



## Ending a successful biennium

Dear readers,

Greetings from the Youth Visioning Committee! 2010-2011 has been a successful period and we would like to congratulate all the project leaders for their hard work in contributing to a successful biennium. Through the funds provided by UNAIDS, Youth Visioning has supported seven projects for the 2010-2011 biennium:

### Caribbean Region

#### **BONAIRE**

HIV/AIDS Awareness Youth Movie

#### **DOMINICA**

Taking it to the Road: HIV/AIDS Education for Youth by Youth

#### **GRENADA**

The "Blocko" Project

### Indian Ocean Region

#### **SEYCHELLES**

Reaching out

#### **ZANZIBAR**

Reaching out to the Socially Marginalized Most at Risk: the Young Population

### Pacific Region

#### **NIUE**

Youth in action 2wards prevention 'keeping Niue HIV & AIDS free

#### **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Well informed youth, better choices, and healthy youths in Port Moresby settlements

#### **SAMOA**

National Youth Week

Youth Visioning would like to thank UNESCO's Apia, Dar-es-Salaam, Havana and Kingston Offices, as well as EDUCAIDS - the UNESCO Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS for making these projects possible. And last, but not least, we thank all the young people who organized projects. Read through this newsletter to find out more about some of these great projects!

For further information please visit [www.youthvisioning.org](http://www.youthvisioning.org). We welcome any feedback or questions you may have. You can reach us by emailing: [k.ikhlef@unesco.org](mailto:k.ikhlef@unesco.org).

## SIDS and HIV & AIDS

*Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to the devastating economic and social impacts of HIV and AIDS due to the limited resources they have available to combat the pandemic. Youth, and young girls in particular, are among the most affected. 50% of new HIV infections are among persons between the ages of 15 and 25.*

*The behaviour of this key age group greatly influences the future of the epidemic, and for this reason, efforts are largely focused on this important demographic. Building a strong community of young champions and leaders is critical for an effective response to HIV and AIDS.*

*The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plays a leading role in the UN system in HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention through education.*



## BONAIRE

### NAYZA: A HIV/AIDS Awareness Youth Movie



(© Bonaire Youth Foundation)

The **Bonaire Youth Foundation (BYOF)** produced a HIV/AIDS Awareness Youth Movie, entitled "Nayza" and based on a true story, which was acted, filmed, edited and produced by youth. It revealed some of the myths and misconceptions surrounding HIV and AIDS in Bonaire. The aim of the youth movie was to create public awareness and openly talk about HIV and AIDS on the island, as well as in neighboring countries.

Through the movie and its accompanying material, BYOF had the following goals:

- To dispel myths and misconceptions and fight unnecessary HIV/AIDS related discrimination,
- To empower young people, to promote their rights and to inform them about how HIV can and cannot be transmitted, and how they can protect themselves,

- To discuss sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases more openly,
- To encourage youth to get tested on HIV/AIDS and STDs.

The film premiered in February 2011 to over 700 viewers. It was then broadcasted in various schools with discussion sessions throughout as well as in prisons. A total of almost 2,000 people saw the film.

The foundation was overwhelmed with the results of the project and the support it received, particularly through Facebook. Results show that the youth of Bonaire is now more open to testing.

BYOF are currently working on a DVD version of Nayza which they hope to share with neighboring islands.



#### YOUTH SAID IT !

"The Nayza project was an awesome experience for us at Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation. It attracted many many viewers so we were really able to impart knowledge on them. During the workshops we explained to the viewers (kids and teens) what HIV stands for, what it is, and how one can and cannot get infected..."

Dennis Martinus, project leader



## DOMINICA

### Taking it to the Road: HIV/AIDS Education for Youth by Youth

**La Cour des Arts de la Dominique inc.** implemented a project aiming to reduce stigma and discrimination towards individuals living with HIV and AIDS in Dominica, through

- (i) Screening the film "It Only Takes One" to be used as motivation for discussion on stigma and discrimination;
- (ii) Research on the myths and misconceptions of HIV and the relevance of human rights and their positive impact on people living with HIV/AIDS;
- (iii) The preparation of a short drama show incorporating song and dance relating to HIV and AIDS;
- (iv) The organisation of a debate to spark discussion among students, founded on a human

rights based approach respecting the integrity of people living with HIV/AIDS.

The project participants came from the six secondary schools in the Roseau area and targeted forty students per school.



#### YOUTH SAID IT !

Gloria Augustus, project leader

© Gloria Augustus



# GRENADA

## The "BLOCKO" Project



© Brain Storm Productions

**Brain Storm Productions** in Grenada carried out a HIV/AIDS community outreach project aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination towards individuals living with or affected by HIV and AIDS using the concept of a 'Blocko'. A 'Blocko' is a colloquial word used to describe a street party with an abundance of food and music.

This concept was used to develop a series of twelve HIV/AIDS awareness programmes that targeted young people in their own environments. The programme was the first of its kind on island and was designed primarily to target young males, especially those who "hang out on the block."

To do so, 'The Blocko Caravan' traveled to 12 different communities in Grenada over a twelve week period. Each session was filmed and produced as a short 'reality TV programme' (15-20 minutes in length) and broadcast on the television and internet.

The response to and interest in the project were tremendous. So much so that in each community, after filming, HIV educators held additional sessions with people on the street.



### YOUTH SAID IT !

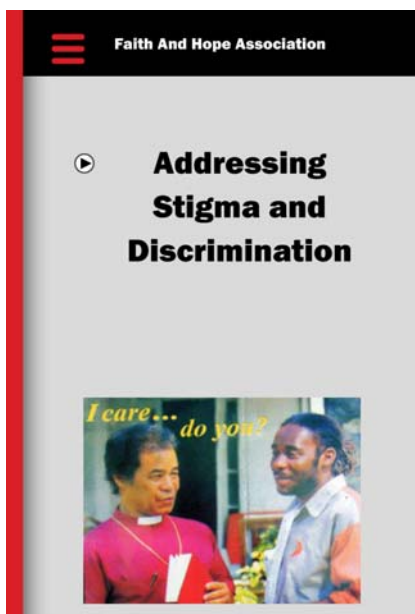
*"The Blocko Project was an amazing experience. We sincerely thank Youth Visioning for giving us the opportunity to successfully produce an amazing HIV/AIDS awareness show which has really touched the lives of many Grenadians. There's still a lot of work to be done and we look forward to continuing to do our share as we reach out to our young people, **making a difference, one community at a time.**"*

Amanda John, project leader



## SEYCHELLES

### Reaching Out



- Regular monitoring of the project by the project coordinator over a period of one year.

The **Faith and Hope Association (FAHA)** in the Seychelles carried out a media campaign to advocate for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and to help reduce stigma and discrimination.

The activities undertaken included:

- Awareness in schools, the workplace and the community,
- Development of IEC materials (1000 leaflets and 500 posters explaining the rights of a person living with HIV/AIDS),
- Advocacy for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS through media with the production of a variety show,

The objective was to make the general public more aware about HIV/AIDS issues and reduce the negative attitudes towards people with the infection by using accounts from people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

The association became aware of the lack of information available in the Seychelles on HIV/AIDS, especially for young people. The project improved knowledge amongst youth on HIV/AIDS, helped them to adopt a positive attitude towards people living with the virus and to reflect on their sexual behavior and safe practices.



#### YOUTH SAID IT !

*"As the coordinator and also as a person openly living with HIV/AIDS I feel that this project, especially through the production of posters on the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, will definitely reduce stigma related to our rights. However there's still a lot to do in order to educate our population, including the government, on respecting the human rights and sexual orientation of people."*

Reginald Hoareau, project leader



## ZANZIBAR

### Reaching out to the Socially Marginalized Most at Risk:



### The Young Population



(© Zanzibar Youth Plan Association)

The **Zanzibar Youth Plan Association (ZYP)** addressed issues and problems with the provision of HIV/AIDS services to most-at-risk young people (MARYPs) in Zanzibar, and built and strengthened the local capacity and community mobilization to ensure the sustainability of the project.

The activities undertaken aimed to reach out to the Socially Marginalized Most at Risk: Young People and reduce stigma and discrimination towards individuals living with HIV and AIDS in Zanzibar (mainly, the area of Zanzibar Town and Nungwi). The project also provided preventive approaches to young people who were at highest risk of drug use. Activities included:

- Services at drop-in centers for face-to-face counseling;

- The development of organizational protocol and procedures for dealing with drug users (DU), men who have sex with men (MSM) and community sex workers (CSW);
- Outreach services to DUs and CSWs;
- Training and modular workshops on rights to health, psychological counseling for HIV/AIDS and MARYPs and harm reduction;
- Public forums on rights to health, and mass media campaigns including the production of 300 booklets in Swahili

Over 200 young people were provided with information aimed at reducing risky behaviour relating to drug use or HIV/AIDS. As a result of the project, community knowledge, attitudes and support for people affected by drug use and HIV/AIDS have improved.



#### YOUTH SAID IT !

*"This project aimed to mobilize the general public in order to create an enabling environment where issues like HIV/AIDS and drug use are discussed, accepted and reduction strategies can succeed."*

Ibrahim Abdulla, project leader



## NIUE

### Youth in action 2wards prevention “keeping Niue HIV & AIDS free”

The **Niue Youth Council** conducted youth-led activities to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS in Niue, mainly through the production of a series of awareness-raising materials, the hosting of events, including drama shows at which key messages about HIV/AIDS, STIs and reproductive health were disseminated; the organization of a Youth Forum focused on HIV/AIDS, STIs and reproductive health including drama, debates, quizzes and other activities.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Promote understanding among youth of the implications of the lack of recognition of human rights for people living with HIV or AIDS, in terms of both loss of dignity and spread of the epidemic.
- Inform youth about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted and of preventative measures to protect themselves.
- Increase awareness of young people with regards to HIV & AIDS, arming them with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions that will benefit their lives.
- Enable young people to discuss more openly sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and their reproductive health needs.
- Produce awareness material that appealed to youth, taking into consideration their needs.



#### YOUTH SAID IT !

*“Our mission statement and vision is to cultivate a flourishing young generation that are committed to working in partnership with community and taking onboard positive actions for youth development in Niue promoting national unity, development and prosperity.”*



## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Better choices for well-informed and healthy youth, in Port Moresby settlements



(© Foundation for People and Community Development)

The **Foundation for People and Community Development (FPDC)** conducted activities to reduce the number of young people, particularly female youth, using risky behavior in settlements of the National Capital District in Papua New Guinea.

The main objectives of the project were to:

- Conduct STI awareness and education in settlements of the National Capital District;
- Build the capacities of youth sex workers in alternative sustainable livelihood projects aimed at both the formal & informal sectors;
- Provide appropriate assistance to youth participating in prostitution and the rehabilitation of selected sex workers;

- Provide effective awareness information on HIV/AIDS in target settlements of Port Moresby.

They produced informative material on HIV/AIDS, organized two educational sessions targeting youths in NCD settlements and sponsored young sex workers to participate in life skills courses and business training at identified vocational training centers.

Furthermore, they negotiated with potential employers for opportunities available to reformed sex workers and published stories of youth sex workers who had successfully made the transition to other employment. A general STI and HIV/AIDS awareness workshop was organized with follow-up sessions in identified NCD settlements.

#### YOUTH SAID IT !

*“Through this project, targeted youth, especially sex workers, will have improved opportunities in order to participate meaningfully in the formal and informal sectors. The youth will be involved in the decision-making processes and have access to appropriate assistance to improve their skills and personal life management...”*

Michael Kawak, project leader





## SAMOA

### National Youth Week



The Samoa Division for Youth of the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development carried out youth-led activities to raise awareness on HIV/AIDS and the 16 Days of Activism to end violence against women during National Youth Week in December 2011. The objectives set for the project were:

- To promote the understanding among youth of the implications of the lack of recognition of human rights for people living with HIV or AIDS, in terms of both loss of dignity and spread of the epidemic; as well as human rights for women, girls and fa'afafine, and in particular the added risks associated with HIV/AIDS transmission faced by these segments of the population.
- To inform youth about how HIV/AIDS is transmitted and preventative measures to protect themselves.



Photographs provided by © Samoa AIDS Foundation



# YOUTH VISIONING

for Island Living

- To inform youth about the incidence of gender-based violence in Samoa, and the links between this and the potential spread of HIV/AIDS.
- To increase awareness of young people with regards to HIV/AIDS, arming them with the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions that will benefit their lives.
- To enable young people to discuss more openly about sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and their reproductive health needs.
- To produce awareness material that appeals to the youth taking into consideration their needs.

To achieve these objectives, the project organized a series of life skills training sessions with community groups in Savaii and Upolu and a radio talk show.

