for the Blind
12. Special Olympics Bahamas
13. Talking Hands Association



- 5. With reference to child abuse, (including sexual abuse for a and b), please provide disaggregated data (by age, gender and types of violations reported) over the period 2001 – 2003 on the:**

- 5 (a) number of individual complaints received per year in the last three years;**

(This information will be available at the Review).

- (b) **number and percentage of reports which have resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up; and**

**(This information is not available).**

**5 (c ) Programmes and activities to sensitize parents concerning child abuse,  
including Corporal Punishment 2001 - 2003**

<b>PROGRAMMES/ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Parenting Workshop</b>	<b>The Parenting Programme is an initiative of the Department of Rehabilitative Welfare Services, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development. The programme targets parents of juveniles referred to the department by the courts, Children and Family Services Division and the community. Sessions are held every Tuesday for a period of seven weeks</b>
<b>Child Abuse Prevention Month</b>	<b>Child Abuse Prevention Month is an initiative of Children and Family Services, Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services and Community Development utilizing a multi-sectorial approach. Throughout the month of April various activities are held to sensitize the public to child abuse and address the cultural acceptance of corporal punishment.</b>
<b>Ministry of Social Services &amp; Community Development Speakers Bureau</b>	<b>Ongoing speaking engagements are scheduled throughout the year in response to requests received from schools, churches, business places and civic organizations.</b>
<b>Rehabilitation Month</b>	<b>The month of November is usually observed by the Department of Rehabilitative Welfare Services as Rehabilitation Month. The month promotes information on the link between child protection and delinquency issues.</b>

<b>Crisis Centre Month</b>	<b>An initiative of the Crisis Centre, an NGO which functions as a primary, secondary and tertiary level facility for victims of sexual and family violence and offers public awareness programmes for the community</b>
<b>Operation Protect Our Children</b>	<b>A campaign initiated by the National Child Protection Council to increase public awareness of child abuse and the rights of children.</b>

**Source: Department of Social Services**

6. Please provide disaggregated statistical data (by gender, age, migrant groups, urban or remote areas) covering the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 in percentage of the relevant age group on the: -

**6 (a) enrolment of children in primary and secondary schools;**

NO	CATEGORY	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIMARY EDUCATION	17,326	16,773	17,317	16,955	17,576	17,433
2	CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SECONDARY EDUCATION	16,135	15,900	16,015	15,987	16,691	16,343

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**(b) percentage of children completing primary and secondary education;**

NO	CATEGORY	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
1	CHILDREN COMPLETING PRIMARY EDUCATION	100.0%	100.0%	96.4%	99.0%	95.0%	95.5%
2	CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SECONDARY EDUCATION	70.6%	83.7%	72.3%	81.8%	77.0%	84.4%

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**(c) number and percentage of drop-outs and repetition rate;**

(This information is not available).

**6 (d) ratio teacher per children and number of children per class;**

NO	CATEGORY	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003	
	TEACHER/STUDENT RATIO(PUBLIC SCHOOLS)	1.7		1.16		1.16	
	TEACHER/STUDENT						

	<b>RATIO (PRIVATE SCHOOLS)</b>	<b>1:14</b>		<b>1:14</b>		<b>1:13</b>	

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**6 (e) number of children who attend pre-school education**

NO	CATEGORY	2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003	
		M	F	M	F	M	F
	<b>NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN PRE-SCHOOLS (PUBLIC &amp; PRIVATE)</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>1,505</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>1,825</b>

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**6 (f)(i) Alternative Schools**

<b>Alternative Schools</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2002/2003</b>
<b>Education Unit</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Penn/Pratt Centres</b>			
<b>For Boys &amp; Girls</b>			
<b>SURE (NP) Boys</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>SURE (GB) Boys</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>The MOE/MOH:</b>			
<b>Hospital School</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>PACE (New Providence)</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>PACE (Grand Bahama)</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

**Source: Ministry of Education**

**6 (f)(ii) Youth Empowerment & Skills Training (Y.E.A.S.T.)**

A holistically-designed attitudinal enhancement and job skills training programme which rescues at-risk young men from the hopelessness of negative life-patterns.

YEAST receives private contributions and an annual grant of \$50,000.00 from the government.

<b>TRAINEE ENROLLMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2000 - 2004</b>			
<b>2000-2001</b>	<b>33</b>		
<b>2001-2002</b>	<b>24</b>		
<b>2002-2003</b>	<b>17</b>		
<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>47</b>		

**Source: Y.E.A.S.T.**

**7. Please provide updated disaggregated statistical data on: -**

**7 (a) adolescent health, including early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs);**

**(Not available at this time).**

**7 (b) children affected or infected by HIV/AIDS;**

About 10% of the patients on Anti-Retroviral Therapy for 2004 were children who have benefited from the approximately \$900,000.00 spent on medication by the Government. Treatment is available on a non-discriminatory basis to all children and pregnant women.

Due to aggressive intervention re Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT) Prevention Programme, the rate of transmission from mother to child has been significantly reduced to a low single digit number. Disaggregated budgetary expenditure figures are not available.

**Number of Non-AIDS/HIV Infections by Age Group and Sex at December 31 2003**

	<01	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	Total
Male	68	49	20	11	86	234
Female	79	47	28	19	194	367
Total	147	96	48	30	280	601

**AIDS Cases Alive by Age Group & Sex at 31 December 2003**

	<01	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	Total
Male	13	12	4	2	4	35
Female	12	8	3	1	8	32
Total	25	20	7	3	12	67

### **HIV input from the Ministry of Health**

#### **7 (c) Rates of infant and child mortality;**

(Official data not available beyond 2001).

#### **7 (d) rates of immunization;**

### **Immunization Coverage**

Immunization	% Coverage 2001	% Coverage 2002	% Coverage 2003
DPT< 1 year	100%	96.2%	91%
Polio< 1year	100%	94%	92%
HIB < 1 year	100%	97%	92%
Hepatitis B < 1 year	2%	90%	86%
MMR < 1 year	92%	99%	92%

**Source: Ministry of Health**

#### **7 (e) drug and alcohol abuse**

Drug and Alcohol Abuse



**New Clients at the Community Counselling and Assessment Centre by  
Age & Gender for 2001**

Classification	Males 15 & Under	Females 15 & Under	Males 16-20	Females 16-20	Total Males	Total Females	Grand Total
Alcohol	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cocaine	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Marijuana	34	3	92	3	126	6	132
Poly Drugs	1	0	9	1	10	1	11
Other Drugs	4	0	5	1	9	1	10
Total	40	3	107	5	147	8	155

**New Clients at the Community Counselling and Assessment Centre by  
Age & Gender for 2002**

Classification	Males 15 & Under	Females 15 & Under	Males 16-20	Females 16-20	Total Males	Total Females	Grand Total
Alcohol	0	0	1	2	1	2	3
Cocaine	0	0	1	3	1	3	4
Marijuana	52	2	105	3	157	5	162
Poly Drugs	2	0	5	1	7	1	8
Other Drugs	0	1	2	2	2	3	5
Total	54	3	114	11	168	14	182

**New Clients at the Community Counselling and Assessment Centre by  
Age & Gender for 2003**

Classification	Males 15 & Under	Females 15 & Under	Males 16-20	Females 16-20	Total Males	Total Females	Grand Total
Alcohol	1	0	1	0	2	0	2
Cocaine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marijuana	46	5	91	5	137	10	147
Poly Drugs	0	0	7	1	7	1	8
Other Drugs	6	2	31	1	37	3	40
Total	53	7	130	7	183	14	197

8. **Please provide the following statistical data (disaggregated by gender, age, type of crime) for the last three years (2001 – 2003):**

**(a) number of persons below 18 who allegedly committed a crime reported to the police;**

**Persons Charged With Serious Crimes – All Bahamas**

**2001**

	Males	Females	Total
Against the Person	12	0	12
Against Property	101	3	104
Other Major crime	12	0	12
Total	125	3	128

2002

	Males	Females	Total
Against the Person	35	0	35
<b>Against Property</b>	186	6	192
Other Major crime	98	50	148
Total	319	56	375

Figures for 2003 are not available.

Source: Royal Bahamas Police Annual Report.

**8(b) number of persons below 18 who were sentenced and the nature of sanctions (community service; detention; other types of sanctions);**

The Simpson Penn and Willie Mae Pratt Centres are residential facilities for children and young persons between the ages of ten and sixteen years. The numbers of persons sentenced are listed below:

Simpson Penn Center for Boys (2001)									
Ages	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Amount	-	2	-	-	2	14	17	-	35

Simpson Penn Center for Boys (2002)									
Ages	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Amount	-	-	-	1	4	13	15	-	33

Simpson Penn Center for Boys (2003)									
Ages	9 years	10 years	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	16 years	Total
Amount	1	1	-	7	7	23	20	-	59

**Willie Mae Pratt Center for Girls (2001)**

<b>Ages</b>	12	13	14	15	16	<b>Total</b>
	years	years	years	years	years	
Amount	1	10	17	16	-	<b>44</b>

**Willie Mae Pratt Center for Girls (2002)**

<b>Ages</b>	12	13	14	15	16	<b>Total</b>
	years	years	years	years	years	
Amount	1	15	30	19	-	<b>65</b>

**Willie Mae Pratt Center for Girls (2003)**

<b>Ages</b>	12	13	14	15	16	<b>Total</b>
	years	years	years	years	years	
Amount	1	9	26	17	2	<b>55</b>

- 8 (c) the number of persons below 18 detained and imprisoned, the location of their detention or imprisonment (e.g. police station, jail or other place) and the lengths of their detention or imprisonment, including pre-trial detention;**

(This information is not available).

- 8 (d) number of persons below 18 detained in adult facilities;**  
**Statistics From Her Majesty's Prisons**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALES</b>	<b>FEMALES</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>

**Source: Her Majesty's Prison**

- 8 (e )      reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons below 18 that occurred during their arrest and detention.**

There are reports, however, the number of cases is not available.

- 9.      With reference to special protection measures, please provide statistical data (including by gender, age, urban and remote areas) per year between 2001 and 2003 on the number of children:**

- (a)      involved in domestic violence, including physical, sexual and psychological**

(Statistical data is not available).

- 9(b)      involved in sexual exploitation, including pornography, sale and trafficking and the number of those children who were provided access with rehabilitation treatments;)**

(No data is available).

- 9 (c) involved in substance abuse and the number of those children who received rehabilitation treatments;**

**(See 7(c) for the number involved in substance abuse).**

**CHILDREN TEN YEARS AND UNDER ADMITTED TO SANDILANDS REHABILITATION CENTRE 2001-2003**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NUMBER OF MALES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FEMALES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>

**Children 17 Years and Under Admitted to Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre – 2001-2003**

<b>YEARS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF MALES</b>	<b>NUMBER OF FEMALES</b>
<b>2001</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>83</b>

**Number of Bahamian and Non-Bahamian Children 17  
Years and Under Admitted to Sandilands Rehabilitation  
Centre – 2001-2003**

YEARS	BAHAMIANS	NON-BAHAMIANS
2001	152	4
2002	171	1
2003	154	4

(Medical Records Department – Sandilands  
Rehabilitation Centre)

**9 (d) involved in child labour (formal or informal sectors)**

While we do not have figures for 2001 – 2003, we recognize that a large number of young persons work in food establishments.

**B. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION**

**1. Please provide further information on the efforts undertaken by the state party to harmonize domestic law with the provisions and principles of the Convention. Please specify the legal status of the convention in the domestic legal order and explain whether the convention can be directly involved in Courts (if so please provide examples).**

In addition to the various pieces of legislation outlined in The Bahamas' initial report, certain other legislation should be emphasized that reflects the move by The Bahamas to harmonize its domestic legislation with the provisions and principles of the convention.

**The Status of Children Act, 2002**, is noted in the report submitted. What should be further emphasized in relation to this act is that it abolished the distinction between legitimate or children born in wedlock and illegitimate or children born out of wedlock particularly as it relates to intestacy. The Act gives all children equal status, consequently removing the discrimination that existed prior to the commencement of this Act in 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2002.

**The Inheritance Act, 2002**, makes provision for all children to have equal rights or entitlement in circumstances where property is distributed on intestacy.

**The Employment Act, 2001**, repealed the entire Employment of Children Prohibition Act and the Employment of Young Persons Act, which is outlined in the report. The Act of 2001 outlines at Part X certain comprehensive and practical provisions relating to the employment of children and young persons. For the purposes of this Act, a child is any person under the age of fourteen (14) years and a young person is any person over fourteen, but under 18 years. This Act prohibits the employment of a child, except as expressly provided in the first schedule. This schedule indicates that for a period of five



years following the commencement of this Act, a child might be employed in the following undertakings: -

- (a) grocery packers;
- (b) gift wrappers
- (c) peanut vendors
- (d) newspaper vendors

It should be noted that the Minister of Labour and Immigration has jurisdiction to amend this schedule after consultation with a confederation representative of a majority of employers and associations of employers generally, and after consultation with an association of registered trade unions.

This Act also prohibits the employment of a child or young person during school hours or during any period that may prejudice the child's attendance at school or render the child unfit to obtain the full benefit of the education provided for the child.

This Act also prohibits the employment of children in night work. Further it prohibits the employment of young persons in night work except as provided in the second schedule. The schedule outlines that a young person may be employed in the following undertakings: -

- (a) Hotels;
- (b) Restaurants;

- (c) Food stores;
- (d) General merchandise stores;
- (e) Gas stations

The Minister of Labour and Immigration has jurisdiction to vary this second schedule after consultation with a confederation, being in the opinion of the Minister, a confederation representative of a majority of employers and associations of employers generally, and after consultation with an association of registered trade unions.

**Source: The Office of the Attorney General**

- 2 **In light of the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Vienna Conference 1993, please indicate whether the State Party has considered withdrawing its reservation to Article 2 of the Convention.**

(This will be addressed at the Review).

- 3. **Please provide more information on mechanisms to coordinate policies and programmes on children's rights**

### **3(i) National Child Protection Council**

A National Child Abuse Council was appointed in 1998. In 2004, it was restyled the National Child Protection Council to reflect the broader mandate of protecting children. Members of the Council are representatives of various government departments, non-governmental organizations, civic organizations and Family Islands. The Council was given the mandate to develop a nationwide concerted plan of action to advise the Minister of Social Services and Community Development on matters affecting policies and programmes for the protection of children. Meetings are held once per month. The Council has launched a campaign “Operation Protect Our Children” to sensitize the nation to this problem.

### **3(ii). Inter-Ministerial Committee**

Three critical ministries involved in the provision of services to children, Health, Education and Social Services and Community Development along with representatives from non-governmental agencies have come together for monthly meetings during 2004. These meetings are led by the relevant Ministers and Permanent Secretaries along with key senior public officers to coordinate programmes and policies ensuring children’s rights and protection.

### **3(iii). Healthy Schools Initiative**

The Ministries of Health and Education, along with the Pan American Health Organization have initiated this school based programme to ensure the health of school children and the coordination of programmes pursuant to their physical and emotional well-being.

### **3 (iv). National Child Abuse Protocol Committee**

This committee was established in 2004 and has brought together all the relevant stakeholders in the child abuse arena to establish an integrated Protocol which will guide intervention by those agencies mandated to protect children and ensure that no child falls through the cracks.

### **3 (v). National Family Life and Health Education Council**

This national body was appointed by the Minister of Education in 1988 to develop a Family Life Education Programme for the schools. The programme is now mandated in the primary and secondary school curricula in all schools in the urban areas and the majority of Family Island Schools. The Council consists of senior

education officials along with representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

**4. Please indicate whether the State party has developed a National Plan of Action.**

While the national plan is not currently available social sector Ministries have come together to work towards the development of a National Plan of Action.

**5. Please indicate if there is any independent monitoring mechanism which, among others, mandated and resourced to receive and handle individual complaints from children.**

There is no independent monitoring mechanism mandated to receive and handle complaints related to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**6. Please provide information on the system of data collection and whether it covers all persons below 18 and all areas referred to in the Convention.**

While statistical data is found in the various Government Ministries administrative documents, the identification of

appropriate disaggregated data is difficult to access and points to the critical need for technical assistance.

**7. Please provide additional information on how governmental institutions cooperate with non-governmental organizations, especially concerning the participation of representatives of civil society in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for children.**

**7 (i) National Child Protection Council**

As mentioned above the members of this Council include representatives of governmental and non-governmental agencies. The Council is involved in the design and implementation of programmes and activities geared towards the protection of children. The activities of National Child Abuse Month in April are especially reflective of the impact of collaboration within this group which has recently launched a project entitled “Operation Protect Our Children”.

**7 (ii) Action Team**

As mentioned above, the Action Team consists of Zonta (a Women’s Service Club) Rotary (a Men’s Service Club), Women’s Bureau (a governmental agency) The Bahamas Crisis

Centre (a non-governmental agency), the Church and the Police. Their mandate is public awareness and the conscientization of the community on Child Abuse, Partner Abuse and the need for action to confront and prevent these human rights violations.

### 7 (iii) **Residential Care of Children**

The management of several of residential child care facilities is an example of church-government, private-public collaboration:

- Elizabeth Estates Children's Home (Partnership with the Anglican Diocese)
- Nazareth Centre (Partnership with the Catholic Arch Diocese)
- Bilney Lane Home for Children (Partnership with The Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church)
- Children's Emergency Hostel (Partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Nassau)
- Grand Bahama Children's Home (Partnership with the Grand Bahama Children's Home Committee)
- Old Bight Mission Home (in Cat Island) (Partnership with the Brethren)
- Colby House for Boys (Partnership with the Christ the King Anglican Church)

7 (iv). **Boys and Girls Clubs Project**

Boys and Girls Clubs in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitative Welfare Services organize activities for at-risk children. Additionally, Project Time, a non-government organization partners with the Department of Rehabilitative Welfare Services in offering life skills information to juvenile detention facilities.

7 (v) **Elizabeth Estates Family Life Centre**

This Family Life Centre opened in November, 2003 in one of the densely populated constituencies of New Providence. The Centre serves as the home base for a non-governmental organization, Project Time and together they offer a number of programmes including after-school activities.

**8. Please provide information on the dissemination of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the State party. Please also specify whether measures have been taken to sensitize and/or train professional groups working for/with children on the rights of the child.**

As previously mentioned speakers are available to discuss and disseminate information on children's rights. The electronic and print media are also utilized in this process. There are on



going training workshops offered to community and professional groups including police, teachers, health professionals, guidance counsellors, social workers and the media.

- 9. Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.**

### **Priority Areas**

#### **9(i) The Family**

The breakdown in The Bahamas family and its subsequent fragility has been identified as a major source of vulnerability in children. A conference to develop a National Family Policy is being planned. Programmes to conserve family life and prevent family dysfunction through intervention with at risk families will continue to be a priority within the Department of Social Services .

A National Parenting Initiative has begun under the auspices of the Inter-Ministerial Committee mentioned above, in a campaign which has brought together governmental and non-governmental agencies along with representatives from the church, trade unions and

employer federations. The aim of these meetings is to develop a national coordinated parenting programme.

9 (ii). The increase in teenage sexual activity and pregnancy is of concern. Teenage girls have been identified as the largest growing population group to become infected with the HIV virus. The police also have identified this age group as comprising the largest percentage of victims of sexual violence.

9 (iii). Another priority area for the government is the protection of children from abuse and harm. The National Child Protection Council has been given the mandate to develop prevention focused programmes.

9 (iv). Child Mental Health has been identified as a major priority in the Ministry of Health. Plans have been drawn for a modern Child and Adolescent Unit to treat children with psychiatric disorders and be the nucleus for the development of programmes for the promotion of good mental health and prevention of psychiatric illness.

9 (v). Addressing corporal punishment as defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child is an emotive issue that requires wide public education.

9 (vi). Major limitations in the area of research and data collection point to the critical need to develop this area. Proper

assessments and surveys are needed to under-gird policies and services.

**PART II      Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in other languages or dialects of the State party, when available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form**

(This information is not currently available).

**PART III      Under this Section, States Parties are invited, whenever appropriate, to briefly (3 pages maximum) up-date the information provided in their report with regard to:**

**I    New Bills or enacted Legislation**

**The Early Childhood Care Act, 2004**, has already been passed in the House of Assembly and Senate.

This is a very critical Act that addresses the regulation and management of daycare centres and pre-schools.

The Act establishes a Pre-School and Day Care Centre Council. This Council is concerned with registering Day Care Centres and pre-Schools. It regulates, inspects, and governs the professional conduct of operators of and employees of these schools. The Council is concerned with issuing annual licences to operators of these schools. This Act also creates an offence in circumstances where a person operates a day-care center or a pre-school without being duly registered in accordance with the Act.

**Source: The Office of the Attorney General**

## **II New Institutions**

### **Links Safe House for Females in Crisis**

The Safe House provides short term accommodation for abused women and their children and transitional housing for young women leaving residential child care facilities.

## **III Newly Implemented policies**

- Monthly stipend to children with disabilities under 16 years.
- Urban Renewal Programme implemented by Social Sector Ministries in selected inner city communities; implements and co-ordinates services in these areas to transform these communities.
- Expanding of public pre-school education in the government sector.
- Extended learning programme to eliminate social promotion.

**IV Newly Implemented programmes and projects**

- National Drug Plan.
- National Commission On Special Education
- National public recognition of youth who have excelled.
- Police special Unit for missing and exploited children.
- Child Friendly Rape Suite to interview child victims of sexual assault.
- Expressive therapies programme for children with disabilities.
- Crisis Centre Domestic Violence Advocates on call to police stations.
- Ministry of Health Neurodevelopmental clinic for at risk babies and children.
- Parenting Programmes in inner city areas.
- Marching Youth Bands in inner city areas.
- Children encouraged to participate in cultural activities e.g. perfecting skill of Junkanoo art.

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