



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
WELLNESS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

**Ministerial Building, Kingstown,
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday May, 2nd , 2024

Contact: Permanent Secretary
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Subject: St Vincent and the Grenadines certification by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the dual elimination of mother to child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis.

On behalf of the Honorable Minister St. Clair Prince - Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment we commend the dedication and commitment of healthcare workers on achieving certification by the World Health Organization (WHO) of the dual elimination of mother to child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis.

This achievement signals to the world that ending paediatric HIV and congenital syphilis through the elimination of Mother to Child transmission of HIV and syphilis are achievable. St Vincent and the Grenadines is 1 of the 11 countries which have been certified from the Caribbean and the total of 20 in the world. St. Vincent and the Grenadines is the sixth country within the subregion of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to achieve elimination and will be up for re-validation in the next four years.

As stated by Richard Amenyah (Dr.) MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE DIRECTOR UNAIDS JAMAICA "This is testament to the resilience and dedication of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean countries in ensuring health systems with strong maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) programmes that integrate HIV and syphilis interventions into MNCH services and child health care. It is also recognition of strong and sustained national leadership and commitment to health and EMTCT"

Sr Arlitha John - Douglas Coordinator National Family Planning Program and member of the local EMTC team will represent the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment in Kingston, Jamaica on Tuesday May 7th to receive this special award certifying the EMTCT.

The Ministry will continue to work towards ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

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