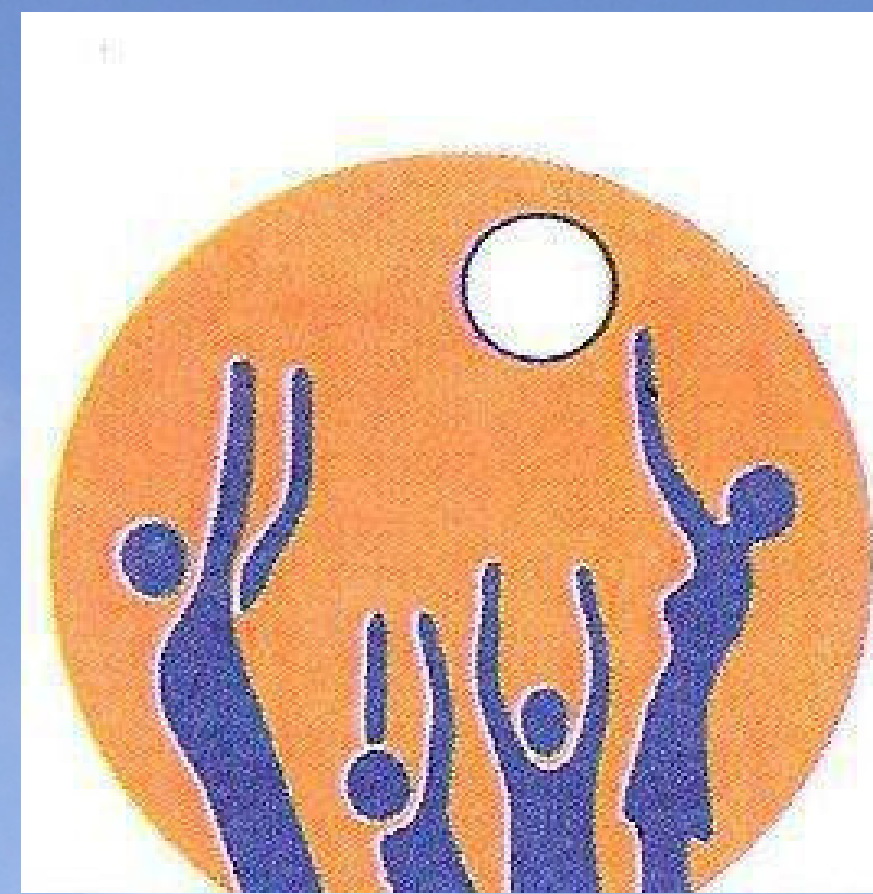


# Unpacking the Spice: Understanding Reproductive Health in Grenada

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## Location: Grenada



Affectionately known as the "Spice Isle", the island of Grenada is located in the southeastern Caribbean sea. The island is home to approximately 107,000 people and has a life expectancy of 71 for men and 76 for women (WHO, 2015). The country is made up of 3 islands: Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique. Grenada gained independence from Britain in 1974 and is an independent nation within the British Commonwealth. Grenada has a Westminster-style parliamentary system of government, where Queen Elizabeth II is Head of State, and is represented by a Governor-General.

1 in 4 Grenadian students aged 13-15 said they had sexual intercourse (WHO 2009, UNFPA 2012) and 21.5 per cent of Grenadians reported that they had had sex below the age of 15 (OECS 2011). There is a great need for information and statistics around sexual and reproductive health in Grenada. GPPA aims to implement the first national survey on sexual and reproductive health which covers nine key sections: respondent's background, parental guidance, sexual activities and relationships, contraception, reproduction, sexually-transmitted infections, substance use, sexual assault, and health services.

## Accomplishments

Transcribed 142 written questions from a paper survey to Qualtrics  
Created presentations to aid with training survey administrators  
Developed protocol for survey administrators and parish supervisors to use in the field  
Crafted a men's health campaign for the agency  
Translated outreach data into a data summary sheet using pivot tables in Microsoft Excel

## Global Field Agency: GPPA

Founded in 1964, the Grenada Planned Parenthood Association (GPPA) aims to provide knowledge and means to make informed family planning decisions through comprehensive reproductive health services and counseling.

GPPA is responsible for two full-time clinics in St. George's and St. Andrew's, which provide pap smears, pregnancy tests and contraceptives. The organization also provides training for nurses, and distributes family planning information and education through media activity and community meetings.

## Skills Developed

**Problem Solving:** I learned to think quickly and creativity on my feet in order to meet the needs of the agency given limited resources.

**Qualtrics Survey Design:** I learned how to create surveys with complex skip patterns.

**Grantwriting:** I assisted the Executive Director with writing a grant for HIV education programming from the Aids Healthcare Foundation.

## Classroom Connections

ENTR 599 Project Management and Consulting  
HMP 553 Data Management  
HBEHED 530 Techniques of Survey Research  
PUBHLTH 616 Public Health in Action: International  
SW 661 Budgeting and Fiscal Management  
SW663 Grantgetting, Contracting and Fund Raising  
SW683 Evaluation in Social Work  
SW697 Social Work Practice with Community and Social Systems

## Career Connections

In the future, I would like to pursue a career in global health and/or consulting. This experience allowed me to gain exposure to global health work and also to gain an understanding of the challenges faced in communities.



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## Lessons Learned

“ A comfort zone is a beautiful place but nothing ever grows there  
-Unknown

“ "Run to the fire; don't hide from it."  
- Meg Whitman

“ If everything was perfect, you would never learn and you would never grow.  
-Beyoncé

“ No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you.  
-Althea Gibson

“ You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.  
- Shirley Chisholm

## My Advice to you!

- Go with the flow!: Global work is never black or white, a lot of growth can happen in the grey.
- Don't be afraid to try!: Put yourself out there and be open to new perspectives.
- Think outside the box: Working with this agency, gave me the freedom to explore and try new things.