

THE BEST BULLETIN

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BEST, the Principal Recipient (PR) signed an agreement with GF aimed at the expansion of services and the coordination of Belize's national response to HIV/AIDS.

The project has four specific objectives, namely -

Reduction in the risk of HIV infections
Reduction in the vulnerability of women and youth
Alleviation of the impact of HIV/AIDS on families and communities and
Strengthening of the CCMs capacities for facilitation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

The project is being implemented by the following agencies:

Ministry of Health – (MOH)National Aids Programme
Ministry of Human Development- (MHD) Women's Dpt.
Ministry of Education –(MOE) Quality Assurance and Development Service(QADS)
Youth For the Future (YFF)
Alliance Against Aids (AAA)
Belize Family Life Association (BFLA)
National Aids Commission (NAC) – Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM)
BEST – Principal Recipient (PR)

The Principal Recipient , BEST, is embarking on the task of producing a series of monthly bulletins , in an effort to enhance and speed up the pace of implementation and to ensure that designed impacts are realized.

It is envisioned that the bulletin will keep all key players and stakeholders abreast with major plans and activities to be carried out and major targets that have been brought to fruition.

Thanks are in order for those who cooperated by submitting interim reports while the official Reporting Format is being developed.

Women's Department

Representative: Isilda Humes

"Kudos" for major Activities Implemented

Information with respect to Sexual Reproductive Health – In this regard the radio broadcast for years 1& 2 have already been done. Presently four advertisements are being aired on the radio (on two stations)

Of a total of twelve workshops , nine have already been conducted.

The brochures and pamphlets for Quarters 1 & 2 of year 2 have been printed. The theme running through the printed material has to do with Sexual Reproductive Health.

The activity relating to Peer Counselor Training and Manuals was carried out.

Training Workshop conducted June 20th- 21st, 2006. This training addressed the matter of health and social practitioners interacting with persons living with HIV/ AIDS. The facilitators for this occasion were Rodel Perrera, Jennifer Lovel and Dr. April Bernard and there were approximately forty (40) persons in attendance each day.

Some of the organizations represented were as follows:

BFLA, YES, The Police Department (Violence Reduction Unit) BEST and various areas of the health sector.



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SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORKSHOP 3

A discussion of the continuum of care for PLWAs and ground work laid for the drafting of a code of ethics for social workers who interact with PLWAs. There was a very loud cry for the urgent need for LEGISLATION to be done – of particular concern were the matter of penalties for infected persons who intentionally infect others. The concern was voiced regarding the need to develop (if one is already in place) and to expand on a National Management Information System as it relates to HIV/AIDS (CARE, REFERRAL, TREATMENT AND INFORMATION)

The following were some of the topics covered:

Professional Responsibility Vs. Personal Issues, Promoting and Maintaining Health Living with HIV/AIDS moving from Isolation to Integration, Helping Women who live with HIV/AIDS and Preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.



UP COMING EVENTS

Information, Education & Communication targeted toward women of reproductive age for Empowerment :

Decision Making/ Negotiation Work shop

-To be conducted in Orange Walk- July 22nd, 2006

-To be conducted in Stann Creek July 21st& 22nd, 2006.

4 MINISTRY OF EDUCATION(MOE)

Representative : Sherlene Tablada

“kudos” for Major Activities Implemented

Primary activities for June: Summer teacher training and peer education training
Monitoring the implementation of the HFLE curriculum
Supporting the delivery of Sexuality and sexual health lessons by Queens Medical Students.

The lessons delivered by students of Queens Medical College focused on responsible sexuality, puberty, sexual abuse and stigma and discrimination with an objective to reduce vulnerability to HIV & AIDS among students.

HFLE team conducted visits to all eleven schools during the month of June. At the end of all visits a meeting was held with the teachers involved in the pilot along with the principal to review the outcome of the lessons and to discuss ways to continue strengthening the school’s capacity to deliver HFLE lessons.

All teachers were invited to participate in a final evaluation meeting on July 3rd in Belize City to conclude the pilot phase and to plan for the way forward.

From 17th July – 21st teachers who participated in the pilot will be trained along with other teachers as master trainers.(50 persons)



UP COMING EVENTS

Peer Education Training – Stann Creek (60 Secondary School Students) July 24th-29th ‘06
Continuous Professional Development training for teachers.(1000 teachers)July 31st- August 11th,06.

5 Ministry of Health (MOH)

Representatives : Dr. Paul Edwards & Dr. Moguel

“kudos” for activities implemented May – June ‘06

The Ministry of Health in an effort to scale up and implement the remaining activities as outlined in the GF project, has established a working committee to advance the GF project. At the first meeting, it was agreed that the working group will meet on a monthly basis to discuss plans and activities and to collectively develop the monthly report for submission to the Principal Recipient.

Procurement of Laboratory Reagents

–The Ministry of Health has submitted to PAHO a list of the two medications needed for the detection of opportunistic infections which are outlined in the GF project. As soon as the quotation is received from PAHO, a formal letter of request will be sent to the PR to procure the reagents through the PAHO Strategic Fund.

Procurement of ARVs have arrived in country and the medication is available for dispensing to people living with the virus and requiring treatment based on the established protocol.- Plans are underway to quantify and to calculate additional ARVs, (keeping in mind the number of patients to be treated, shelf life) and within a couple of weeks for submission to the GF.

Work shops-Two counseling workshops to strengthen skills and in-

BEST extends congratulations to the following top three Agencies:

***** Ministry Of Human Development**

**** Ministry Of Education**

*** Ministry Of Health**

6 **Development of contact Tracing Manual-** In light of the plans to develop the contact tracing manual, PAHO supported the training of two health personnel in the area of contact tracing which took place in Jamaica. Both nurses brought with them copies of documents that can be reproduced for Belize. A small working committee has recently been established to develop a first draft of the manual. This manual when developed, will be used for HIV/AIDS, STIs and TB.

Work continues within the prison population for voluntary testing and counseling of inmates, as well as outreach to the CSWs. Since the information was not documented for GF purposes, the exact numbers of people being treated is unknown- However, a detailed figure will be included in the next Bulletin.

VCT Centres –The VCT Centre in the Orange Walk District is operational. However, there is cause for MAJOR CONCERN!!!! since the one in Dangriga has not got off the ground yet.

Upcoming Events

- Three half-day training sessions with respect to STIs Syndromic Approach

27/7/06 – a.m.- Orange Walk- p.m.- Corozal

2/8/06- a.m.- Belmopan- p.m.- San Ignacio

16/8/06 a.m.- Stann Creek- p.m. Punta Gorda

-On the second and last Friday of each month Mr. Carr, Nurse Williams and Nurse Bradley are to go to the prison in Hatteville re- STIs.

The Development of the Contact Tracing Manual

YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE (YFF)

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Representative : Douglas Hyde

“kudos” for activities implemented

During the month of June there was a Personal Development HIV/AIDS Training at the Educational Centre in Cayo. This took the form of peer education training and a total of twenty eight persons participated.

During the month of June there was also a tournament at the MCC grounds involving youths. YFF sponsored one team. YFF conducted sessions with both groups at which time participants took part in discussions pertaining to HIV/AIDS.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Billboards to be erected(Depicting HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention)
The video and CD production (Depicting HIV/AIDS

ALLIANCE AGAINST AIDS (AAA)

Representative: Rodel Perra

NB.AAA did not schedule any activities for the month of June because they wanted to pay attention to other programmed activities within other projects.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The drafting of new advertisements for radio television and newspaper for the promotion of AAAs hotline.
Broadcasting of radio advertisements
Broadcasting of Television Advertisements
Publication of newspaper Advertisements
Preparation for refresher workshop in Orange Walk for some 44 outreach workers/ volunteers.
Completion of the data collecting programme by consultant and training of HHM Ministry personnel in software usage.
Adjustments to survey questionnaire for PLWA
Dissemination of Hotline Manual.

BELIZE FAMILY LIFE ASSOCIATION(BFLA) 8

Representative: Joan Burke

“kudos” for activities implemented

Development of a Behaviour Change Communication Strategy

Surveys with MSMs, YOUTH, and CSWs
BCC strategies developed

Development of IEC Materials- Six TV and Radio advertisements developed and the airing of TV and radio advertisements.

Procurement and Distribution of condoms to the following

- Ministry of Human Development
- Young Women’s Christian Association
- Together We Can Project- Red Cross
- POWA
- Y- FOCUS
- YES
- Dangriga Aids Society
- STI Clinic MOH
- ILO HIV/AIDS Workplace Programme
- DAC

NB. No activity related to the GF took place in the month of June and July.-

Due to inclement weather, two rallies planned for Boranco and Hatteville were postponed.

There is a rally planned for the month of July to be held in Punta Gorda but this is dependent on the weather.

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