



Strengthening Community Response: Civil Society Works Together on Global Fund Rd 10

The National AIDS Commission and the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) for the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria had invited Civil Society Partners including: Non-Governmental Organizations, International Agencies, NAC District Committees, Government Departments to submit for Round 10 HIV/AIDS proposals focused on Most at Risk Populations (MARPS) as well as Round 10 Tuberculosis Proposals.

In response to RD 10 GFATM proposal focused on MARPS, a meeting was held on June 14 with the Civil Society Organizations who work closely with MARPS. Resulting from this meeting were 9 sub-proposals submitted by prospective sub-recipients including the Ministry of Health, Kolbe Foundation, the network of People living with HIV/AIDS and WIN Belize and their sub-recipients.

As early as July 26, the NAC office has been teeming with our Civil Society partners working diligently as for long hours on the log-frame Rd 10 Project and other processes leading to the development of the country proposal for submission to the CCM. Once completed, the Technical Working Group of the CCM reviewed both draft country proposal for the final editing along with the Ministry of Health for the Tuberculosis submission to the Global Fund due on August 19, 2010.

When asked what impact the experience with the round ten proposal development has had on them personally, one participant answered,

"For the first time, I am seeing so many NGOs contributing some input into a policy document with varying interest levels and at times conflicting agendas but I could not be happier these past few weeks realizing the big strides forward we make when truly working together."

The NAC would like to acknowledge all partners for their assiduous efforts in the development of these proposals. Once again, these relentless efforts attest to the fact that we remain united in a common struggle as well as committed to strengthening the community response.



"Come hell or high wata we wan get dis proposal done!!"

CCM Endorses Regional Initiatives

The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) endorses the participation of the National AIDS Program (NAP) and the Ministry of Health in the Regional Coordination Mechanism for a proposed regional project for high risk groups to address:

- i. Access to integral healthcare and prevention strategies
- ii. Creation of a favorable environment
- iii. Creation of a regional strategic information system based on a national database

Two key groups identified to benefit from this initiative are sex workers and seasonal agricultural workers.

P.A.H.O HIV Caribbean Office's (PHCO) multi country proposal also receives endorsement by the CCM for Belize's participation. The PHCO's proposal addresses mother to child HIV/AIDS transmission and elimination of congenital Syphilis whose objectives complement those of the PMTCT program in the Ministry of Health.

Other regional proposals to the GFATM Rd 10 which the CCM has endorsed Belize's participation are the CONGA and REDCA+ proposals that will serve the MSM and PWH communities respectively to the Rd 10 GFATM.

Peace Corps in Belize Develops an HFLE Support Manual to Assist Educators in Teaching the HFLE Curriculum

While most of us are aware of the presence of the Peace Corps in Belize, we are often unaware of the good work that they do and consequently do not fully appreciate their contributions particularly in the three priority areas of Health, Education and Business strengthening.

One Important focus in health is the youth, HIV and gender development component. In addressing this focus area, the Peace Corps of Belize has created a Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) manual to encourage a greater number of educators to teach the HFLE curriculum as well as to promote the quality of delivery of teaching the curriculum.

This manual, which is gender responsive and human rights-based, is currently under review by the Ministry of Education for approval and adaptation. Once approved, there are plans to publish the manual for wider dissemination and implementation within the school systems.

Other significant public education work of the Peace Corps includes:

- Outreach programs at key public events such as Ruta Maya, Costa Maya and World AIDS Day
- Support work for other agencies, NGOs, and District Committees
- Outreach and community strengthening programs in many rural communities.

Partners are reminded of the excellent human resources available in various areas of public health and business development and strengthening via the Peace Corps of approximately 100 volunteers. All partners are encouraged to seek creative opportunities for collaboration with the Peace Corps and other agencies toward development.

For further information on the Peace Corps, kindly contact Mr. Valentino Shal at: vshal@peacecorps.gov or telephone - (501) 822 1771.

Stop HIV: Use a Condom, Protect Your Health (Spanish Version)



Belize Council of Churches Gets Best Practice Recognition for their HIV Manual

A faith-based manual developed by the Belize Council of Churches through the sponsorship of UNICEF in response to HIV/AIDS has been recognized as a Best Practice.

This faith-based manual, which has helped in unifying the churches, was introduced to the wider public on July 26, 2006. It has since been distributed to all major denominations and is currently used in many schools across the country to facilitate sensitization workshops on HIV/AIDS and has assisted in creating awareness of the feminization of the disease.

"Canon Leroy Flowers, president of the Belize Council of Churches and NAC Commissioner, said: "It is about all of us coming together and recognize that we have a mission and that mission is to serve God's people where they need it the most....So the

Council of Churches has been the catalyst working with UNICEF to simply see how to gather because individually we can't be doing our own separate things in our various corners, this is a collective response in trying to empower more our our members to be trained in the pastoral realm as how to help because we still do it whether we are trained or not."

Canon Leroy Flowers has been invited by the Eastern Caribbean Council of Churches in September to share Belize's experience in the development and implementation of the faith based manual as they initiate development of their own.

YFF is on the Ball Again!

Belmopan City, 22 July 2010. Fifty youths between the ages of 7-18 participate in a half day presentation on HIV/AIDS. The presentation covered the life cycle of HIV, transmission and prevention with focus on creating awareness of risky behaviors. Presentations were highly interactive, encouraging the participants to think deeply about their lives, how they value their friends while promoting respect and care for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Dangriga, 25 July 2010. FIPRO organized a one day basketball marathon activity for young people with the aim to attract the attention of spectators to visit the satellite table and get information on HIV prevention and risk reduction. They young people that were at the games also had a chance to test their knowledge about HIV/AIDS using the snake and ladder games. Condom demonstrations and distribution was also part of the exercise.

Belize City, 29 July 2010. A group of 16 young people were hosted for a house presentation on HIV/AIDS and violence. The aim was to encourage positive life choices and behavior among young people visiting the YFF Internet resources area. All participants were given a pre and post test evaluation test to determine how much as learned regarding the link between HIV and Violence. This pilot initiative will be conducted on a more regular basis in the following month.

Partners in the National Response to HIV/AIDS Welcome Mr. Francisco Roquette, Deputy Resident Rep. for UNDP BELIZE



Mr. Francisco Roquette, Portuguese national and former UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Montenegro, joins the Belize UN Country Team. Mr. Roquette who champions capacity development, will play a significant role in the National Response to HIV/AIDS in Belize.

The NAC extends a warm welcome to Mr. Roquette and family!

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