

Dear Partners In the National Response,

We are pleased to present to you the second issue of our One Response E-Bulletin. Once again, we ask that you keep providing us with your updates so that together we can truly be One Voice, One Response.

Please enjoy your second issue of the One Response E-Bulletin.

Yours in the struggle,

Elio Cabanas
NAC Secretariat Communications Officer



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Meet the Latest Addition to the Secretariat of the National AIDS Commission!



We are pleased to introduce to you our new Assistant at the Secretariat, Mr. Ashton Forbes. Only 23 years old, Ashton is the youngest member of our secretariat. This vibrant new comer is also an avid basketball player who loves to travel and listen to music especially Reggae. Not only a basketball player himself, Ashton also coaches a little league team in basketball as a volunteer at the Y.M.C.A. Please help us in welcoming Mr. Forbes on board our team as he looks forward to meeting you in person in the next few weeks to come!

The IEC Committee Meets to Conduct Strategic Planning

The Information, Education, and Communication Committee (IECC), a sub-committee of the NAC, met on July 15 for its Strategic Planning Meeting. The results of the meeting will be used in the development of the NAC's National Operational Plan. The IECC is pleased to be in process of buffering its membership to include the participation of experts in the area of Desk Top Publishing, Television Production, Marketing, Public Relations, Graphic Designs and Multimedia to become more effective gatekeepers of quality public messages.



What is new with the CDB Grant?



The National AIDS Secretariat, on behalf of the National AIDS Commission and all our partners in the national response, has submitted to the Caribbean Development Bank a request for resumption of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Grant No. 25, **Control and Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Belize**.

The grant includes funds for the continuation or completion of three sub-projects in Belize as follows:

1. The expansion of the MOL's Workplace Policy and Education Project
2. The completion of the National AIDS Commission's Legal Review Project
3. The security upgrade of the computer network at the National AIDS Commission Secretariat.

The Secretariat has put together an updated request with all related documentation and now awaits a response from CDB on the final disbursement of funds initially

approved for this project.

Belize's Very Own - POWA Wins UNDP's 2010 Red Ribbon Award



Productive Organization for Women in Action (POWA), a grassroots organization based in Stann Creek, wins the UNDP's 2010 Red Ribbon Award in Belize and the Caribbean.

POWA is one of twenty-five community-based organizations representing 17 countries around the world who were recipients of the 2010 Red Ribbon that recognizes outstanding community organizations for their work in reducing the spread and impact of AIDS.

The winners receive a cash award and will be recognized internationally for their leadership in responding to the AIDS epidemic at the XVIII International AIDS Conference held in Vienna (July 18-23).

POWA and 24 other winners were chosen from a pool of 720 nominations from more than 100 countries. The winners were primarily judged in

terms of innovation, impact, sustainability, strategic partnerships, gender sensitivity and social inclusion.

This CBO's work include advocacy campaigns on HIV and STI prevention, sexual reproductive health, human rights, gender-based violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, gender equality and stigma and discrimination.

For further read, please visit the Red Ribbon Award website located at <http://www.redribbonaward.org>

San Pedro AIDS Commission Does it Again!



The official name of the District Committee's fundraising booth, was buzzing for the Dia de San Pedro Festival held in Ambergris Caye from July 2 - 4th. Condoms and other education prevention materials were widely distributed

during the three day festival. The Red Zone is also used as a fundraising drive to collect much needed resources to assist those in dire need. As always, the booth was visited by an overwhelming number of visitors making the San Pedro AIDS Commission able to say, "*We've done it again, making another positive impact in our community!*"

PASMO Continues to Partner with POWA to Deliver Valuable Outreach Programs to Benefit Stann Creek Communities

Belize's 2010 UNGASS Report highlights the higher incidence of HIV/AIDS in the Belize and Stann Creek Districts.

In response, PASMO continues to partner with POWA under the UNAIDS funded project to deliver critically needed outreach services in Stann Creek responding to the prevention education needs and overall sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues of the communities of this district.

Over the last several weeks, PASMO educators in collaboration with POWA has been conducting condom demonstrations and advocacy work combating gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination while visiting public areas such as bars restaurants, and large gatherings at key public events.

This Behavior Change Communications (BCC) program is conducted every two weeks focusing in towns and villages in Stann Creek such as Dangriga, Hopkins, St. Beight, Georgetown and Placencia Village.

Other high risk populations targeted via their satellite tables include male and female sex workers. PASMO hopes to be able to reach out to Men who have sex with Men (MSMs).



REDCA+ Meets in Panama to Further Proposal Development for GFATM Round Ten



Eric Castellanos seen here on right with fellow counterparts in Panama

REDCA+ held its IV Special Meeting on July 14 & 15 In Panama to review the progress made in the regional proposal to GFATM Round 10 and to establish their next steps to meet the requirements of the GFATM.

In the preceding two days, REDCA+ held its XIV Ordinary Meeting on July 12 & 13 to conduct a comprehensive review of their goals and commitments yet to be fulfilled. This meeting included much discourse among its members on development issues and the way forward for increased engagement of individual members and groups to the benefit of the organization.

For further information on REDCA+, please feel free to contact Belize focal point person - Mr. Eric Castellanos at erictvbelize@live.com or visit REDCA+'s website [here](#).

July 18 Marks the Official Opening of the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Austria, Europe

The XVIII International AIDS Conference opens July 18, 2010 in Vienna (AUSTRIA), under the theme of ***Rights Here, Rights Now.***

Influential speakers addressed the conference including the former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Philanthropist Bill Gates.

Other powerful remarks at opening session include those of Julio Montaner, President of the International AIDS Society and Director of the BC Center for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver, Canada who said:

"I cannot hide my profound disappointment and frustration with the recently concluded G8/G20 meeting in Canada. By failing to take responsibility for the universal access pledge, and more importantly for failing to articulate next steps to meet not just the 6th Millennium Development Goal but all of them by 2015, the G8 has, quite simply, failed us."

For the full Welcome speech of AIDS 2010 International Chair, Julio Montaner, please click [here](#).

For official press releases:

[23 July 2010](#)

[22 July 2010](#)

[21 July 2010](#)

[20 July 2010](#)

[19 July 2010](#)

[18 July 2010](#)

It is worth mentioning that Dr. Pedro Arriaga, one of Belize's primary HIV/AIDS specialists, also attended this AIDS Conference in Europe along with other Belize Representatives.



Julio Montaner, AIDS 2010 Chair,
IAS/Marcus Rose/ Worker's Photos

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