



depicted.

On the other hand, the stakeholder and MSM groups received the presentation very well and commented that this was a very innovative and non-threatening means by which to commence the discussion around the issue of sexuality, stigma and discrimination and most importantly access to health services.

**Activity 4: Empowerment Sessions with MSM:** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Activity 5: VCCT Test:** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Objective 2:** *To build the capacity of 20 key stakeholders to better relate to and interact with MSM, through targeted intervention*

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**Activity 1: Focus Group Discussions with MSM** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Activity 2: 1 Workshop with Key Stakeholders** **Activity Status: Complete**

This activity will be undertaken in the upcoming reporting period based on the challenges outlined in objective 1

**Activity 3: 1 Workshop with MSM & Stakeholders** **Activity Status: Complete**

This component has been scheduled for the next reporting period

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Activities 2.1 and 3.1 were undertaken over a 2-day period in Kingston with a total of 25 persons comprising of youth MSM, representatives from the Office of the Children's Advocate, Children's Registry, Ministry of Health Comprehensive Clinic, Child guidance Counselling Clinic, Child Development Agency, Bureau of Women's Affairs (Men's Desk), Council of Voluntary Social Services, Dean of Disciplines and Counsellors from 4 High Schools and two representatives from the Jamaica Constabulary (Police) Force as well as Out of School Youths.

The sessions focused on understanding the target population, the existing and emerging trends relating to the population as well as sought to explore workable solutions to the challenges (including stigma and discrimination) faced by the group. The youth participants were very willing to share their experiences and make recommendations to the various organizations to how best to meet the needs of their target group. He youngsters were also very excited for the space provided for them to learn firsthand about the myriad of services available through the various stakeholders. On the other hand, the stakeholders described the sessions as very rich learning experiences which enabled them to better understand the barriers which they sometimes "unknowingly" create in serving the population.

Overall, there was a high level of commitment from the various stakeholder groups to review the recommendations and to internally explore further training for their staff and to collaborate with Children First on other similar intervention in order to keep current in their quest to meet the needs of this population.

**Activity 4: Develop health care providers listing** **Activity Status: Complete**

This component is now complete and presently comprise of approximately 20 health care

providers particularly in the Kingston and St. Andrew Region from which the project operates. Based on our ongoing partnership with these health care providers, individual contacts have been forged which makes the referral processes much easier and smoother.

**Objective 3:** *To increase the availability of psycho-social support services for young MSM through advanced peer educators training for 10 MSM*

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**Activity 1: Advanced Peer Education Sessions** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Activity 2: Conduct Pre and Post Assessment** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Activity 3: Risk Reduction and Self Empowerment Sessions** **Activity Status: Complete**

**Activity 4: Mobilization of New MSM's** **Activity Status: Complete**

## **Conclusion**

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Under this intervention, the activities created avenue for linkages and partnerships with other local and international partners including Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network (JYAN) and UNAIDS who have so far committed support for a Social Media Training for Advocacy.

Additionally, during the period November 2012 to February 2013 the Agency also partnered with other entities and were able to secure and distribute approximately **60** lubricants and **100** condoms to the project participants

Overall, this intervention has been a very fruitful and rewarding experience for all stakeholders who have been involved in the process.

**- The End -**