



Nicaraguan Youth Make Announcement on HIV/AIDS



Reported By: Marcela Lander and Roger Lovo, members of the Child and Youth Communicators Network of Nicaragua.

Managua, November 6th 2007. Today was witness to a preparatory workshop designed to elaborate a declaration on the participation of adolescents and youth in the response to HIV/AIDS. This comes previous to the conversation that Nicaraguan youth will hold with Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, and Nils Katsberg, Regional Director of UNICEF for

Latin America and the Caribbean. The event witnessed the participation of more than 100 adolescents from all over the country, in total representing more than 39 organizations.

Among the principal demands of Nicaraguan youth are:

- The inclusion of HIV/AIDS in the curriculum of studies, respecting the cultural and language differences among different regions.
- The promotion of informational campaigns directed towards youth in increasing numbers.
- An increase in access to public health services for adolescents and youth.

Debora Comini, UNICEF representative in Nicaragua, spoke with youth and reaffirmed the organization's obligation in continuing to help prevent HIV/AIDS among youth through their rights to information and education. She underlined youth's right to education with a focus on life skills as well as friendly health services at the reach of youth.

The adolescents elected Marcos Talavera, Noelia Vanegas, Ana Hall, Rudolph Porter, Erica Reyes, Marcela Lander and Roger Lovo as youth spokes persons during their conversation with the Executive Director of UNAIDS and the Regional Director of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled for Wednesday November 7th, 2007.

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More than 300 Nicaraguan adolescents, including indigenous and afro-descendants from remote areas, participate actively in diverse in the 5th CONCASIDA. Among these is a National Workshop of adolescents where they will make a declaration regarding their role in the prevention of

HIV/AIDS. Wednesday November 7th they will sustain a conversational period with Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS and Nils Katsberg, Regional Director of UNICEF for Latin America and the Caribbean. The objective is to promote the participation of adolescents in the prevention of HIV. The Nicaraguan youth involved in communications will give journalistic coverage of the diverse events carried out during CONCASIDA through the web-page "Voices of Youth", part of UNICEF, as well as through UNICEF Radio, Netherlands Radio, and various radios linked to the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC).

About UNICEF

UNICEF works on the ground in more than 150 countries and territories to help children to survive and advance in life from the first childhood to adolescence. UNICEF is the greatest vaccine supplier for the developing countries and supports health and nutrition in childhood, water supply and quality control, basic education of quality for all children and the protection of children against violence, exploitation and AIDS. UNICEF is financed in its totality by the voluntary contributions of individuals, companies, foundations and governments.