

**COMMITTEE ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES CONCERNING THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/Q/SVG/1)
RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE INITIAL REPORT OF ST.
VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES (CRC/C/11/Add.18)**

[Received on 27 May 2002]

CRC/C/RESP/9

INTRODUCTION

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as part of its obligation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is pleased to respond to the request for additional information on its Initial Report on the Status of Children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

LIMITATIONS

In responding to the List of Issues, it must be noted that several problems were encountered in compiling the relevant information:

1. The List of Issues were never officially received by the State Party. Efforts to trace its origin by our Foreign Affairs Ministry were futile. However, UNICEF Caribbean Area, kindly provided the State with the requisite list. This occurred after the official deadline of 22 April had past.
2. Several of the Agencies and Ministries who were solicited for information in the form requested by the Committee. In many cases, little or no data were available
3. Efforts to collect data were hindered by long delays in response to requests. As a result, several attempts had to be made to obtain the data.

CONCLUSION

Providing this information to the Committee has helped the State Party to recognize that there is need for proper reporting procedures to be put in place to enhance its delivery of services.

The State Party regrets the inconvenience caused in being unable to respond quickly and fully to many of the issues raised. However, even at the time of sending this information, the State is still seeking answers to many of the issues raised and will endeavour to get them to the Working Session.

1. (a)

AGE GROUP	1999			2000			2001		
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4	6463	6202	12665	6475	6213	12688			
5-9	7239	7230	14469	7252	7244	14496			
10-14	7294	7080	14374	7307	7095	14402			
15-18	6440	6364	12804	6451	6377	12828			

1. (b)

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

YEAR	BIRTH RATE	DEATH RATE	INFANT MORTALITY RATE	RATE OF NATURAL INCREASE
1999	19.4	7.4	21.4	12.0
2000	19.2	6.3	16.3	13.0
2001			19.2	

CHILD MORTALITY
DEATHS BY SEX AND AGE GROUP 1999 - 2001

AGE GROUP	1999			2000			2001		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
< 1 Year	24	23	47	24	11	35			
1	6	1	7	2	-	2			
2	4	2	6	2	1	3			
3	-	1	1	1	-	1			
4	1	1	2	-	-	0			
0-4	35	28	63	29	12	41			
5-9	4	3	7	4	2	6			
10-14	6	6	12	-	3	3			
15-19	7	5	12	3	3	6			

1. (d)

YEAR 1999

Normal	88.5
Moderate	3.06
Severe	0.23
Obese	0.83

YEAR 2000

Normal	88.7
Moderate	3.03
Severe	0.14
Obese	8.13

TOTAL 10,666

CHILDREN 0 – 5 YEARS

YEAR 2001

Normal	85.3
Moderate	5.73
Severe	0.6
Obese	4.3

1. (e)

INSTITUTIONS	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
Kingstown Hospital	58	40	98
Georgetown Hospital	9	4	13
Bequia	17	11	28
Helping Hands Centre			35

1. (f) 155

1.(g)

	1999	2000	2001
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	-	10	04
Overseas	14	25	15
Total	14	35	19

2. (a), (c), (e) (f)

**SELECTED STATISTICS
EXPENDITURE**

	1999	2000	2001
Pre-Primary	EC\$240,000	EC\$240,000	EC\$240,000
Primary Education	EC\$26,480,274	EC\$27,470,943	EC\$29,358,030
Secondary Education	EC\$10,066,601	EC\$12,623,814	EC\$15,011,143
School for Children with Special Needs	EC\$393,587	EC\$402,350	EC\$590,874
Family Court	EC\$265,627	EC\$303,693	EC\$362,007

2. (b) There is no breakdown of cost for individual programmes, therefore no data is available.

2. (c)

- Three schools exist which cater for children with disabilities.
- Students are not placed in the least restrictive environment
- Exclusive recreational facilities are also lacking.
- Most teachers are not professionally trained. However, some in-service training is being done.
- Public buildings are not accessible.
- Buildings which house the students lack ramps.
- No programme re: professional training for children with disabilities.

2. (d)

NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN

1999	2000	2001
10	26	10

Sex: Male **Female**
 28 18

1999

125 x 150 = \$18,750.00
 St. Benedicts = \$ 3,000.00
 Zita Knights = \$ 1,350.00
 \$23,100.00

2000

151 x 150 = \$22,650.00
 St. Benedicts = \$ 3,000.00
 Zita Knights = \$ 1,350.00
 \$27,000.00

2001

154 x 150 = \$23,100.00
 St. Benedicts = \$ 3,150.00
 Zita Knights = \$ 1,350.00
 \$28,100.00

3. (a)

REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE RECEIVED BY THE POLICE

1999	20
2000	N/A
2001	N/A

3. (a)

REPORTS OF CHILD ABUSE MADE AT THE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

	1999	2000	2001
<i>Sex</i>	22	20	23
<i>Physical</i>	46	36	26
<i>Neglect</i>	107	78	51
<i>Abandonment</i>	51	30	29
<i>Maintenance</i>	339	237	261
<i>Other</i>	8	10	4
<i>Total</i>	573	411	394

3. (f) Data not available.

4. In relation to adolescent health and sexually transmitted diseases - No data available.

NUMBER OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY
FOR YEAR 1999

AGE	
13 and below	1
14 - 16 years	130
17 - 19	311
TOTAL	442
STATISTICAL RATE	20.70%

**NUMBER OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY
FOR YEAR 2001**

AGE	
13 and below	3
14 - 16 years	96
17 - 19	308
TOTAL	407
STATISTICAL RATE	20.75%

**CURRENT HIV/AIDS DATA
YEAR 2001**

AGE GROUP	< 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 19
HIV	11	13	5	28
AIDS	8	7	4	10
DEATHS	8	7	4	9

5. (a) Data not available although a survey is being done at the Adult Education Unit in the Ministry of Education.

5. (b)

1999 - 2000

AGE	MALES	FEMALES	PERCENTAGE
1	59	28	3.68 (data missing for 729 children (24%))
2	199	193	16.58
3	426	474	38.05
4	452	487	39.7
5	30	15	1.9
6	2	2	.09

2001

Enrollment for 2001 - 3905

	MALE	FEMALE
Rural	1502	1433
Urban	538	432

Efforts to regulate Pre-Primary

1. *Minimum standards are to be taken to Cabinet for approval.*
2. *Consideration is to given to utilize the existing space in Primary Schools for establishing Pre-Primary.*
3. *Vinsave the sole training institution for Pre-Primary is to review their program with a view to upgrade.*
4. *There is an increase in staffing, but it is still inadequate.*

5. (c)

**ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS IN PRIMARY SCHOOL BY AGE 1999 - 2001
(AGE LAST BIRTHDAY)**

AGE (in years)	1999			2000			2001		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
5	1,587	1,558	3,15	1,617	1,493	3,110			
6	1,220	1,231	2,451	1,265	1,227	2,492			
7	1,298	1,188	2,486	1,240	1,235	2,475			
8	1,230	1,180	2,410	1,203	1,147	2,350			
9	1,225	1,078	2,303	1,176	1,136	2,312			
10	1,178	1,145	2,323	1,207	1,020	2,227			
11	1,049	1,008	2,057	1,074	1,003	2,077			
12	810	603	1,413	741	589	1,330			
13	632	413	1,045	638	385	1,023			
14	606	389	995	505	333	838			
15	185	135	320	180	116	296			
TOTAL	11,020	9,928	20,948	10,846	9,684	20,530			

5. (d)

**ENROLLMENT OF PUPILS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY AGE 1999 - 2001
(AGE LAST BIRTHDAY)**

AGE (in years)	1999			2000			2001		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 11	1	5	6	1	4	5			
11	90	106	196	86	150	236			
12	407	560	967	388	595	983			
13	509	903	1,412	556	706	1,262			
14	633	810	1,443	563	872	1,435			
15	621	840	1,461	611	770	1,381			
16	534	773	1,307	551	737	1,288			
17	294	424	718	386	475	861			
18	153	197	350	181	189	370			
19 & Over	58	80	138	56	62	118			
TOTAL	3,300	4,698	7,998	3,379	4,560	7,939			

5. (e) 97%

5. (f) 3%

5. (h) Data not available

5. (i)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BY DISABILITY AND SEX

TYPE OF DISABILITY	1999			2000			2001		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Hearing Impaired	9	6	15	10	8	18			
Developmental Delayed	37	23	60	41	25	66			
Blind	1	-	1	1	-	1			
TOTAL	52	35	87	58	40	98	94	55	149

5. (j)

**COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION RESULTS
1999 - 2001**

YEAR	CANDIDATE WHO SAT	NO. OF PASSES
1999	2,660	1,253
2000	2,558	789
2001		

5. (j)

**SCHOOL LEAVINGS EXAMINATION RESULTS
1999 - 2001**

YEAR	CANDIDATE WHO SAT	NO. OF PASSES
1999	1,085	131
2000	792	32
2001		

5. (k) Data not available

6. There is no special reporting for juveniles at the Family Court and the Magistrate Court.

1999	758
2000	N/A
2001	N/A

- (a) N/A
- (b) N/A
- (c) N/A
- (d) N/A
- (e) N/A
- (f) N/A
- (g) N/A
- (h) No available data.

When a juvenile is charged with an offence, he/she is brought before the Family Court. However, if he/she is charged with an adult he/she is taken to the Magistrate's Court.

When a juvenile commits a crime and is held by the Police, a statement must be taken from the offender in the presence of Probation Officer and parent or guardian. In the absence of a parent or guardian, the Probation Officer will witness the statement.

If the matter is taken to Court, it will be heard at the Family Court. However, if the Juvenile is charged, an adult, the matter will be heard at the Magistrate's Court.

If the offender is charged a fine, his parent or guardian is responsible for the payment of the fine which is payable to the Court. If the offender is placed on probation, he is placed under the supervision of a Probation Officer for counseling. The Probation Officer determines how often the probationer will

attend counseling sessions. The Probation Officer is expected to submit quarterly reports to the Family Court or the Magistrate's Court.

In some cases, the President of the Family Court or the Magistrate's Court may order corporal punishment for the offender. This could only be administered after the offender has been seen by a District Medical Officer who makes an assessment of his physical and mental stability. The Police Officer has to administer the lashes in the presence of the District Medical Officer.

7. (a) 155

(b) This figure relates mainly to the capital Kingstown and is derived from a survey conducted in June 2001. At present an independent agency is conducting an island wide survey.

(c) Data not available.

B. GENERAL MEASURES OF IMPLEMENTATION

1.

The Convention is not included in the Domestic Laws of the country. It is invoked directly by administrative mechanisms, in that, each Ministry develops programmes and activities with the assistance of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child, for inclusion in their Corporate Plans. However, there are a number of domestic laws which give effect to the Convention.

There is also a regional programme (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) OECS in conjunction with UNICEF (Caribbean Area) and National Children Home (NCF) Action for children, for the harmonization of laws relating to families and children. This programme should be on stream within the next year.

2.

A State Party's Child Rights Policy has not yet been adopted. A number of regional policies have been studied with the intention of using these to guide the local document. However, a National Youth Policy is in place and this captures many of the intentions of the Convention. Additionally, Ministries with direct responsibilities for child development – Ministries of Education, Social Development and Health have incorporated specific child related programmes geared at child development.

It must be noted that the revised Education Act of 1992 has created the avenue through which the Convention can be facilitated. The state policy will be formulated via consultative process. The Civil Society, interest groups and Government Representative will assist in the formulation. Among these will be the Family Court. The Family Services, the Youth Department, Schools, Children Organisations and Young Leaders Group.

3.

The activities of the National Convention on the Rights of the Child is coordinated by the National Committee on the Rights of the Child which is a broad based committee comprising of twenty four (24) members from various Government, NGO, Civil Society and other Organisations that programme for and with children. Financial resources are provided through the Family Services Department and with support from UNICEF Caribbean Area.

4.

The mechanisms for monitoring the State Party's implementation of the Convention, the Child Rights Committee and the Family Services Department. The Committee has a membership of twenty four (24) persons representing Government, NGO's and interest group which have the responsibility to programme for and on behalf of children.

The mandate and activities of the Committee is as follows: -

Memo from Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister to Permanent Secretary Education in response to a memo dated 4 July 1994

"I have been directed to advise that the coordination of matters pertaining to the Rights of the Child should properly be handled by the Ministry Housing, Sports, Local Government and Community Development (now renamed Ministry of Social Development, Co-operatives, Gender, the Family and Ecclesiastical Affairs) which is charged with responsibility for youth".

The objectives of the National Committee are: -

1. to promote the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
2. to educate people about the Convention, what it means to the welfare of children in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
3. to make recommendations to Government regarding the promotion of children's rights and to evaluate measures taken from time to time.

The Human Rights monitoring mechanism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the National Human Rights Association which is headed by Mr Victor Cuffy. This Association is accessible to children who wish to make complaints of violation of their human rights. However, information is not available regarding whether or not there is a free access to this service.

PART IV

1. The Government, as part of its policy to strengthen and support the family, has developed a programme specifically for street children to be re-integrated into the family. This programme has the support of several Non Governmental Organisations. The programme includes parental training and discussion, discussion with the juveniles and a gradual integration back into the home-system, followed by regular follow up.

2. On 30 May 2001, St. Vincent and the Grenadines launched the Global Movement for Children with a March and Rally attracting over two thousand (2000) school children, parents and other citizens. Several persons signed on the GMC at the launch. In addition, several min-workshops and other activities were held throughout the State to give impetus to the GMC and to celebrate Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month (April) and the commencement of Child Month (May).

3. Since taking Office in April 2001, the new administration has started a Youth Empowerment Service Programme (YES) which provides training and employment for young people eighteen (18) to thirty (30) years.