

Break the Silence Surrounding AIDS

A Regional Approach to HIV/AIDS Prevention in Young People

Pan American Health Organization, FCH/CA & FCH/AI &
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Peru

PERIOD

2002 - 2006

PURPOSE

At the end of five years, PAHO will have promoted health and development of adolescents by supporting the countries in improving their response to AIDS prevention through capacity building for conducting research, data collection, education and training on adolescent health and development, and youth-friendly service delivery.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Improve data collection and surveillance systems to monitor the epidemic, improve information available for advocacy and improve program interventions.
2. Increase the presence of adolescent health and development policy and legislation, AIDS prevention strategies and programs at the country level.
3. Improve knowledge among youth and their families on the magnitude of the AIDS epidemic and how to prevent the further spread of HIV and other STIs.
4. Improve social communication by including AIDS awareness and prevention messages in the media.
5. Increase access and availability of health services for youth.
6. Improve human resources through capacity building, training and establishing networks.
7. Improve evaluation to measure effectiveness of interventions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The main accomplishments have been the development of instruments to support countries in achieving the expected results of the project, establishing joint management between the two PAHO units, and establishing the topic of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents as a priority in the agenda for the First Ladies' meeting held in October, 2003 in Dominican Republic.

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

Some of the challenges that affected the optimum coordination between both units were the physical and leadership instabilities the STI/HIV/AIDS unit experienced during 2002 and beginning of 2003, which were fortunately resolved this year by the new administration. Because this a regional project that does not directly supply financial resources to the countries, it has required an adjustment period and a process of understanding the technical cooperation.

NEXT STEPS

To implement the activities contemplated in the plan of action 2004.

Building on Lessons Learned: Youth Development and Sexuality to Prevent Pregnancy, HIV/STIs/AIDS in Adolescents

Pan American Health Organization, FCH/CA & FCH/AI &
Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua

PERIOD

2002 - 2004

PURPOSE

At the end of three years, PAHO will have promoted sexual and reproductive health and development of adolescents by supporting the countries in developing policies, legislation and advocacy, quality health services, strengthening local human resources working with adolescents and developing social communication programs to prevent adolescent pregnancy and HIV/AIDS/STIs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Increase the presence of policies and legislation addressing adolescent development and sexual and reproductive health, including pregnancy prevention, STI, HIV and AIDS prevention strategies and programs at the country level.
2. Increase access, availability and quality of comprehensive youth friendly health services, including counseling in different settings.
3. Improve human resources to work with young people and their families through capacity building, training and establishing networks.
4. Improve social communication by including health promotion, AIDS awareness and prevention messages in the media.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The main accomplishments have been the development of instruments to support countries in the promotion of the sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and youth, and to prevent pregnancy, STIs and HIV/AIDS in this demographic group, establishing joint management between the two PAHO units. This joint management has benefited from the strengths of both, establishing the topic of sexual and reproductive health of adolescents as a priority in the agenda for the First Ladies' meeting to be held in October, 2003, as well as the development and strengthening of institutional and professional networks working with adolescents to promote their sexual health and development, as well as prevent pregnancy, STIs and HIV/AIDS in the countries.

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

Some of the challenges that affected the optimum coordination between both units were the physical and leadership instabilities the STI/HIV/AIDS unit experienced during 2002 and beginning of 2003, which were fortunately resolved this year by the new administration.

NEXT STEPS

- To have a more active involvement in the countries.
- To promote activities within PAHO that strengthens technical cooperation with the countries.
- To position the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents and youth in each country's health sector reforms.

Promotion of Youth Development and Violence Prevention

Pan American Health Organization, FCH/CA &
German Cooperation (GTZ)

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

El Salvador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Peru, Argentina/Supraregional Project

PERIOD

2004 – 2006

PURPOSE

Youth from project countries will actively participate in youth development and violence prevention, and will take part in designing these programs.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Youths' participatory experiences in violence prevention projects in priority countries are identified and processed.
2. Participatory approaches apt for dissemination are supported in selected neighborhoods..
3. Development and implementation strategies for the promotion of youth development are supported at different levels in priority countries.
4. Sensitization and awareness strategies are developed by the mass media of priority countries.
5. Knowledge regarding effective youth violence prevention is systematically disseminated in priority countries.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The project has been approved by GTZ.

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

Waiting to define the youth violence conceptual framework.

NEXT STEPS

Awaiting funds for implementation of the project.

Improving the Lives of Adolescent Girls and Boys by Involving Adolescent Boys: A New Approach to Health Promotion and Prevention through Soccer

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay as pilot countries

PERIOD

2002 – 2004 (18 months)

PURPOSE

To improve the health and development of adolescent girls by introducing a new perspective of masculinity and gender in adolescent boys.

EXPECTED RESULTS

By the end of the 18-month planning phase, PAHO will have the following products:

1. Curriculum developed for the integration of gender equity concepts and healthy lifestyles into soccer training.
2. Curriculum pilot tested in 5 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay.
3. Curriculum evaluated to ensure the acquisition of healthy attitudes and behaviors as well as equitable gender competencies in youth.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The curriculum has been developed.

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

None

NEXT STEPS

1. To do the pilot test in the selected countries.
2. To evaluate the effectiveness of the locally-adapted curriculum in different countries.

Strong Families: Family Orientation to Prevent Risk Behavior among Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean

Pan American Health Organization, FCH/CA & SDE/RA

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala as pilot countries

PERIOD

2002 - 2004

PURPOSE

To improve health and development of adolescents and prevent risk behaviors by strengthening parents' capacity to express love and set clear limits, and by strengthening youth capacity to better communicate with parents and make healthy decisions.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. The young people within participating families will choose adequate companions.
2. The young people within participating families will show a greater ability to resist peer pressure.
3. The young people within participating families will not begin to use substances or will diminish their consumption of the same.
4. The young people within participating families will present safe sexual behavior patterns (either of abstinence or of use of condoms).
5. The parents or tutors will increase their knowledge and capacity to resolve conflicts with their adolescent children.
6. The parents or tutors will develop their capacity to demonstrate affection, while at the same time establishing clear behavioral rules.
7. The parents or tutors will increase both their ability to monitor the routine behavior and the capacity to hear and comprehend the specific problems of their adolescent children.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Sound Families curriculum has been developed as an adaptation and translation of The Iowa Strengthening Families Program (ISFP), which has wide evidence of effectiveness. Spanish material for the sessions has also been developed (scripts and videotapes).

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

Limited funds constrain the possibility of developing programs than can be tailored to specific cultural environments in the Region. The effectiveness of the curriculum has only been demonstrated in the US.

NEXT STEPS

- To pilot the different phases of the program in the selected countries
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the locally-adapted curriculum in different countries.

Joint UN Team Response to Haitian Youth

In Coordination with UN Agencies: WHO/AMRO, UNICEF, UNFPA, AND UNDP

COUNTRY

Haiti

PERIOD

2004 - 2008

PURPOSE

To improve the health and development of young people in four target areas in Haiti with a comprehensive, multisectorial development approach at multiple levels of project design and implementation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. A reduction of the gap between supply and demand of local youth services resulting from different, and sometimes conflicting, views and priorities between young people and service providers.
2. Offering a comprehensive package of youth and adolescent services specifically designed by young people to meet their needs, differentiated by age and gender.
3. Improved coordination and strengthening, at the community level, of existing programs and interventions between participating agencies and NGOs through a common approach, a single point of contact and a local planning mechanism.
4. The mobilization of young people of both genders in the identification and satisfaction of their priority health and development needs at the local level.
5. Enable young people to know and exercise their fundamental rights with regard to health and development (health, education, freedom of expression, dignity and respect).
6. Raise awareness in the beneficiary communities, society in general and central and local authorities on the importance of young people's integrated development and gender equity.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The project proposal has been designed with the active participation of underprivileged, socially and economically excluded Haitian young people and local stakeholders in the proposed target areas, and responds to the priority needs and interventions they identified.

PRINCIPAL BARRIERS

The main challenge that has affected project development to date has been related to the UN inter-agency coordination required at both the local and regional levels to formulate the project and mobilize on its behalf. A critical aspect of this program is that international cooperation agencies will not only provide technical and financial support for the youth programs, but will in fact work together to jointly address client needs.

NEXT STEPS

We are awaiting the results from an inter-agency meeting held in Haiti on July 7 to agree on the final details of the proposal. Once the proposal has been finalized the fund-raising stage will begin.