



REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN ON HIV/AIDS

*Bridgetown, Barbados
21 - 23 March 2004*

*Organised by the
Ministry of Social Transformation*

*in collaboration with the
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports,
The National HIV/AIDS Commission
and*

United Nations Children's Fund, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Office

REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN ON HIV/AIDS

Sherbourne Conference Centre

21-23 March 2004

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UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
UN House, Marine Gardens, Christ Church, Barbados
Tel: (246) 467-6000; Fax (246) 436-2812; Email: bridgetown@unicef.org



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The first Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS! Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) sets out the principle that children should be listened to on any matter which concerns them, and their views given due consideration in accordance with their age and maturity.

It is therefore essential that any work undertaken to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate HIV interventions, does not just include the views and needs of adult men and women, but also those of boys and girls, and from an early age. It is only with children's participation that decision-makers can find out what young people see as their needs, what factors make them very vulnerable, and determine what actions children can take to protect themselves and promote the protection of other people in their communities.

Programmes which do include young people may still fail to listen to the needs of younger groups of children. It is known that many children are forced to become sexually active at very young ages. Given the vulnerability of young people to HIV/AIDS, it is vital for all child-focused development agencies to take a lead in promoting the good practice of involving children to themselves contribute to HIV/AIDS programming.

We are therefore very pleased to have pooled the resources of our agencies and garnered the support of others to host this Summit as an important first step in allowing young people to come together to share their experiences and their voices around HIV/AIDS as it has affected, or could affect their lives. This surfaced when children living with HIV/AIDS or affected by HIV/AIDS chose to disclose their status or that of their parents. The skilful work of counsellors was quickly engaged to heal wounded spirits and build reconnecting bridges. At the end, with real life lessons taught, camaraderie and solid friendships were cemented. Children themselves, with the support of adults, had found real solutions to their challenges. We are therefore inspired by the practical experience the Summit provided for all of its facilitators and delegates in relation to the removal of the scourge of stigma and discrimination.


But in many ways, it was also a learning experience for the adult organisers who learned in the process what really being child-friendly is all about! So with positive lessons all round, we look forward to Summit 2005 to be hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and to hearing more about what is being done in each country on the priority issues identified in the first Summit.

HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. We look forward to continuing our work with children to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and to help them learn the skills to always make the right choice.

PREFACE



Hon. Hamilton Lashley
Minister
Ministry of Social Transformation
Barbados



Jean Gough
Representative
United Nations Children's Fund
Barbados and the
Eastern Caribbean



It is only with children's participation that decision-makers can find out what young people see as their needs

...and determine what actions children can take to protect themselves and promote the protection of other people.

The Organising Committee of the Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS expresses its sincere appreciation to the following persons and organizations for their assistance in the execution of this Summit:

To the Management and Staff of the Ministry of Social Transformation, the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports; the National HIV/AIDS Commission of Barbados and the UNICEF Offices based in Panama, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Belize, Guyana and Jamaica for ensuring that this vision became a reality;

To the parents, teachers and caregivers of the young delegates from across the Caribbean for so readily allowing their active participation in this forum;

To the facilitators Ms. Michelle Barrow Animator and Educator; Mrs. Cecily Spencer-Cross, Peripatetic Educator of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Culture; Ms. Sade Leon-Slinger, Community Health Education Officer, Ministry of Health; Ms. DeAnn Beckles, Ms. Nathalie Reifer, Mr. Ishiaka McNeil, Mr. Simon Alleyne and Mr. Corey Layne in Barbados; Ms. Sheila Samiel, Public Health Adviser of the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre (CAREC) and Mr. Gregory Sloane-Seale, Ms Ava Rampersaud, Mr. Gleeson Job and Ms. Abinta Clarke of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Trinidad and Tobago; Ms. Zoe Barnett and Mr. Tespher Rose of Children First, Jamaica; and Ms. Vivian Lopez, Regional Programme Officer for HIV/AIDS based in Panama for ensuring the Summit was an engaging, fun and learning exercise for the youth delegations;

To Ms. Wendy Fitzwilliams, former Ms. Universe from Trinidad and Tobago who brought her prominence to the issues of young people and HIV/AIDS;

To the UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean and Trinidad and Tobago, PAHO, CAREC, UNIFEM and the CARICOM Secretariat and other representatives in the Ministerial Forum, thanks for your thoughtful inputs and commitment to the Summit's follow-up;

To Barbados Industries Company (BICO) Ltd., Sagicor Life Inc., Cave Shepherd and Co. Ltd., Barbados Dairy Industries Ltd., Courts (Barbados) Limited, Barbados Tourism Authority (BTA), Royal Barbados Police Force, Pinelands Creative Workshop and the participating entertainers, BWIA West Indies Ltd., Barbados Conference Services Ltd., Lloyds Taxi Services, Barbados Mills Ltd., Pronto Marketing and Printing Brokers Co. Ltd., Government Printing Department, Realistic Ideas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, National Conservation Commission, TT and T Rentals Ltd., National Committee for the Monitoring of the Rights of the Child, Immigration Department, Government Information Service, Barbados Shipping and Trading Co. Ltd., National Cultural Foundation and the Copyright Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Inc. (COSCAP) for their cooperative support;

To Grand Barbados, Blue Horizon and Time Out at the Gap Hotels for so graciously accommodating the participating delegates;

To MJM Management Systems Inc., especially Mr. Ian Walcott, Ms. Aziza Ahmed and Ms. Annetha Davis who supported the logistical and technical organisation of the Summit; And finally to the children, chaperones, Ministers and ministerial representatives, we thank you for being such active and appreciative participants in this historic forum.

May we also take this opportunity to encourage continued national action and follow-up and to wish the Organising Committee of Summit 2005 the best for an improved but equally fulfilling and interactive exchange in Trinidad and Tobago.

February 2005

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiological Centre
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
PANCAP	Pan Caribbean Partnership on HIV/AIDS
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNAIDS	The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEF BECO	United Nations Children's Fund Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
WFFC	World Fit for Children



The Government of Barbados in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) hosted a Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS from 21-23 March 2004. The Summit was influenced by the fact that children were one of the most vulnerable groups in society living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and yet their voices and their experiences were not formalized in the planning, programming and implementation of programmes being executed by Caribbean Governments.

Globally, the HIV/AIDS constitutes one of the world's largest threats to human development. There are currently 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS, and with more than a quarter between the ages of 15-24. Half of all new infections in the world occur in young people. In the Caribbean, the devastating impact of this disease is felt in every country. The adult (age 15 - 49 years) prevalence rate is approximately 2 per cent and this falls second to only Sub-Saharan Africa globally. Approximately 429,000 adult and 20,000 children are estimated to be currently living with HIV/AIDS, and AIDS is the leading cause of death in several Caribbean countries including Haiti and the Bahamas.

Adolescents and children in the Caribbean face particular vulnerabilities to contracting HIV/AIDS. These vulnerabilities stem from certain social, cultural and economic realities that influence a child's ability to protect himself/herself against HIV/AIDS. Girls often face particular challenges and pressures which are reinforced by gender norms that leave them very vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS. For example, sexual violence against girls and women leading to HIV/AIDS is evident in the Caribbean and in many communities many of these acts are unreported.

Studies have shown that some of the main factors affecting the rapid spread of the disease in the Caribbean are early initiation of sexual activity, social and cultural norms that condone multiple sex partners in men and social taboos that prevent discussion of sex with young people. A 1998 PAHO Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey indicated that in a cross section of Caribbean adolescents, of those reporting being sexually active, over 40 per cent experienced their first sexual encounter before the age 10, and an additional 20 per cent had become active by the age of 12. Furthermore, more than 50 per cent reported that they did not use any form of contraception during their last sexual encounter, thereby increasing their risk of contracting the HIV/AIDS disease.

With an incubation period of up to 10 years, and the most infected age group in the region being in the 15 to 44 age band, it is imperative that close attention be paid to prevention efforts in this age group. Additionally, the stigma and discrimination that is currently faced by many orphans and other vulnerable children in silence must be brought to the fore for public attention and redress.

The convening of the Summit gave children, government officials and international agencies the opportunity to, among other things:-

- (i) examine with children the regional trends in HIV/AIDS and its impact;
- (ii) hear directly from children on how they can be better protected, and how their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS can be decreased;
- (iii) listen to the realities of children who are infected, or affected by HIV/AIDS as a first step in developing appropriate interventions; and
- (iv) filter these considerations from children's perspective, into regional and national programming against HIV/AIDS.

The objectives of the Summit were therefore to:-

- highlight the realities of children made vulnerable to and by HIV/AIDS;
- create opportunities for young people to form their own lobby groups throughout the Caribbean;
- establish a sustainable platform to help put the lobbying groups in place;
- increase young people's engagement in HIV/AIDS interventions;
- deepen the consciousness of young people concerning their involvement in halting the spread of HIV/AIDS; and
- build a regional children's forum to discuss the HIV/AIDS pandemic from children's perspective.

A total of seventeen (17) countries were represented. Each participating country (except the host country Barbados which had a larger delegation) was requested to send two representatives as delegates between the ages of 10 and 16 years old, to be accompanied by a chaperone who was engaged in HIV/AIDS related work in his/her respective country. Countries were encouraged to send a male and female representatives and where possible to include children who were living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Approximately one hundred (100) children and their chaperones attended the Summit along with eight (8) Government Ministers and one (1) Ministerial Representative.

The Summit resulted in the drafting and signing two declarations: a) The Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS; and b) the Commitments of Governments to the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS. These declarations will undoubtedly increase the level and deepen the awareness of HIV/AIDS and its impact on young people. The key items for action centred on the need to develop overt policies on the continuing education and treatment of children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS; to create adolescent-friendly health services where young people can ask questions and obtain services; and to take action around the continuing sexual violence and abuse of young people in the Caribbean all with the involvement of young people in the development of appropriate responses.

Feedback from the children and participating Ministers deemed the 2004 Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS a positive and desirable development, and ministerial commitment was given for annual follow-up summits for the next five years. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has since agreed to host Summit 2005.

INTRODUCTION



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The Government of Barbados and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) partnered to execute the Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS from 21-23 March 2004 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre, Two Mile Hill, St. Michael, Barbados.

The idea for a Children's Summit was the brainchild of Barbados' Minister of Social Transformation, the Honourable Hamilton Lashley, whose portfolio oversees the mandate for the care and protection of children. He felt that adults are continually provided with fora to discuss the pandemic of HIV/AIDS, but that children's voices, especially those in the region, had not been heard in a formalised setting, in spite of the fact that children were increasingly living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. UNICEF, the United Nations (UN) agency dedicated to the protection of children's rights, embraced this vision and worked with the Ministry of Social Transformation in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and the National HIV/AIDS Commission to promote the good practice of involving children themselves to contribute to the discussion of the challenges of HIV/AIDS from their perspective and moreover to contribute to development of viable solutions.

The Summit was viewed as an important first step in allowing children to come together to share their experiences and their voices around the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

THE GLOBAL PICTURE AND RESPONSE

HIV/AIDS the Global Picture

According to UNAIDS, HIV/AIDS constitutes one of the world's largest threats to human development. There are currently 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS, with more than a quarter between the ages of 15-24. Half of all new infections in the world occur in young people.¹

The Response to the Epidemic

In June 2001, at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, governments adopted a Declaration of Commitment outlining specific, time-bound goals and targets around HIV/AIDS. The Declaration commits governments and their partners to:

By 2005, ensure that at least 90 percent, and by 2010 at least 95 percent of young men and women aged 15-24 have access to the information, education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, and services necessary to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection; in full partnership with youth, parents, families, educators and health care providers.²

Governments also agreed to:

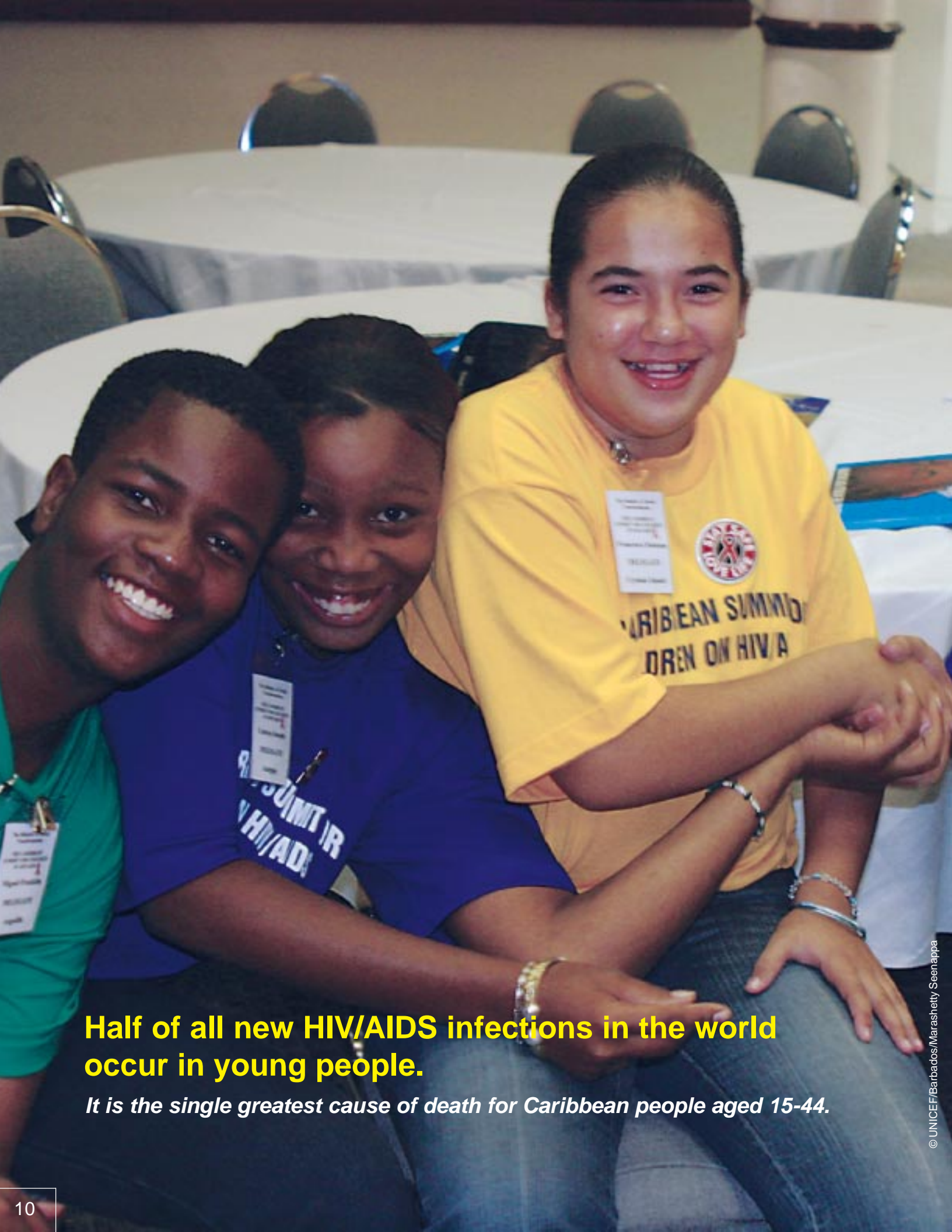
Reduce by 2005 HIV prevalence among young men and women aged 15-24 in the most affected countries by 25 per cent and by 25 per cent globally by 2010.³

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a key treaty in addressing the needs of and fulfilling the rights of all children. All countries in the Caribbean have ratified the CRC and in doing so have committed themselves to ensuring that the rights of the child be respected, protected and fulfilled. By ratifying the CRC countries are obligated to fulfill those rights identified in the treaty. In relation to the health of young people the CRC states in Article 24:⁴

States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

HIV/AIDS is depriving millions of children of their right to attain the highest standard of health. In order to fulfil their obligations set forth by the CRC, governments must play an active role in protecting young people from contracting HIV/AIDS and caring and supporting those children who are affected and/or living with HIV/AIDS.⁵

¹ UNICEF Fact Sheet 2002. ² Ibid. ³ Ibid. ⁴ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 24. ⁵ Ibid.



Half of all new HIV/AIDS infections in the world occur in young people.

It is the single greatest cause of death for Caribbean people aged 15-44.

Mobilizing a Caribbean Youth Response to the Epidemic:

The Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS



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The Impact of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean

The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS has been felt throughout the world, and the Caribbean has not been spared. Every country in the region has been affected by the virus. The adult (15-49 years) prevalence rate for the Caribbean is approximately 2 per cent and falls second to only sub Saharan Africa globally. In the Caribbean alone, 429,000 adults and 20,000 children are estimated to be currently living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS is the leading cause of death in several Caribbean countries including Haiti and the Bahamas.⁶ It is the single greatest cause of death for Caribbean people aged 15-44.

Specific Vulnerabilities of Children in the Caribbean

Adolescents and children face particular vulnerabilities that stem from social, cultural and economic realities that influence a child's ability to act as an agent in protecting himself or herself against HIV/AIDS. In the Caribbean, for example,

the early age of sexual initialisation often does not correspond with an individual's ability to make informed sexual choices. This creates a situation in which children become particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS due to lack of information. In addition, children often cannot seek out sexual and reproductive health services due to barriers reinforced by their age, lack of knowledge

or experience and support services. Norms around gender and sexuality may further increase the vulnerability of girls to contracting HIV/AIDS. The stigma associated with accessing sexual and reproductive health services also plays a detrimental role in children accessing information.

Some facts about young people in the Caribbean:

- The leading cause of death in the 15-44 year age group in the Caribbean is HIV/AIDS.
- In the Caribbean generally, young women represent the majority of young people acquiring HIV.
- In a study conducted in Antigua, Dominica, Grenada and Jamaica, 42 per cent of children who say they have had sex responded that they had sex at the age of 10 or below.



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In addition, existing legislation may act as a barrier to young people's ability to access sexual and reproductive health services including those around HIV/AIDS. For example, many countries in the region have set the legal age of consent for sexual activity at 16 years. This limits in some ways the access of young people to sexual health information and services, even though some young people under this age are sexually active. Policymakers will need to examine how such laws can continue to best protect children while ensuring access to essential services.

Why a Summit?

In order to begin to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, prevention efforts must focus on children. Therefore, children's perspectives must be taken into account when designing policies and programmes, in order to maximize effectiveness and create a participatory dialogue around HIV/AIDS.

Bringing together young people from throughout the region facilitates a sharing of information and experiences across countries. In attending the Summit, youth began to understand the epidemic as it occurs across the Caribbean and as HIV/AIDS affects children. In addition, the young delegates acting as ambassadors of their countries on issues of HIV/AIDS coming out of the Summit will help to facilitate the inclusion of a children's perspectives in future policies and programmes in each participating country.

Some facts about young people in the Caribbean:

- In the same study, only 39 per cent of sexually active 10-12 year olds used birth control at their last sexual intercourse.
- In Haiti, nearly two thirds of sexually active young women aged 15-19 do not believe they are at risk of infection.
- In the Caribbean, 48 per cent of females and 32 per cent of males between the ages of 10-25 reported forced sexual initiation.

The objectives of the Summit were therefore to:-

- highlight the realities of children made vulnerable to and by HIV/AIDS;
- create opportunities for young people to form their own lobby groups throughout the Caribbean;
- establish a sustainable platform to help put the lobbying groups in place;
- increase young people's engagement in HIV/AIDS interventions;
- deepen the consciousness of young people concerning their involvement in halting the spread of HIV/AIDS; and
- build a regional children's forum to discuss the HIV/AIDS pandemic from children's perspective.



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The Importance of Youth Participation

The CRC firmly establishes participation as a human right. Article 12 of the CRC states in part that:

State Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

In addition, in adopting the Outcome Document of the UN Special Session on Children: 'A World Fit for Children' (WFFC), nations made a strong commitment towards increasing participation of children. One of the commitments that they made was to listen to children and ensure their participation:

“Children and adolescents are resourceful citizens capable of helping to build a better future for all. We must respect their right to express themselves and to participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity.”

The Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS was an effort on the part of governments to facilitate youth participation and dialogue in the HIV/AIDS policy, programme planning and implementation processes. It was yet another step in a series of initiatives that governments will take to ensure that young people's voices are heard.

Organizers, Sponsors and Supporters of the Summit

The Summit, one of the first of its kind for the Caribbean, was hosted by the Government of Barbados, under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Transformation in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF BECO), which provided technical assistance.

In addition, a number of national counterparts also contributed to the planning and organization of this Summit: the Child Care Board; National HIV/AIDS Commission; Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports; Ministry of Health and The Pinelands Creative Workshop. The Summit also benefited from the cooperation of a wide cross section of agencies both in the public and private sector.



Approximately two young delegates between the ages of 10-16 represented each participating country at the Summit.

SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

Participants to the Summit

Participants were invited to the Summit from nineteen (19) countries throughout the Caribbean. Seventeen countries participated including Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The delegations from Guyana and Haiti were unable to participate as planned.

Delegates

Approximately two (2) young delegates between the ages of 10-16 represented each participating country (except the host country Barbados which had a larger delegation) at the Summit. The delegate selection process was driven by governments and was assisted by schools, non-governmental organizations and community groups. Each delegation met with its respective National HIV/AIDS Commission to be briefed on the specific concerns pertaining to youth and HIV/AIDS in their country.

CARICOM youth representatives on HIV/AIDS also participated in the regional organisation at the Summit. They were important contributors to the Summit process not only in what they contributed to their peers, but what they brought to the table as regional participants in the ongoing dialogue around young people and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.

Ministers

The presence of Ministers at the Summit spoke to the high level of commitment and the strengthening leadership in addressing young people and HIV/AIDS. In particular, Ministers demonstrated support for increasing the participation of young people in the planning and implementation of programmes addressing HIV/AIDS.

Eight (8) Ministers and one Ministerial representative from regional government bodies, charged with addressing the issues of children and youth affairs in the delegates' home countries, attended the Summit.

During the “Yes, Minister” session, Ministers interacted directly with youth delegates, answering questions posed by them about the response of their governments to HIV/AIDS. The Ministers also deliberated separately on the issue with representatives of regional and international development agencies.



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“Chaperones”

“Chaperones” for the delegations were selected because they were community-based activists on issues of HIV/AIDS or engaged in issues about HIV/AIDS in their daily work. “Chaperones” played a dual role in the Summit, acting as caretakers to the young delegates as well as attending a special session designed for chaperones. As activists and leaders from their own countries, chaperones are expected to continue to play a pivotal role in supporting the delegates in their post Summit activities.

Youth Facilitators

Youth facilitators came from community based organizations in Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Between the ages of 18-23, youth facilitators led various sessions throughout the Summit and were an integral part of the Summit planning process, which was facilitated through the UNICEF global chatroom “Voices of Youth”. Youth facilitators brought energy and life to their presentations with interactive learning games and instantly connected with the delegates as peers and positive role models.

Adult Facilitators

HIV/AIDS activists, community-based workers, representatives from agencies in Barbados, and regional organizations also facilitated sessions at the Summit. Drawing from their own experiences around youth activism in the region and globally, facilitators were able to educate young people and help them draft the declaration for young people. Facilitators played an active role in making the Summit both educational and fun.



“HIV/AIDS does not discriminate. We look forward to continuing our work with children to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS and to help them learn the skills to always make the right choice.”

Hon. Hamilton Lashley, Minister, Ministry of Social Transformation, Barbados
Jean Gough, Representative, United Nations Children's Fund, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean



**Creating a Space for Dialogue:
The Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS**

OPENING CEREMONY

Creating a Space for Dialogue:

The Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS

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The Opening Ceremony of the Summit began with excitement as Ms. DeAnn Beckles, a Barbadian Youth, welcomed delegates, together with Ministers of their Governments, representatives from CARICOM, the United Nations as well as other members of the regional and international NGO community to Barbados.

Several key speakers spoke to the importance of involving youth in the planning and

implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies and creating a space for young people

The Honourable Senator John Williams, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office in Barbados noted that “there is no issue of greater concern to the development of our nations and the development of our region” than HIV/AIDS. Critical to addressing the issue was the need for youth participation. “Adults need to listen more to what young people say, and develop relevant programmes with their [young people's] participation”, alongside the participation of various civil society groups, including “parents, family members, teachers, religious and community leaders” who need “to be more open about discussing HIV/AIDS and the factors that make young people vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.”

In dealing with the issue of HIV/AIDS, Mr. Nils Kastberg, the UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, reminded the audience that “young people are not the problem”. Rather he insisted, “we know for certain, that young people, when equipped with the right knowledge, make responsible choices.” In this regard, Mr. Kastberg also spoke about the importance of talking openly about the societal challenges that further young people's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and made the plea for breaking “the silence that starts within the walls of the family...it's in the family that we must first build the protective mechanisms for our children.”

Minister of Social Transformation of Barbados, the Honourable Hamilton Lashley pointed to the grave impact HIV/AIDS is having on the Caribbean, exemplified by the 83,000 children orphaned due to HIV/AIDS in the region. In so doing he called for an end to “stigma and discrimination against people affected by HIV/AIDS that in turn increases the vulnerability of individuals and their partners to the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.”

The Opening Ceremony ended with cultural presentations relating to issues of HIV/AIDS drawn from local schools and performance groups. Presentations utilized dance, theatre, and spoken word as methodologies to demonstrate how public education on HIV/AIDS can utilize varied and creative mediums to educate communities and children about the challenges of HIV/AIDS.

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TWO DAYS OF EDUCATION AND ACTION

Welcome!

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Day one began with great anticipation as delegates were greeted by Wendy Fitzwilliam, former Ms Universe from Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Fitzwilliam highlighted several topics of relevance to young people's lives. Youth agreed with Ms. Fitzwilliam as she discussed the use of sex to sell products, without regard to the impact that this was having on young people's decision making and behaviour. She spoke about the necessity to make media coverage around HIV/AIDS more specific to the young and less ambiguous - tackling issues of HIV/AIDS directly. In addition, Ms. Fitzwilliam spent some time explaining how all people can contract HIV/AIDS and the fact that the virus does not discriminate based on race, class, or any other social factors. Finally, Ms. Fitzwilliam spoke about supporting those people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and working together in communities to end stigma and discrimination.

Her comments were reinforced by Shawn Freeman, a 16-year-old Trinidadian youth activist living with HIV/AIDS. Delegates listened with unfaltering attention as Shawn described his own experiences relating to discrimination in the school system and in his broader community. He spoke to the young people as a young person, confiding in his peers, that when his HIV+ status was disclosed many people within the school system would shun him. Shawn discussed his fears of attending school as an HIV+ student, afraid that his peers would treat him poorly and how he felt returning to school as an older student in an environment where was treated differently.

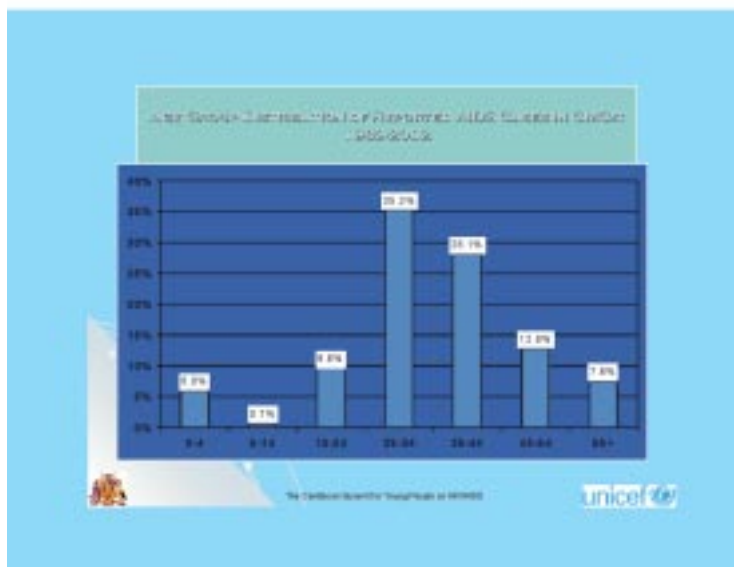
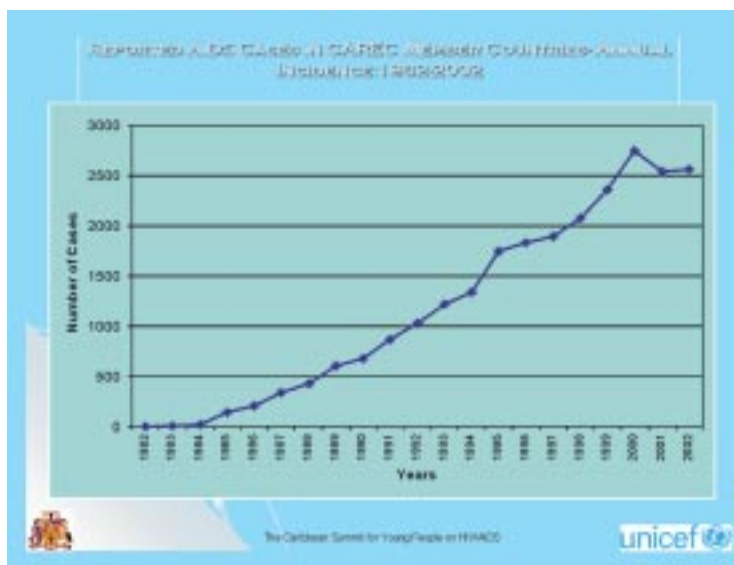
He also highlighted the important roles that school staff and students play in creating a safe and respectful environment in which young people with HIV/AIDS can continue to learn without fear of discrimination. Finally, Shawn spoke of how his own school principal offered him the support needed to help him to continue his education.

Key Issue for Action:

- Develop overt policies on the continuing education and treatment of children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS are required in all countries.

PART 1: EDUCATING OURSELVES ABOUT HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean



Ms. Sheila Samiel, Public Health Advisor for the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre (CAREC), contextualized the epidemic in the Caribbean in a child-friendly manner. Beginning with explaining definitions of commonly used words in reference to HIV/AIDS, Ms. Samiel's presentation noted that the rate of infection of HIV/AIDS had almost doubled in four years and that the incidence has shown an upward trend in the Caribbean.

Of the reported cases in the Caribbean Member Countries (CMC) of CAREC, 35.3 per cent are in the 25-34 year old age group and there has been a demonstrated shift from men to women. In 1985 the male to female ratio of people living with HIV/AIDS was 4:1 and has now shifted to 2:1.

Key Issues for Action

- Address Gender differentials in the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.
- Develop educational programmes on HIV/AIDS using child friendly language.
- Encourage the participation of young people in the planning and implementation of programmes and policies.

Daily Thematic Focus

Each day of the Summit had a thematic focus. The theme of Day 1 was "Educating Ourselves about HIV/AIDS" while Day 2 focused on "Taking Action around HIV/AIDS", building on the lessons learned during the sessions of the first day

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Ms. Samiel spoke to the increasing incidence of HIV/AIDS amongst young women in particular, indicating that young women are now most at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS. In addition, she pointed out that females between the ages of 15-24 years old had an incidence rate of 3 to 6 times higher than males their age. Amongst young women in antenatal clinics between the ages of 15-24, HIV/AIDS prevalence doubles that of the national rates.

Studies on Young People in the Caribbean: What do we learn?

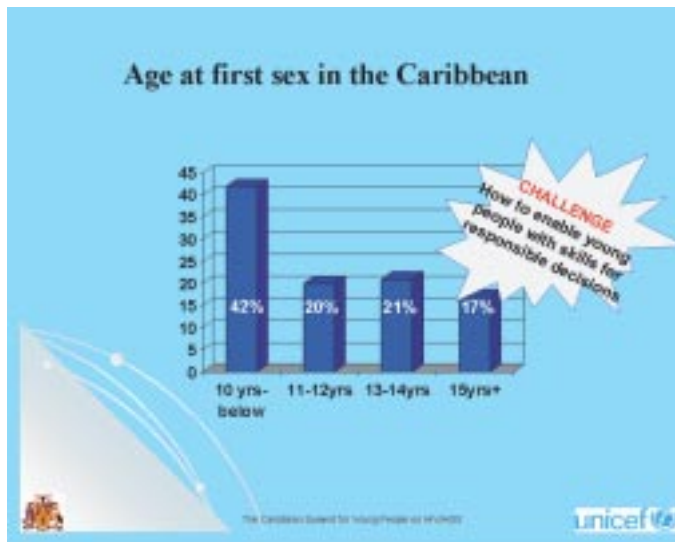
Dr. Marashetty Seenappa, Programme Coordinator of UNICEF BECO engaged the young delegates in a discussion on the challenges facing their generation. Dr. Seenappa posed a series of questions to the delegates based on information generated from Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviour and Practices (KABP) studies in the region. Questions and information included:

- How can accurate information reach all youth? Studies indicate that not all children have access to correct information on HIV/AIDS. In addition, there are often incorrect perceptions about those individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

- How can various environments (i.e. home, school) be made safe for children? Research highlights that in the Caribbean, a significant number of children have stated that they are forced to have sex against their will. Children who face physical and emotional abuse are often at a higher risk for contracting HIV/AIDS.

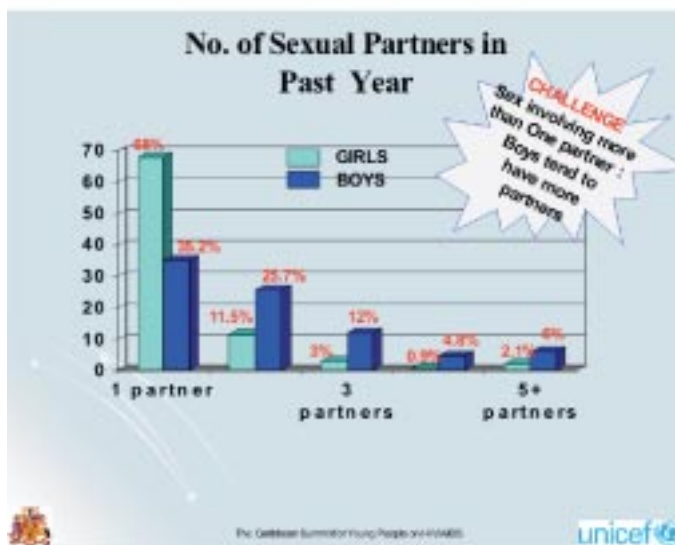


- How should young people be enabled with skills to make responsible decisions?
Over 60 per cent of respondents to KAPB surveys report that they had started sexual activity by the age of 12. If children are not given accurate and timely information, they may be left unaware of the implications of sexual activity and in turn make decisions that are detrimental to their futures and lives.



- How can we address those aspects of society which make girls more vulnerable to contracting HIV/AIDS?

Young people have different vulnerabilities to HIV/AIDS based on their sex and gender norms. Aspects of each study showed that in the Caribbean young men tend to have multiple sexual partners and are encouraged to do so because of cultural norms that affect both their own vulnerability to contracting HIV/AIDS and the vulnerability of their sexual partners. Social, biological and economic factors make young women especially vulnerable as norms may dictate that, for example, girls should not access condoms or seek out information about their sexual health.



- What measures do young people propose to use to fight misconception, stigma and discrimination of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS?

In the Caribbean, it has been demonstrated through research that young people are aware of HIV/AIDS risk in various settings. For example, over 90 per cent of young people understand that HIV/AIDS cannot be passed through hugging or shaking the hands of someone who is HIV+. However, it is necessary to find out why discrimination still exists and how young people feel that they can contribute to ending

discrimination against other children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The following studies were consulted: The sexual health needs of youth in Tobago 2000; Situation and response analysis of HIV/AIDS in Tobago 2002; A portrait of adolescent health in the Caribbean 2000 (PAHO); HIV/AIDS and out of school children in Suriname. 2001 (PAHO); Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey 1998 (PAHO); Situation & response analysis of HIV/AIDS in The British Virgin Islands 2002; Barbados AIDS KAPB survey of school children (11-16yrs) 1989; Barbados National youth KAPB survey 2002; A KAP study of school going young people in Suriname 1993; UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Suriname (2001), Trinidad & Tobago (2002); HIV/AIDS survey of secondary school students in the Turks and Caicos islands (UNICEF and Turks and Caicos Red Cross) 2003; Adolescent sexuality and HIV/AIDS: risk behaviours and risk situations among teenage girls in Barbados UWI Cave Hill and UNICEF (in progress)

Key Issues for Action

- Examine and act on the phenomenon of sexual violence and abuse of young people in the Caribbean
- Examine the young age of first sex in the Caribbean and understand why the age of sexual initiation is so low and what can be done to encourage young people to delay their age of sexual initiation.
- Increase creative HIV/AIDS messaging and include youth in the design of HIV/AIDS messaging.

The animated discussion that followed was evidence that Dr. Seenappa's presentation had brought to the forefront many of the issues facing young people. Topics raised by young people included those around the inability of young people to report sexual abuse due to stigma and uneasy access to reporting systems, lack of access to condoms and other contraception due to legal barriers and judgemental service providers, and the inability of young people to make healthy sexual decisions due to peer pressure. Delegates also took the opportunity to discuss the gender differences in the number of sexual partners that male and females may have and the risk this poses to contracting HIV/AIDS.

Protecting Ourselves Against HIV/AIDS

It was then time for youth facilitators to take charge of the day in a session entitled “Protecting Ourselves Against HIV/AIDS”. The delegates were divided into two groups: 10-13 year olds and 14-16 year olds. Activities were designed to be age-specific and age-appropriate. In the sessions, delegates participated in fun, interactive and group-based activities and dialogue concerning the precautions that individuals should take to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and how they can begin to speak about stigma and discrimination. Delegates took this opportunity to ask burning questions and voice their own fears and concerns about HIV/AIDS. Because young people led the sessions, delegates felt comfortable asking questions in their own language.

Younger Delegates Aged 10-13

In the session for 10-13 year olds, young people defined terms around sexual health and reviewed how HIV/AIDS can be spread. The young delegates also discussed stigma and discrimination and how all people can work together to create a more accepting environment for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Older Delegates Aged 14-16

In the session for 14-16 year olds, stigma and discrimination in the context of school, work and social environments was also discussed. The older participants discussed how stigma and discrimination impact people's lives in negative ways and identified how they could work to end stigma and discrimination through dialogue and education. Finally, older delegates participated in an activity that demonstrated how STIs including HIV/AIDS are spread. The activity concluded with a discussion on protecting oneself against STIs and HIV/AIDS through abstaining from sex and making sex safer through condom use.

Key Issues for Action

- Establish spaces for further peer-to-peer dialogue around HIV/AIDS.
- Create spaces where young people can have their questions answered by service providers.
- Further discuss and bring to the forefront issues of stigma and discrimination faced by young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Xpress Yourself

During lunch, participants were able to relax and get to know one another in an informal setting. Towards the end of lunch, a video was shown in the lunchroom entitled “Xpress Yourself“. The video showed scenes of youth-based organizations working on issues of HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Brazil, and Thailand. The aim of this exchange was to demonstrate how other young people are involved in fighting against HIV/AIDS and to inspire the participants to develop initiatives that are appropriate for their own communities.

Farley Hill: Outdoor Experiential Learning

Farley Hill National Park was the setting for the remaining two sessions of Day 1, as the outdoor environment encourages creative participation and a unique learning experience for young people. Ms. Michelle Barrow, an Animator and Educator; Mrs. Cecily Spencer Cross from the Ministry of Education; and Ms. Sade Leon Slinger from the Ministry of Health of Barbados led young people through creative and activity-based exercises that inspired discussion around Support, Information and Behaviour Change to answer the following questions:

Support - What support can we offer individuals affected and/or living with HIV/AIDS? What support structures do we as young people need to protect ourselves from the spread of HIV/AIDS?



Information - What information do we as young people need to protect ourselves from the spread of HIV/AIDS? Where do we want to receive this information? How should this information be delivered?

Behaviour Change - How should young people be changing their behaviour to protect themselves from contracting HIV/AIDS? How can we as young people become empowered to change our behaviour?

Through an action activity, participants chose which area best defined their concerns or needs around the issue of HIV/AIDS. In these small groups, participants were encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas. Young people came up with innovative means of addressing issues around HIV/AIDS including involving parents, starting youth groups at schools and churches, educating peers through school-based training sessions and leading in behaviour change through their own life example. Young people also suggested that the influence of popular culture through music videos and television programmes cannot be underestimated; and youth must work to counteract the negative messages sent through popular culture. These ideas fed into the following day's creative activities based on the same theme areas.



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Key Issues for Action

- Establish support structures that will facilitate youth participation in activities around HIV/AIDS.
- Create spaces for young people to dialogue and support one another around issues of HIV/AIDS, in particular for those young people affected by and living with HIV/AIDS.

Finalising the Declaration: The Drafting Process

The final session of the day, "Examining the Draft Declaration" was facilitated by Mr. Gregory Sloane Seale, Director of the Young Men's Christian Association in Trinidad and Tobago. Delegates divided themselves into groups to discuss how key actors-parents and guardians, religious leaders, school personnel, health professionals and young people themselves could facilitate the effective delivery of care, treatment, and support in HIV/AIDS programming for young people. Topics discussed in the theme groups included access to condoms in schools and health centres, involving parents and teachers in education courses on HIV/AIDS, and the stigmas young people face when trying to discuss issues of sexual health with adults. At the end of the theme group meetings, each cluster nominated a representative to act as a member of the drafting committee on the declaration.



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The Declaration Committee

The Drafting Committee comprised participants from across the spectrum of ages and of both girls and boys to ensure that various youth voices were represented and the gender perspective was considered. For those young people selected to participate in the drafting committee, the day was not yet over. In an informal meeting back at the conference centre, the Youth Drafting Committee debated and finally agreed on the specific demands young people were making on their governments as seen in the their Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS (see Appendix A).

Bringing together Youth Voices

But the process of drafting the Declaration for Young People on HIV/AIDS had begun weeks before the Summit. An initial draft was prepared utilizing existing agreements of young people in the Caribbean as well as conventions and treaties that Caribbean countries had already ratified. Copies of the draft declaration were distributed prior to the Summit for delegates to comment on.

In a parallel pre-Summit process, youth facilitators from youth organizations in Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados met online in Voices of Youth, a forum created and managed by UNICEF for young people around the world to dialogue about their experiences and bring their voices to the forefront of global discussion. During the online sessions, youth facilitators provided feedback that was immediately integrated into the draft declaration.

Day one lasted into the night as a small group of committed youth delegates debated, discussed, and outlined the Youth Declaration signed on Day two.



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PART 2: TAKING ACTION AROUND HIV/AIDS

Revisiting Creative Expression

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Day two of the Summit began with an interpersonal exchange between delegates through a creative exercise in which delegates expressed themselves through art, drama and/or music based on the previous day's dialogue around the themes of Support, Information or Behaviour Change. After viewing examples of creative messaging previously created by facilitators, delegates were given the opportunity to

produce their own expressive piece to be performed during the Closing Session. The delegates came up with many ideas: they danced and sang songs that they felt conveyed messages that they related to; composed their own songs, including one entitled "Stand Up for Youth", or played the steel pan, guitar, and drums to accompany their powerful lyrics and messages around HIV/AIDS. Delegates also performed drama while others set the stage for discussion through creating scenes depicting the role of young people in advocating for change. The session stirred emotions in all who participated, inspiring several Ministers present to actively express their own creativity by singing their own calypso composition and playing steel pan.

Becoming Ambassadors

Following the morning of creative expression, the delegates moved into a more serious mode in a session entitled "Becoming Ambassadors: Identifying Our Rights and Needs" led by Mr. Gregory Sloane Seale and Ms. Vivian Lopez, UNICEF Regional Programme Officer on HIV/AIDS. During the session, delegates defined what it meant to be an ambassador on HIV/AIDS. The underpinning of the presentation to the delegates was the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Delegates learned the basic human rights principles and how the CRC articulates those principles for children. The delegates also defined what elements of the Summit they would take to their peers, schools and communities in their home country.

What parliamentarians and other policymakers can do about HIV/AIDS:

Action for Children and Young People



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Experience has shown that the political leadership of all countries must recognize the potential devastating scale of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and be willing to openly discuss the enormity of the HIV/AIDS problem. Where leaders have shown strong political will and a commitment to act, they have succeeded in reducing the spread of HIV and stymied its devastation. Cases in point are Uganda where the infection rates have been reversed in adults from about 14 per cent in the early 1980s to 8 per cent by 2000 and the Bahamas where the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate continues to show a declining trend. It was therefore essential for the first Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS to engage the participating Ministers of Government or their representatives to look at how they should support young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Consequently while the young delegates took to the Farley Hill National Park to learn more about ways in which they could better communicate to each other on HIV/AIDS, the Ministers participated together with representatives of international,

regional and national development agencies in a roundtable discussion towards advancing programming for young people on HIV/AIDS.

Round Table Discussion by Ministers and Representatives of National, Regional and International Agencies: Building Skills and Assets of Young People in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS

In this session chaired by Minister Damian Greaves of St. Lucia, Ms. Christine Norton, Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development, Participation and Gender Equality shared with the Ministers some of the lessons learnt from research and programming initiatives globally about what works in adolescent HIV prevention programmes. She highlighted what she considered the basis for action - the importance of making a paradigm shift from health to development by changing the emphasis from "fixing" problems as they occur to the building of skills and assets in young people in a way that addresses multiple behaviours at the same time.

Social isolation with no one to confide in, no mentors, lack of support networks, inadequate schooling, and no marketable skills and limited life opportunities were identified as key risk factors for adolescents which often resulted in early sexual initiation, unsafe sexual practices, substance abuse, crime and violence. It was noted that opportunities which foster the development of competence, and confidence, contribute to positive adolescent development. In addition, firm guidelines and rules of conduct as well as specific opportunities



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to contribute in the home and wider community were also critical. Hence programming must provide avenues for constructive use of time, the development of social competencies and positive self identity as well as knowledge of boundaries and expectations. Commitment to learning, in addition to family and other social support were also identified as key protective factors.

Consequently the importance of building programming for adolescent development on the four pillars of knowledge, lifeskills, services and a safe, supportive environment which take into account gender-differentiated strategies was seen as critical to HIV prevention.

HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Health

Buttressing this presentation were three commentators who spoke to important areas to be taken into consideration by the Ministers present. Dr. William Adu-Krow - Advisor for Family and Reproductive Health of the Pan American Health Organization, after presenting the stark global statistics on adolescents and HIV/AIDS, demonstrated that the researchers in the Caribbean had been concerned that a significant number of young people were not worried about HIV/AIDS. Thirty-four per cent (34%) of all adolescents surveyed between the ages of 10 and 18 had indicated having had sex in the past; 42.8 per cent of respondents were sexually active below 10 years, but a similar percentage below the age of 12 years had been forced into their first sexual intercourse. Why were adolescents so vulnerable? They were easily influenced by other young people; had disregard for the perception of threat; abused substances; lacked access to proper HIV information and prevention services; lacked knowledge or the will to protect themselves; or were outside of supportive environments which exposed them to poverty, sexual exploitation, violence, or poor nurturing and support systems.

The link between gender and HIV/AIDS

Ms. Roberta Clarke, Director of UNIFEM spoke on the link between gender and HIV/AIDS, which had been confirmed by the PAHO research, and indicated that in the Caribbean, girls are four to six times more affected due to biological and social reasons. She reminded the participants that gender roles began in early childhood, and that cultural norms and practices in the Caribbean have been integral in creating and perpetuating social and economic inequalities between men and women in families. Typically these place primary responsibility for care of children and management of the household on women and permit men far greater freedom and control over their time, money and bodies. Disproportionate domestic and child-rearing responsibilities, particularly for single mothers, contribute to high levels of stress, limit women's earning capacity and made them more vulnerable to poverty, domestic violence and HIV/AIDS.

International, Regional and National Experience: The Critical Partners

The School - The message was clear. Fortunately, most young people are not infected. In fact, during the early adolescence, HIV rates are the lowest of any period during the life cycle. The challenge is to keep them this way. Focusing on young people is likely to be the most effective approach to confronting the epidemic, particularly in high prevalence countries.



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Mr. Roderick Rudder of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Barbados, shared the multi-faceted approach the Ministry is taking to the education of children on HIV/AIDS within the school system. Primarily through a variety of participatory methodologies, the whole school approach which sought to educate teachers, parents, children and all ancillary staff of each school plant, was an essential part of the strategy now in place. The aim was to create a total synergy against HIV/AIDS in which all concerned appreciated that HIV/AIDS “was not a health challenge, but a development challenge.”

The Society - Ministers all acknowledged the significant work that was being undertaken with young people in Barbados on the entire issue of HIV/AIDS. They were encouraged by Minister Lashley of Barbados to adopt Children First policies and to take children into their confidence and speak on their issues and on their behalf to their Cabinet

colleagues. While Minister Abdul-Hamid of Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the developmental approach to HIV/AIDS reinforced by the central presentation, he cautioned that the required behavioural change was a difficult challenge to resolve.

The Jamaican experience pointed to a set of integrated responses at the legislative and policy levels. Policies on HIV/AIDS in the school, workplace and industry have been developed and are being implemented; a second generation National Youth Policy had been developed and a Child Care and Protection Act passed in 2004. Likewise in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and in Dominica, there was new public health legislation and a national HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan. However there remains a significant deficit in funding to implement the same.

But what of the realities brought to the fore by the presentations? Ministers noted the contradictions between the messages of abstinence on the one hand and those that perpetuate a message of promiscuity on the other. In addition, countries are yet to fully utilise available research on incest and other forms of sexual abuse of children to seriously start to address these challenges.

Regional and International Partnership

Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, UN Resident Coordinator for the Eastern Caribbean and Mr. Neil Pierre, representing the system for Trinidad and Tobago assured the Ministers of the UN System support for the programming process against HIV/AIDS especially within the context of the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. This support was endorsed by Dr. Heather Johnson, Programme Manager for Youth, CARICOM who viewed the process as an opportunity to bring the issues of young children to the Caribbean ministerial agenda through the CARICOM Secretariat.

Ministerial Commitment

Ministers were so inspired and motivated by the discussion that they took the decision to host subsequent Summits on an annual basis for the next five years. They sealed their obligation through the development of a Commitment of Governments to the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS, which embodied the following seven action lines:-

- Policies and legislation that strengthen family unit and effectively address stigma and discrimination.
- Protection and promotion of the right of adolescents to education, health, protection, non-discrimination, freedom from exploitation and abuse.
- Building of strong and effective educational systems accessible to all, including the vulnerable.
- Wide-scale communication and social mobilization efforts to broaden awareness, reduce stigma and discrimination.
- Enhancement of health care systems to address the needs of adolescents.
- HIV counseling and support for the youth and their parents.
- Promotion of the delay of sexual initiation.



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“Yes Minister”

After lunch, formal proceedings began. The first session of the afternoon was entitled “Yes Minister: Articulating Our Rights and Needs”. That session built on the conversation of the previous sessions where young people worked to define their needs around HIV/AIDS. Now it was time to articulate these needs and ideas to Ministers in the region and hear the responses of governments to the views of young people.

The young delegates were firm and direct in their questioning. Specific questions included those on access to condoms in schools, the care and treatment of young people living with HIV/AIDS, access to drugs for populations living with HIV/AIDS in specific countries, and the inclusion of children with HIV/AIDS in the formal education system so that they can continue to participate in the school system. Young people also made key suggestions about HIV/AIDS messaging and involving young people in designing interactive means of communicating, including video games, music, dance, and theatre.

Having encouraged the young people to speak freely, Ministers responded to each question. Ministerial responses included explanations of why governments have taken certain positions on particular issues, what the actions and limitations are of governments, and encouragement of young people to continue to demand that their voices be heard. In relation to questions pertaining to children living with and affected with HIV/AIDS, Ministers explained the circumstances facing young people with HIV/AIDS in their country and the strategic plans that are currently in place for governments to begin to address the issue of young people and HIV/AIDS in their respective countries. For many countries, there were no legal barriers to access of services and support by children living with and affected with HIV/AIDS; the real barriers faced by children related to the attitudes of policy makers and service deliverers.

Summary of Key Items for Action

- *Develop overt policies on the continuing education and treatment of children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in all countries.*
- *Address gender differentials in the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean.*
- *Create a greater understanding of HIV/AIDS in child friendly language.*
- *Establish spaces for further peer-to-peer dialogue on HIV/AIDS.*
- *Create adolescent friendly health services where young people can ask questions and obtain services.*
- *Further discuss and bring to the forefront issues of stigma and discrimination of children living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.*
- *Encourage the participation of young people in the planning and implementation of programmes and policies.*
- *Establish specific programmes for young people in the Caribbean and involve young people in the planning and implementation of these programs.*
- *Examine the specific case of sexual violence and abuse of young people in the Caribbean.*
- *Examine further the low initiation age of sexual intercourse in the Caribbean to understand why the age is so low and what can be done to encourage young people to delay their age of sexual initiation.*
- *Increase creative HIV/AIDS messaging and include youth in the design of HIV/AIDS messaging.*
- *Create support structures that will facilitate youth participation in activities on HIV/AIDS.*
- *Create space for young people to dialogue and support one another around issues of HIV/AIDS, in particular for those young people affected by and living with HIV/AIDS.*

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Ministers also spoke about the need to hear more from young people and the need to formally integrate the perspectives of young people into the planning and implementation of programmes; the need for diverse ways of communicating the HIV/AIDS message to young people; the need to discontinue discriminatory practices against young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS; making health services more accessible and youth friendly; and working to prevent and address the ongoing sexual abuse faced by many children in the Caribbean.

The session continued on far longer than expected as both the Ministers and the young people gained momentum in discussing the important issues at hand. The Session ended with Ministers agreeing to annual Summits for the next five years through which young people can have a space to speak freely; through which creative programming for responsible living by young people can be promoted and developed; and through which governments

and young people can begin to promote and monitor change in the circumstances of children living with and affected with HIV/AIDS. They also committed to returning to their countries to create room for young people to dialogue with each other and with government on HIV/AIDS.

Signing the Declarations

The “Signing of the Caribbean Youth Declaration” and the “Signing of the Governments Agreement to the Youth Declaration” was the final and most formal session of the Summit. In this session chaired by Dr. Heather Johnson of CARICOM and Ms. Jean Gough, the Representative for UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, young people and Ministers signed their respective declarations. Each signing delegate, nominated by their delegation, spoke about his/her country's experience at the Summit and follow-up activities planned for implementation on return home. Several young people spoke about educating their peers, both through one-on-one efforts and peer education organizations. Many young people articulated their pride in being an ambassador for youth issues concerning HIV/AIDS in their country and noted that they would do their part in contributing to a strong youth voice in their own countries and in the region.

After each statement, the leader of each delegation placed on the floor a cut out of their country that joined together to make a map of the Caribbean representing the unified efforts of young people throughout the region.

Dr. Heather Johnson concluded the formal proceedings and the signing of the declaration by articulating CARICOM's commitment to the Youth Declaration and contextualizing the importance of the Summit to regional activities around HIV/AIDS. She also stated that CARICOM has placed a high priority on the Summit and the input of young people within the Pan Caribbean Strategic Response to HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).

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The Closing Ceremony of the Summit brought all emotions to the fore. Young people and Ministers alike sang, danced and performed. Participants cheered on other young people as they spoke articulately about ending stigma and discrimination and the struggles young people have in making their voices heard by people in authority.

The closing ceremony seemed anything but an ending as young people did not want to leave and wished the Summit would last longer. A session of hugs for all at the end of the Summit broke all final barriers between participants and left a feeling of warmth and acceptance which will continue to give energy to this new movement of young people in the Caribbean.



EVALUATION

Through an anonymous evaluation process, the young people and their Chaperones gave the experience an overwhelmingly vote of confidence, with all young people and chaperones agreeing that the Summit process should be continued. It was a forum for making new friends across the Caribbean, but more importantly, they had learned new information on HIV/AIDS and had a chance to practice new communication and personal interaction skills. Consequently, they were motivated to pledge the use of their experience and knowledge in peer-to-peer interaction. The fact that the scenery was varied from the stateliness of the Sherbourne Conference Centre to the outdoor magnificence of the Farley Hill National Park was a positive factor for many. They also enjoyed the fact that they were treated like royalty when police outriders escorted their buses back to their hotels! Chaperones wanted to play a greater technical role in future Summits and considered the excellent coverage by the press a true demonstration of a partnership with children. A trend has begun that cannot now be stopped - working for children with children.

EPILOGUE - POST SUMMIT FOLLOW UP

The Summit has successfully launched an increased number of youth-driven and government-sponsored activities on HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Examples of such activities include the:

- Hosting of meetings with country stakeholders, including youth groups, on HIV/AIDS and youth in order to draft a strategic way forward based on the experiences of the Summit;
- Planning and execution of national youth summits on HIV/AIDS in Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, St. Lucia and the Turks and Caicos Islands to bring the issues highlighted at the regional Summit into a domestic youth forum;
- Training of “change agents” within countries to represent youth and HIV/AIDS issues in various sectors of government;
- Setting up of bodies to monitor the rights of those individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS;
- Preparation of Ministers and Members of Parliament to articulate the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights issues as they relate to young people;
- Establishment of frameworks for institution of school-based HIV/AIDS awareness clubs. To date Barbados has officially launched its HIV/AIDS Awareness Clubs in schools. The objectives for the clubs, as defined by young people include:
 - To bring about behavioural change in young people in order to decrease the number of new cases of HIV/AIDS amongst young people
 - To educate young people around STIs/HIV/AIDS
 - To provide a space for frank and open discussion
 - To develop negotiation skills among young people
 - Collaboration between young people and artists to spread the messages about HIV/AIDS.

In Barbados, the school clubs, with the support of the National HIV/AIDS Commission and UNICEF, hosted a national outdoor concert for young people and their parents as one way of spreading their message. Popular artistes participated in this concert

The Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago agreed to host Caribbean Summit 2005.

CARIBBEAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

I. PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of young people and young people's organizations participating in the First Caribbean Summit for Young People on HIV/AIDS from the Twenty First to Twenty Third of March in the year Two Thousand and Four, in Barbados, make this declaration to affirm our concern about the spread of HIV/AIDS amongst young people in the Caribbean and confirm our responsibility towards stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS and working to end the stigma and discrimination faced by individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

AIDS is becoming the leading cause of death among 15-44 year olds in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean. An estimated 2.3 per cent of the Caribbean population is living with HIV/AIDS. Of the 60,000 individuals who became infected in the region in 2000, half were young people between the age of 10 to 25.

II. CONSIDERATIONS

Aware of existing policy frameworks as listed below:

- 2.1 The Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by all countries of the Caribbean.
- 2.2 The recent Declaration of the Caribbean Sub Regional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption (Port of Spain, 2003).
- 2.3 The goals and targets set forth in the Plan of Action of the World Fit for Children outcome document, May 2002.

III. DECLARATIONS

With all youth in mind we urge governments to:

- 3.1 Allocate special funds in their budgets for HIV/AIDS programmes to ensure the involvement of children and young people. Governments must ensure children and young people's needs and their participation while preparing budgets.
- 3.2 Create mechanisms by which young people's concerns can be voiced and heard in decision making fora, and that young people be included in the design, planning and implementation of programs and policies concerning HIV/AIDS.
- 3.3 Recognise the specific ways HIV/AIDS impacts young people specific to the social norms and values surrounding, inter alia, gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, children with disabilities and location.

- 3.4 Ensure a protective environment that minimizes the circumstances by which young people are exposed to increased risk to HIV, inter alia, incest, sexual violence, commercial sexual exploitation and violence in the home.
- 3.5 Support the establishment of representative youth HIV/AIDS ambassadors on the national and regional level.
- 3.6 Support peer education programmes and develop the capacity of young people to speak to other young people about HIV/AIDS.
- 3.7 Work to increase young people's access to confidential and high quality youth -friendly health services including to deal with HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STI) and access to contraceptives.
- 3.8 Integrate research, prevention, treatment, care and support for those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS into comprehensive approaches inclusive of the views and needs of young people.
- 3.9 Ensure that correct and complete information is provided to young people early enough in their lives to enable them to make informed decisions about behaviours that pose HIV and AIDS risk.
- 3.10 Establish and provide support for local programmes for young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 3.11 Introduce laws and policies against discrimination and stigma faced by young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 3.12 Provide free HIV voluntary confidential counselling and testing as well as follow up support services for young people. Consent laws should take into consideration the special concerns and gender needs of young people with regards to testing for HIV and STI, and provide the services necessary.
- 3.13 Introduce formal programmes which sensitise members of the health care community on HIV/AIDS and related issues.
- 3.14 Provide mobile health services in communities where youth cannot easily access quality, confidential services.
- 3.15 Ensure that health care providers and hospitals have the appropriate supplies and information necessary to best ensure high quality care for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 3.16 Ensure that all services provided must incorporate a gender perspective.
- 3.17 Ensure that feedback given by youth in regards to services received is integrated in future planning and implementation of health services.

- 3.18 Pay attention to those young people with disabilities, ensuring that appropriate services are designed to cater to their individual needs. In addition, materials should be created which can be accessed by children with disabilities.
- 3.19 Give special consideration to young people in correctional institutions and ensure access to quality education, care, and treatment.
- 3.20 Ensure that appropriate support mechanisms, including training, are in place for parents, guardians, adults in order for them to provide the highest quality education and support to young people.
- 3.21 Support faith-based organizations in supporting those people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 3.22 Support the training and sensitization of faith-based organizations about HIV/AIDS.
- 3.23 Empower young people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS through school-based and out-of-school-based programmes and increase access to quality Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) for all young people.
- 3.24 Allocate specific time and space in schools to address issues of HIV/AIDS, particularly through supporting HIV/AIDS awareness and peer education programs.
- 3.25 Support the access to and availability of condoms.
- 3.26 Ensure that teachers, administrators and guidance counsellors are trained to assist young people on issues of sexual and reproductive health, and specifically about HIV/AIDS.
- 3.27 Encourage a creative approach to educate young people on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health in schools.
- 3.28 Fulfil every child's right to an education, specifically those children and young people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 3.29 Ensure the development of new, creative, educational materials for young people, using the latest technology available, such as the internet.
- 3.30 Create and sponsor space with media (TV, radio, internet) that is driven by young people and for young people to communicate, dialogue and interact in their own language. Also, ensure that such programmes also integrate the voices of those individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 3.31 Create anonymous hotlines with counsellors specifically trained with skills for dealing with the social and other impact of HIV/AIDS on the lives of young people.
- 3.32 Ensure that all children both in and out of school receive life skills education to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to help them protect themselves. Teenage mothers should be given specific support to cater to their needs.

IV. COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 We commit to encourage our peers to make safe and healthy lifestyle choices to reduce the spread of HIV.
- 4.2 We commit to educating our peers and organizations about HIV/AIDS in order to prevent the transmission of HIV and STIs.
- 4.3 We commit to supporting programmes which work towards ending stigma and discrimination against people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to do our part as individuals to provide support and care.
- 4.4 We commit to protecting ourselves from contracting HIV through appropriate individual behaviours and actions.
- 4.5 We commit to encourage and educate our families and communities about HIV/AIDS in efforts to stop the further spread of HIV and other STIs.
- 4.6 We commit to continue building on the networks and relationships established at the Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS to assist in the implementation of this declaration.
- 4.7 We commit to fully utilizing those structures in place through the “chaperone” system upon returning to our country to liaise with government and NGO bodies.

V. REQUEST

National, Regional and International Level

- 5.1 Request and encourage national and local governments and international, regional and national non-governmental organizations to support the implementation of programs on sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS and to assist young people and youth groups in the realization of the declaration.
- 5.2 Request regional inter-governmental organizations (CARICOM and OECS) to disseminate and support the implementation of our declaration.

Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS
Bridgetown, Barbados
23 March 2004

CARIBBEAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

We, the undersigned, Heads of Delegations of Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean Community to the Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS, gathered at Bridgetown, Barbados on the Twenty-third day of March 2004, append our signatures to the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS, in the expectation that the actions and commitments contained therein, will be pursued by all, with the dedication necessary to safeguard the future of all Caribbean children and young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

M. Franklin
Anguilla

Jodi Artherton
Antigua and Barbuda

Tara Allgeier
Barbados

David Easton
Bahamas

Pearla Martinez
Belize

Chionn
British Virgin Islands

Flamann
Cayman Islands

Nadette W. James
Commonwealth of Dominica

Sasha Thomas
Grenada

Ian Williams
Jamaica

God Skerritt
Montserrat

Jermaine Huggins
St. Kitts and Nevis

Jeanne Liz Duncan
St. Lucia

Whemile King
St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Kimara Lescram
Suriname

Shawn Freeman
Trinidad and Tobago

Royelle Robinson
Turks and Caicos Islands

COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENTS TO THE CARIBBEAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

I. PREAMBLE

We, the representatives of Governments of the Caribbean, meeting in Barbados from the Twenty First to the Twenty Third of March in the year Two Thousand and Four at the first Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS,

Concerned about the importance of young people's participation in the planning and implementation of policies and programmes;

Committed to creating appropriate opportunities and spaces for young people to voice their concerns and express their emotions around experiences pertaining to HIV/AIDS in a way that will be heard, recognized, and acted upon.

Recognising that the Caribbean is the second-worst affected region in the world with 2.3 per cent of all those between the age of 15 to 49 infected with HIV/AIDS; and that most new infections are being reported among young women (age 15-24) where the incidence rate is 3-6 times higher than young men of the same age;

Further concerned that for the majority of people sexual activity begins in adolescence, with 54.8 per cent male and 23.5 per cent females reporting the first sexual encounter prior to the age of ten; and a further 47.6 per cent females and 31.9 per cent males indicating that their first sexual encounter was forced.

Deeply concerned about the rising incidence of HIV/AIDS in our region and its impact on the lives of our young people including those with disabilities;

Are hereby convinced about the important role young people can play in curbing the pandemic as individuals as well as advocates and activists.

II. CONSIDERATIONS

Aware of existing policy frameworks as listed below:-

- 2.1 The Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by all countries of the Caribbean.
- 2.2 The recent Declaration of the Caribbean Sub Regional meeting to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) 10 years after its adoption (Port of Spain, 2003).

- 2.3 The Commitment of the Caribbean to achieve the goals and targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including the reduction of child mortality and combating HIV/AIDS.
- 2.4 The goals and targets set forth in the Plan of Action of the World Fit for Children outcome document, May 2002.
- 2.5 The resolution passed by the CARICOM Standing Committee of Ministers of Education supporting the development of a comprehensive approach to Health and Family Life Education (HFLE).
- 2.6 The United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV/AIDS in June 2001 where Heads of State and Governments committed themselves to meeting a number of key goals to diminish HIV prevalence among young people age 15 to 24. This resolution was endorsed by Caribbean countries in the Nassau Declaration on Health, July 2001.
- 2.7 The Pan-Caribbean Partnerships (PANCAP) on HIV/AIDS and the Regional Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS particularly Priority Area III on young people.
- 2.8 The Declaration of the Fourth Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Women, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines which adopted inter alia, the strengthening of legal and social measures to combat child abuse and exploitation February 2004.
- 2.9 The goals and targets of the Caribbean Cooperation on Health Phase II especially as they relate to AIDS Prevention, May 1999.

III. DECLARATIONS

Urge young people to be proactive and diligently seek to:-

- 3.1 Address their sexual and reproductive health needs especially concerning HIV/AIDS by identifying and participating in opportunities for decision making, programme development and implementation.
- 3.2 Access appropriate and quality sexual and reproductive health services and information, especially regarding HIV/AIDS.
- 3.3 Educate themselves and to accept the challenge of adopting safe and responsible sexual behaviours.

IV. COMMITMENTS

We declare that we will uphold the following commitments:-

- 4.1 Support the creation of safe and protective environments at the level of family, school and wider community in which children and young people can grow, adopt healthy lifestyles and develop their full potential.
- 4.2 Support youth involvement in the planning and implementation of policies and programmes as they relate to young people's sexual and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS and to better establish services that are youth-friendly.
- 4.3 Support a mechanism by which young people's inputs, ideas, and experiences can be heard and integrated into the planning and implementation of policies and programmes and build their capacity for effective participation.
- 4.4 Support young people in their fight to end stigma and discrimination faced by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to empower them to make positive choices for their health and well-being.
- 4.5 Ensure that young people have access to accurate and high quality information about sexual and reproductive health generally and HIV/AIDS specifically.
- 4.6 Support efforts to ensure that young people have access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health services in fulfilment of their rights.
- 4.7 Involve young people in research through participatory research processes.
- 4.8 Develop a multi-sectoral approach and the integration of services so that HIV/AIDS will be addressed within a broader developmental framework taking into account the holistic needs of young people throughout the life cycle.
- 4.9 Mainstream youth concerns into the National Strategic Plans for HIV/AIDS and the preparation of a sector strategic plan for young people.
- 4.10 Research, recognize and act upon the specific ways in which HIV/AIDS impacts young people considering the social norms and values surrounding inter alia gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and location
- 4.11 Utilize existing governmental and regional inter-governmental organizations (CARICOM and OECS) to support the realization of this declaration through the development and implementation of a national youth plan of action as a follow-up to the Children's Summit on HIV/AIDS, Barbados March 2004 within the context of the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS.

- 4.12 Work towards providing the highest quality of care, treatment and support to all those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.
- 4.13 Reform and strengthen the legal and social measures that protect children from all forms of sexual violence including child abuse and incest.
- 4.14 Support national Summits for Children on HIV/AIDS over the next five years which would feed into wider annual regional Summits to monitor progress.
- 4.15 Support national efforts to continue building on the networks and relationships, Including support to national Summits for Children on HIV/AIDS for the implementation of this declaration within a five-year time frame, and to establish a regional monitoring mechanism linked to the MDGs.

Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS
Bridgetown, Barbados
23 March 2004

COMMITMENT OF GOVERNMENTS TO THE CARIBBEAN YOUTH DECLARATION ON HIV/AIDS

We, the undersigned, Ministers and Representatives of Government of Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean Community, and participants in the Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS, gathered at Bridgetown, Barbados on the Twenty-third day of March 2004, append our signatures to this Commitment of Governments to the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS, in the expectation that the actions and commitments contained therein, will be pursued by all, with the dedication necessary to safeguard the future of all Caribbean children and young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Hon. Hamilton Lashley
Barbados



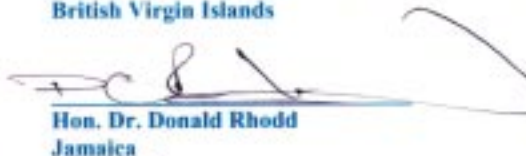
Hon. Damian Greaves
St. Lucia



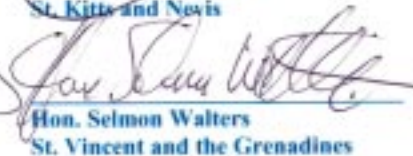
Dr. Ronald McAnaney Ph.D.
British Virgin Islands



Hon. Rupert Herbert
St. Kitts and Nevis



Hon. Dr. Donald Rhodd
Jamaica



Hon. Selmon Walters
St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Hon. Isabelle Meade
Montserrat



Senator Hon. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid
Trinidad and Tobago



Hon. Karen Delaney
Turks and Caicos Islands



AGENDA
**THE CARIBBEAN SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN
ON HIV/AIDS**

Bridgetown, Barbados
21-23 March 2004

Organised by the
Ministry of Social Transformation

in collaboration with the
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports,
The National HIV/AIDS Commission
and
United Nations Children's Fund,
Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Office

DAY 1
Monday March 22, 2004

Theme: Educating Ourselves About HIV/AIDS
Location: Sherbourne Conference Centre / Farley Hill National Park
Summit MCs: Mr. Ishiaka McNeil and Ms. Natalie Reifer

09:00-10:00	Welcome Room: Flamboyant North Welcome: Statement: Statement: Tone activity:	Mr. Ishiaka McNeil Ms. Wendy Fitzwilliam, Miss Universe 1998/UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS Mr. Sean Freeman Mr. Ishiaka McNeil
10:00-10:30	Regional Perspective of HIV/AIDS and Youth Room: Flamboyant North Presenter:	Ms. Sheila Samiel, Public Health Advisor Caribbean Epidemiological Centre, Trinidad and Tobago
10:30-10:45	Facing Our Challenges: Room: Flamboyant North Presenter:	Understanding Regional Studies Dr. Marashetty Seenappa, Programme Coordinator, UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
10:45-11:00	B R E A K	
11:00-12:35	Protecting Ourselves: Room: Flamboyant North Presenters:	Halting the Spread of HIV/AIDS Ms. Zoe Barnett and Mr Tespher Rose, Children First, Jamaica (older participants, 14-16) Ms. Ava Rampersad, Mr. Gleeson Job, Ms. Abinta Clarke, YMCA Trinidad and Tobago (younger participants, 10-13)
11:00-12:35	Facilitating Youth Development:	The role of “chaperones” and youth facilitators (simultaneous session)
Room:	Foyer Annex Presenters:	Ms. Vivian Lopez, Regional Programme Officer HIV/ AIDS UNICEF Panama Mr. Roderick Rudder, Ministry of Education, Barbados
12:35-14:00	L U N C H and Video Presentation	
14:00-14:15	Departure of Youth Delegates for Farley Hill National Park	
15:00-16:30	Reaching Each Other:	The Message of HIV/AIDS Prevention
16:30-16:40	B R E A K (including snack)	
16:40-17:10	Examining the Draft Declaration Presenters:	Mr. Gregory Sloane-Seale, Director, YMCA, Trinidad and Tobago Youth Facilitators
17:10-17:40	Relaxation Time	
17:40	Buses Depart	
14:30 1700	Ministerial Roundtable for Ministers and Development Partners	

Day 2
Tuesday March 23, 2004

Theme: Taking Action Around HIV/AIDS
Location: Sherbourne Conference Centre
Summit Mcs: Mr. Ishiaka McNeil and Ms. Natalie Reifer

9:00-9:45 Room:	“Xpanding Xpression” Part I: Creating Expressions of Experience with HIV/AIDS Flamboyant North Presenter: Ms. Cecily Spencer-Cross, Peripatetic Teacher, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Barbados Mrs. Sade Leon-Slinger, Community Health Education Officer, Ministry of Health, Barbados Ms. Michelle Barrow, Animator/Educator
9:45-10:00	BREAK
10:00-10:45 Room:	“Xpanding Xpression” Part II: Expressing Ourselves Flamboyant North Presenter: Ms. Cecily Spencer-Cross, Peripatetic Teacher, Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Barbados Mrs. Sade Leon-Slinger, Community Health Education Officer, Ministry of Health, Barbados Ms. Michelle Barrow, Animator / Educator
10:45-12:00 Room:	Becoming Ambassadors: Identifying Our Rights and Needs Flamboyant North Presenter: Ms. Vivian Lopez, UNICEF Regional Project Officer HIV/AIDS, Panama Mr. Gregory Sloane Seale, Director YMCA, Trinidad and Tobago
12:00-13:15	L U N C H
13:15-14:45 Room:	Yes Minister: Articulating Our Rights and Needs Flamboyant North Moderator: Mr. Corey Lane, Prime Minister, Youth Parliament, Barbados
14:45-15:45 Room:	Signing of the Caribbean Youth Declaration on HIV/AIDS and Presentation of Certificates Flamboyant North Presenter: Dr. Heather Johnson, Deputy Programme Manager, CARICOM Secretariat
Youth Presenter:	Mr. Tespher Rose, Children First, Jamaica
15:45-16:15	B R E A K
16:15-17:00 Room:	Closing Ceremony Flamboyant North Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Simon Alleyne
Closing Address:	Hon. Hamilton Lashley Minister of Social Transformation, Barbados
Vote of Thanks:	Youth Delegate
Cultural Finale 17:00	Return to Hotel Complete and Submit Evaluation Forms

Ministerial Roundtable for Ministers and Development Partners

Monday, 22 March 2004

Time: 14:30 17:00

Room: Foyer Annex

Social Issues of Children in the Caribbean: Fighting HIV/AIDS Strategies for Success with Young People Hosted by UNICEF

Objectives:	<p>i) To provide Ministers of Government and Development Agencies in the Caribbean with an opportunity engage key regional professionals in a dialogue on critical gender and social sector issues in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the sub-region, with specific reference to children and young people;</p> <p>ii) To use this dialogue to make suggestions on the ways of influencing the national strategic responses to HIV/AIDS prevention among young people in the Caribbean;</p> <p>iii) To review and finalise the draft Declaration of Governments to the Summit for Young People on HIV/AIDS, in light of the discussion.</p>
Session Outcome:	Final Declaration of Governments to the Summit for Young People on HIV/AIDS
Chairman:	Hon Damien Greaves Minister of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Affairs, St. Lucia
14:30 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions
	Ms. Jean Gough, UNICEF Representative, Caribbean Area Office
14:45 p.m.	Building the Skills and Assets of Young People in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: What works Presenter: Ms. Christine Norton, UNICEF Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development, Participation and Gender Equality, Panama
15:05 p.m.	Respondents:
	Integrating a gender focus into on-going work on HIV/AIDS Ms. Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, UNIFEM
	HIV/AIDS and Adolescent Health Dr. William Adu-Krow, Family and Reproductive Health Advisor, PAHO
	HIV/AIDS and Young People: The Barbados Experience
15:20 p.m.	Discussion: Towards A Development Agenda for Young People: Review of Declaration of Governments to the Summit for Young People on HIV/AIDS
16:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, UN Resident Representative, UNDP Eastern Caribbean Dr. Heather Johnson, Deputy Programme Manager, CARICOM

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
Anguilla	Ms. Patricia Beard, Chaperone Tynasia Rogers, Youth Delegate Miguel Franklin, Youth Delegate	Health Authority of Anguilla Primary Health Care P.O Box 56 Tel: 264-497-3763 Fax: 264-497-5486 Email: aidsresearch@anguillanet.com
Antigua	Ms. Lynette Springer, Chaperone Jodi Arthurton, Youth Delegate Latoya Joseph, Youth Delegate	AIDS Secretariat Ramco Building, Independence Drive Ministry of Health, St John's Tel/Fax: 268-462-5039 Email: aidssec@candw.ag
Bahamas	Ms. Rosa Mae Bain, Randy King, Youth Delegate D'Kotha Hepburn-Bastian, Youth Delegate	Chaperone Ministry of Social Services and Community Development P.O Box N3206, Nassau, N.P Tel: 242-356-0765 Fax: 242-323-3883
Barbados	Hon Hamilton Lashley, Minister	Ministry of Social Transformation Nicholas House, Bridgetown Tel: (246) 228-5976 Fax: (246) 228-59-79
	Ms. Maureen Grant, Chaperone	Camp Sunflower Tel: (246) 424-2606
	Ms. Hilda Thompson, Chaperone	Family Care Support/Camp Sunflower Tel: (246) 424-2551(h); 246-437-8215(w) Email: aiyetoro@sunbeach.net
	Nicholas Griffith, Youth Delegate Zachie Cox, Youth Delegate	St. James Secondary School Tel: (246) 422-7658 Email: superdan_34@hotmail.com
	Kirk-Wayne Jessamy, Youth Delegate	Good Shepherd Primary School Tel: (246) 432-0702
	Tamar Blenman, Youth Delegate	Springer Memorial School Tel: (246) 428-7086 Email: kblenman@hotmail.com
	Nicole Lewis, Youth Delegate	Ellerslie Secondary School Tel: (246) 432-9624
	Achacky Callender, Youth Delegate	St. George Secondary Emerton Lane, St Michael Tel: (246) 427-8237
	Ato Blenman, Youth Delegate	Deighton Griffith Tel: (246) 428-7086
	Everton Brathwaite, Youth Delegate	Alma Parris Tel: (246) 424-5295

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
Barbados Contd	Julia Robinson, Youth Delegate	St. George Secondary Tel: (246) 426-2709
	Sherrna Carrington, Youth Delegate	Louis Lynch Secondary School Tel: (246) 426-2709
	Keishem Grant, Youth Delegate Trina Leacock, Youth Delegate	Springer Memorial Tel: (246) 429-5123 Springer Memorial Tel: (246) 427-4655
	Kiesha Grant, Youth Delegate	Springer Memorial Tel: (246) 424-2606
	Nadia Grant, Youth Delegate	Coleridge & Parry Secondary School Tel: (246) 424-2606
	Tristan Grant, Youth Delegate	Lawrence T. Gay Primary Tel: (246) 424-2606
	Tyerelle Topping, Youth Delegate	Lawrence T. Gay Primary Tel: (246) 424-2606
	Brent Smart, Youth Delegate	Alleyne School Tel: (246) 438-6632 Email: sonny-boy01@mns.com
	Narielle Nicholls, Youth Delegate	Lester Vaughn Tel: (246) 433-2054
	Jemar Greenidge, Youth Delegate	Queen's College Tel: (246) -426-6944 Email: JAG1990@hotmail.com
	Andri Weekes, Youth Delegate	Deighton Griffith Tel: (246) 428-9586
	Trina Headley, Youth Delegate	Harrison College Tel: (246) 438-0851
	Shaniece Walcott, Youth Delegate	St. Lawrence Primary School Tel: (246) 435-6537
	Alyssa Harewood, Youth Delegate	Louis Lynch Secondary School Tel: (246) 426-7984
	Rashida Justin, Youth Delegate	Alleyne School Tel: (246) 424-0706 Email: Almond-eyez@hotmail.com
Anita Carter, Youth Delegate	St. George Primary School Tel: (246) 435-1323	
Trudy Rowe, Youth Delegate	The St Michael School Tel: (246) 416-5835 Email: daisee_sun@hotmail	

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
Barbados Contd	Ryan Corbin, Youth Delegate	The Lodge School Tel: (246) 423-5321
	Damien Rollins, Youth Delegate	The Alleyne School Tel: (246) 426-2887 Email: DamienRollins@hotmail.com
	Jamar Husbands, Youth Delegate	Parkinson Memorial Secondary School Tel: (246) 425-0320
	Dristelle Drakes, Youth Delegate St.	Saviour's Primary Tel: (246) 422-7848
	Sophia Jackson, Youth Delegate	Bonnetts Road, Britton Hill St. Michael Tel: (246) 435-0479
	Tara Alleyne, Youth Delegate	Church Road, St Barnabas, St. Michael Tel: (246) 822-0521
	Kelly-Ann Bridgeman, Youth Delegate	Quarry Road, Bank Hall, St Michael Tel: (246) 429-2126
	Sabrina Thorington, Youth Delegate	#1 Halls Village, St. James Tel: (246) 438-4130
	Damian Husbands, Youth Delegate	Bissex Housing Area, St. Joseph Tel: (246) 422-7439; 424-2606
	Daniel St. Hill	St. George's Secondary Tel: (246) 429-4787
	Mandisa Blenman-Murray	Coleridge and Parry Secondary Tel: (246) 422-3323
	Jade Greaves	Queen's College Tel (246) 244-9960
	Danielle Forde-Riddick	Foundation School Tel: (246) 428-9323
	Rashida Dixon	All Saints Primary Tel: (246) 422-6506
	Tiffany Joseph	St. Ambrose Primary Tel: (246) 436-6060
	Terry-Ann Harding	Grantley Adams Secondary Tel (246) 433 2376
	Tara Warner	Garrison Secondary Tel: 246 426-5414
Pedro Phillips Nicole Griffith	St. Lucy Secondary Tel: (246) 439-8561	
Zache Cox	Princess Margaret Secondary Tel: (246)423-6660	

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
Barbados Contd	Sabrina Jardine Tel: (246) 429-3661	St. Winifred's School
	Tamara Vaughan Shariefa Vaughan	Alexandra School Tel: (246) 422-2265
	Quincy Simmons	Charles F. Broome Memorial Primary Tel: (246) 429-3361
Belize	Ms. Philippa Shandra McDonald, Chaperone Pearla Martinez, Youth Delegate Derick Tzul, Youth Delegate	National AIDS Commission Tel/fax: 501-2 37592/37594 Email: belizenac@btl.net
British Virgin Islands	Dr. Ronald McAnaney, Ministerial Representative (National HIV/AIDS Programme Director) Ms. Sophia Brewley-Massiah, Chaperone Kimon Lewis, Youth Delegate Helena Hewlett, Youth Delegate	National AIDS Programme Ministry of Health & Welfare Road Town, Tortola Tel: 284-468-0900 Fax: 284-494-5018/494-3454 Email: rmcananey@gov.vg
Cayman Islands	Ms. Raquel Solomon, Chaperone Francesca Hamann, Youth Delegate	Department of Youth, Sports & Community Development Grand Cayman Tel: 345-949-7082 Fax: 345-949-7082
Dominica	Ms. Julie Frampton, Chaperone Nedette James, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Health and Social Security Government Headquarters Roseau Tel: 767-448-2401 Fax: 767-448-6086
Grenada	Nedette James, Youth Delegate Ms. Rachael Charles, Chaperone Joshua Charles, Sochia Thomas, Youth Delegate	Hope-Pals Foundation Network Ministry of Health Youth Delegate St. George's Tel: 473-440-3485 Fax: 473-440-4127
Jamaica	Hon Dr. Ronald Rhodd, Minister Ian Williams Jason Edwards Kimberly Weir	Junior Minister of Youth Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture Kingston Tel: (876) 967-1000 Fax: (876) 922-8862 Email: edyouth@cwjamaica.com
Montserrat	Hon Idabelle Meade, Minister Ms. Anjella Skerritt, Chaperone Opal Skerritt, Youth Delegate Denrick Furlonge, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Education, Health & Community Services Brades Tel: 664-491-2552/2880 Fax: 664-491-3131 Email: mehcs@gov.ms

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
St. Kitts and Nevis	Hon Rupert Herbert, Minister Mrs. Celia Christopher-Stapleton, Chaperone Niketa Isles, Youth Delegate Germaine Huggins, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Social Development, Community and Gender Affairs Church Street, Basseterre Tel: 869-465-2521 Fax: 869-466-8244 Email: mwaskn@caribsurf.com
St. Lucia	Hon Damian Greaves, Minister Ms. Annette Jn. Charles, Chaperone Jeannel Duncan, Youth Delegate John Allain, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Health, Human Services and Family Affairs Castries Tel: 758-452-2859 Fax: 758-452-5655
St. Vincent	Hon Selmon Walters Minister Ms. Mareeze George, Chaperone Shemille King, Youth Delegate Chantelle Browne, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Social Development Kingstown Tel: 784-456-1111 x 395 Email: svg@vincysurf.com
Suriname	Ms. Tania Codrington, Chaperone Ernst Terborg, Youth Delegate Xiomara Leerdam, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing Paramaribo Tel: 597-472340 Fax: 597-470516
Turks & Caicos Islands	Hon Karen Delancy, Minister Ms. Robyn Hinds, Chaperone Mr. Hezron Henry, Chaperone Royelle Robinson, Youth Delegate Nolan Smith, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Health, Social Services, and Gender Affairs Grand Turk Tel: 649-946-2801 Fax: 649-946-2722
Trinidad & Tobago	Hon Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister Ms. Aileen Bruce, Chaperone Ms. Hyacinth Cross, Care-giver Shawn Freeman, Youth Delegate Candice Bain, Youth Delegate	Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs McAl Building, 69 Independence Square Port of Spain Tel: 868-627-9879 Fax: (868) 627 9879 Email: psf@msd.gov.tt

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
	Roundtable Participants with Ministers	
	Dr. Nicholas Adomakoh	Ministry of Health, Barbados Tel: 246 429-5491 Fax: 246 426-5570 Email: amdomakoh@hotmail.com
	Mr. George Griffith	Executive Director, Barbados Family Planning Association, Barbados Tel: (246) 426-2027 Fax: (246) 427-6611 Email: bfpa@sunbeach.net
	Ms. Alexis Nurse	Project Officer, Ministry of Health, Barbados Tel: 246 467-9400 Fax: 246- 426-5570
	Ms. Harriet Clarke	Project Officer, Ministry of Health, Barbados Tel: 246 437-8225 Fax: 246-437-8237 Email: ebonyseptember@yohoo.com
	Ms. Ena Trotman-Stoby	Project Manager, OECS Legal Reform Project, Barbados Tel: (246) 425-449 Fax: (246) 425-3813 Email: nchlegalreform@caribsurf.com
	Dr. Heather Johnson	Deputy Programme Manager, CARCIOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana Tel: (592) 226-9286 Fax: (592) 225-0871 Email: hjohnson@caricom.org
	Dr. Rosina Wiltshire	UN Resident Representative, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Tel: (246) 467-6001 Fax: (246) 429-2448 Email: rosina.wiltshire@undp.org
	Mr. Neil Pierre	Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP, Trinidad and Tobago Tel: (868) 623-7056 Fax: (868) 623-1658 Email: neil.pierre@undp.org

PARTICIPANTS' LIST

Country	Name	Contact/Co
	Dr. William Adu-Krow	Family and Reproductive Health Advisor, PAHO, Barbados Tel: (246) 426-3860 Fax: (246) 436-9779 Email: adukroww@cpc.paho.org
	Ms. Roberta Clarke	Regional Director, UNIFEM, Barbados Tel: (246) 467-6126 Fax: (246) 437-6596 Email: roberta.clarke@undp.org
	Ms. Christine Norton	UNICEF Regional Advisor, Adolescent Development, Participation and Gender Equality, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Edificio 131, Avenida Morse Ciudad del Saber, Panama Phone: (507)-315-7418 Fax: (507)317-0258 Email: cnorton@unicef.org
	Ms. Jean Gough	Representative, UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Tel: (246) 467-6151 Fax: (246) 436-2812 Email: jgough@unicef.org
	Dr. Marashetty Seenappa	Programme Coordinator, UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Office Tel: (246) 467-6000 Fax: (246) 436-2812
	Ms. Elaine King	Project Officer Adolescents and Lifeskills, UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Tel: (246) 467-6165 Fax: (246) 436-2812 Email: eking@unicef.org
	Ms. Heather Stewart	Project Officer Child Protection, UNICEF Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean Tel: (246) 467-6155 Fax: (246) 436-2812

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Country	Name	Contact/Co
Ministry of Social Transformation	Hon Hamilton Lashley, Minister Mrs. Carmen Shepherd, Deputy Permanent Secretary (ag) Mr. Rodney Grant, Consultant Ms. Denise Tannis, Personal Assistant to Minister	Nicholas House, Bridgetown, Barbados Tel: (246) 228-5976 Fax: (246) 228-5979 Email: socialtransformation@caribsurf.com
Child Care Board	Ms. Joan Crawford, Director Ms. Katrina Smith, Senior Child Care Officer	Fred Edghill Building Cheapside, St. Michael, Barbados Tel: (246) 426-2577 Fax: (246) 435-3172 Email: childcareboard @sunbeach.net
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports	Mr. Roderick Rudder, Education Officer - Planning, Research and Development	Elsie Payne Complex Constitution Road St. Michael, Barbados Tel: (246) 430-2831 Fax: (246) 436-2411 Email: ammonrudder@hotmail.com
National HIV/AIDS Commission	Ms. Angela Davis Deputy Director	Office of the Prime Minister Building #2 Manor Lodge Complex, Green Hill St. Michael, Barbados Tel: (246) 421-2051/0657 Fax: (246) 421-8499 Email: hiv-aids@barbados.gov.bb
MJM Management Systems Inc.	Mr. Ian Walcott, Management Consultant	3rd Floor Norman Centre Broad Street Bridgetown, Barbados Tel: (246) 430-0959 Fax: (246) 228-0642 Email: ian@mjm.bb
	Ms. Aziza Ahmed, Development Consultant	Email: azizaahmed413@yahoo.com
	Mrs. Annetha Davis, Conference Assistant	Email: annetha_davis@hotmail.com
UNICEF and the Eastern Caribbean	Dr. MarashettySeenappa Programme Coordinator	UN House, Marine Gardens, Christ Church, Barbados Tel: (246) 467-6000 Fax: (246) 436-2812
	Mrs. Heather Stewart Project Officer Child Protection	UN House, Marine Gardens, Christ Church, Barbados Tel: (246) 467-6155 Fax: (246) 436-2812 Email: hstewart@unicef.org

The first Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS! Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), sets out the principle that children should be listened to on any matter which concerns them, and their views given due consideration in accordance with their age and maturity.

