



Frequently Asked Questions about X Change

What is X Change?

Xchange is a movement for bringing about positive change among young people and adults.

What is the objective of X Change?

The objective of Xchange is to create safe and protective environments (free from violence), for children in the home, school and community where they can live and grow to reach their full potential.

Who is involved in the X Change movement?

Young people, renowned musicians, artists, sportsmen and women and other creative individuals committed to the development of a new positive well-being, for and with children and young people, which would lead to a reduction in incidences of violence against children.

What is the X Change movement's methodology?

The Xchange movement uses education, including music, art, sport, drama and other cultural expressions as entry points to reach persons with information that would lead to alternative behaviours and lifestyles and ultimately reduced violence.



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Who is an X Change?

An “Xchanger” is a person who has made a commitment to a positive lifestyle. He/she is an individual with a new positive attitude and confident style who pledges or commits to nurturing among his/her peers, families and community members, an attitude of non-violence, harmony in diversity, respect for the life and liberties of others.

Person or entities, (called “Xchange Networks”) who join the Xchange movement, make a pledge (“Xchange Pledge”) to develop with the guidance and involvement of young people, quality, relevant educational and skills-building opportunities (character, competence, connectedness with regulation/ caring/ confidence/ contribution) within learning and earning communities.

Why was X Change developed?

Xchange was developed out of a concern for youth development in the Caribbean and more specifically, because of a concern about the rising levels of violence perpetrated by and against children in the Caribbean.



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Who founded X Change?

The idea for Xchange was first conceived by Machel Montano, entertainer and C.E.O and Derrick Lewis, Creative Director, Island People who approached UNICEF. UNICEF supported the idea and also assisted with conceptualization. Since then governments of the Caribbean (Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica), have also given their support.

What are some proposed activities under X Change?

Xchange as an intervention strategy will be piloted in communities in seven countries in the Caribbean region: Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Trinidad, Haiti and Jamaica. During the period March – July 2005, there will be a number of activities including young leaders' workshops; strengthening of community based youth friendly organizations, and capacity building workshops. A major event will be an Xchange concert in each of the pilot countries featuring artists who depict positive lifestyles and messages. The concert will be the launch of the Xchange movement.



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What happens after the Concert has been held ?

After the concert, there will be activities at the home, school, community and regional levels which will be implemented over the long term in identified communities aimed at reducing incidences of violence among children.

As a young person how can I become involved in X Change?

You can become involved in Xchange by first taking the Xchange pledge – that is a pledge to commit yourself to a positive lifestyle and behaviour and becoming a role model for your peers. You can formally make the Xchange pledge when you attend the concert in your country.

As an organization how can I become involved in X Change?

All interested persons and organizations (NGOs, CBO) can contribute to Xchange by providing technical, financial or other support for any of the events leading up to the Xchange concert and for programmes in the home, school, community or regional levels during the post-launch period. The programmes must be such that they would, in an interesting and creative manner, foster a sense of well-being among children and other persons in the selected setting, so that they would want to adopt positive lifestyles and behaviours.



How can I obtain more information about **X Change**?

To find out more about the Xchange movement, please contact your local UNICEF offices or visit:

www.unicef.org/barbados

You can also contact UNICEF Regional Office in Panama by writing to: vlimpias@unicef.org or cnorton@unicef.org or

by telephone at: (507) 301-7400