Education and HIV/AIDS: a story from the West Indies

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A Short Geography and History Lesson
Map of the West Indies 2004
Explanatory Notes

- West Indies = Caribbean

- Pronunciation:
  - \textit{CARIB-BEAN} OR \textit{CAR-\textit{i}-BBE-AN}

- Many Central and South American countries bordering the Caribbean Sea are not included in the definition of the Caribbean

- Some Countries away from the Caribbean Sea share common history and culture
The story of the West Indies c. 1490
Why the West Indies should be concerned about HIV/AIDS today
HIV Infection Rates in Adults by Region of the World in 2003

- **Southern Africa**: 7.5 - 8.5
- **Caribbean (West Indies)**: 1.9 - 3.1
- **North America**: 0.5 - 0.7
- **South and South East Asia**: 0.4 - 0.8
- **Central and South America**: 0.5 - 0.7
- **Western Europe**: 0.3

*Source: UNAIDS*
Introducing
The University of the West Indies
The University of the West Indies

- A Regional institution in the Caribbean
- Began in 1948 as external college of University of London
- The UWI and the West Indies Cricket team are the only two institutions to have survived the dismantling of the colonial control of the Caribbean territories.
Mainly serves the English-speaking Caribbean

- Population approx. 5 million

Has campuses in three territories and Centres in 11 other territories
Map of the West Indies 2004

* = UWI campuses
The University of the West Indies

- Has produced over 40,000 graduates in:
  - Agriculture
  - Arts & the Humanities
  - Engineering
  - Law
  - Medicine
  - Science
  - Other disciplines
The University of the West Indies HIV/AIDS Response Programme
UWI HARP Mission Statement

- To build and harness capacity within the university in order to:
  - contribute maximally to the national, regional (Caribbean) and international effort to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic
  - mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the university itself and on the wider society.
Aims of UWI HARP

- To accelerate action by UWI in response to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic through
  - Research
  - Education & Training
  - Strategic Engagement with the wider society
- To develop and monitor HIV/AIDS Policies
- To partner with Government and non-Governmental organizations in the fight against HIV/AIDS
Our Customers

- Students
- Teachers
- Administrators
- Student Service Managers and Resident Advisors
- Trade Union members
- Clerical and support staff
- Significant others in family and community
Our Task

Marketing of attitude and behaviour change in the context of HIV/AIDS
Marketing of Attitude and BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- Persuading all parties that HIV/AIDS requires an organized (structured) response
- Establishing and maintaining appropriate structures for as long as is necessary to accomplish the task
Our Aim

- To ensure that each target group at UWI:
  - Is aware of UWI HARP
  - Perceives the programme accurately
  - Believes that the programme is valuable
  - Accepts their need
  - Demonstrates appropriate action in response to the epidemic

Ideas adapted from School-to-Work Toolkit, 1994
The challenge

- To make our effort well coordinated and sustained

Ideas adapted from School-to-Work Toolkit, 1994
Education and Training via UWI HARP

- Curriculum Review and Development
- Training of Trainers (University Lecturers)
- Training University Students to be Peer Educators
- Outreach to Caribbean Dentists
- First Caribbean Conference on Clinical Care of HIV/AIDS – June 16-19, 2004
  - Approx. 350 health care workers from 29 countries
Collaboration

- UWI HARP is collaborating with:
  - Governments
  - The Caribbean Community Secretariat
  - NGOs
  - Other Universities
  - CDC (USA)
  - United Nations Agencies
  - AVNI Health Foundation, Mumbai, India
UWI HARP houses the Coordinating Unit of The Caribbean HIV/AIDS Regional Training (CHART) Network
The ‘CHART’ Map

English-speaking Countries
CDC GAP Bi-Lateral Programs
CDC GAP Regional Office
CHART Centres
CHART Coordinating Center
Future CHART Centres
Challenges

Need

- to continue persuading the university leaders of the importance of a structured HIV/AIDS Programme
- to build and sustain our efforts
- to have excellent monitoring and evaluation systems
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The End
Thank you very much!