

**Presentation delivered during the Second
Technical Advisory Committee on
HIV/AIDS/STI**

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HIV/STI Regional Plan Country Perspective

**2nd General Meeting of the Technical Advisory
Committee (TAC) on HIV/STI**

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Brasilia, Brasil**

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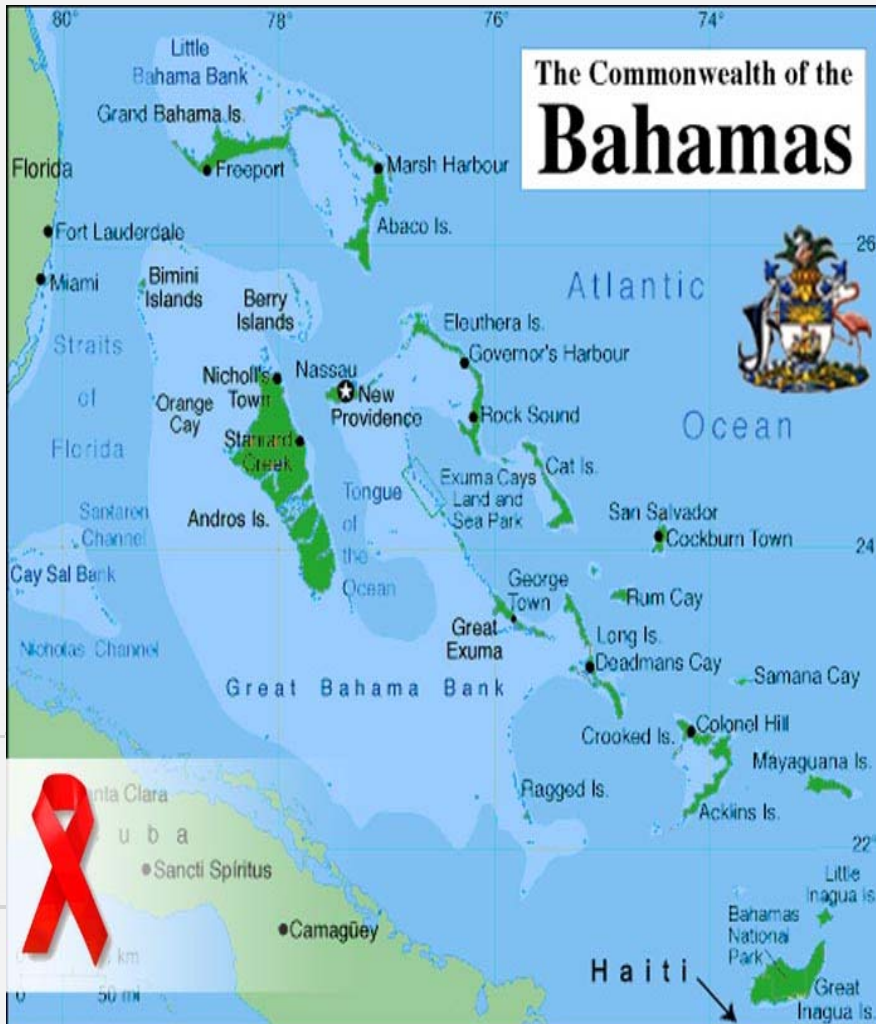


HIV/AIDS in The Bahamas (1983 – 2005)





Geography



- **Caribbean archipelago of 700 islands and cays**
- **29 inhabited**
- **Population: 303, 611 (2000 Census)**
- **95% of the population on 7 of the 29 inhabited islands**
 - **New Providence 70%**
 - **Grand Bahama 15%**





Epidemic Profile



Significant Facts

- **1983**
 - First clinical case of AIDS suspected
- **1985**
 - National HIV/AIDS programme began monitoring the epidemic





Epidemic Profile



Demographics

- Bahamian citizens (87%)
- New Providence (>80%)
- Heterosexual epidemic (87%)
 - Male to female ratios is 1.1:1
- Adolescents and Young Adults





Epidemic Profile



Current Statistics

(Cumulative to September 30, 2005)

HIV infections – 10,388

- **AIDS Cases – 5,185**
- **Non- AIDS – 5,203**
- **Alive – 6785**
- **Dead – 3603**

Estimated adult prevalence 3% (2003)





3 by 5 Progress



Total on ART Therapy – 1,865 (Nov. 2005)

Coverage 53.3%

PMTCT

- **Sites – 60**
- **2, 875 women receiving services (2005)**
- **Coverage 100%**

Ongoing in country VCT and PMTCT training





National Response



- ❖ **HIV/AIDS mandated a priority program**
- ❖ **Screening of all donated blood products**
- ❖ **Initiation of the PMTCT programme**
- ❖ **Providing ART to all HIV infected pregnant women and children**
- ❖ **Providing primary care services to prevent and treat opportunist infections**
- ❖ **Building capacity in STI management**





National Response



- ❖ **Fostering Partnerships**
 - ❖ **Local and International**
- ❖ **Strengthening laboratory testing capacity**
- ❖ **Providing HIV prevention services**
- ❖ **Developing a Strategic Plan for Scaling up of HIV/AIDS Prevention Care and Treatment (2002)**







Regional HIV/STI Plan

The Way Forward





Bahamas' Contribution



- **Dr. Perry Gomez**
 - Caribbean representative on steering committee
- **Transfer of experience through TCC's**
- **Bilateral Arrangements via PANCAP/CAREC**
- **Sharing of country Data**
- **Promoting a model of care**
 - **CHART Bahamas**





Regional Plan Usefulness



- **December 2005**
 - **Regional Plan launched in The Bahamas**
 - **Cursory review by HIV/AIDS Executive Management Committee**
 - **More extensive review to be conducted**





Critical Line of Action 1



- **Strengthening health sector leadership and stewardship and fostering the engagement of civil society**
 - The Bahamas National AIDS Programme has implemented all strategies under this CLA
 - There is need for strengthening
 - Targets and milestones in Regional Plan will inform the strengthening process





Critical Line of Action 2



- **Designing & Implementing effective sustainable HIV/AIDS/STI programmes**
 - **HIV/AIDS is a priority programme in the National Health Services Strategic Plan**
 - **Vulnerable groups interventions**
 - **Improving quality assurance**





Critical Line of Action 3



- **Strengthening, expanding, and reorienting health services**
 - **Scaling Up of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment plan**
 - **Regional plan will provide guidance to this process**





Critical Line of Action 4



- **Improving access to medicines, diagnostics and other commodities**
 - **Strong public health infrastructure**
 - **Bahamas National Drug Agency**
 - **Integration/Decentralization of services**
 - **Public Health Clinics**





Critical Line of Action 5



- **Improving information and knowledge management**
 - **Development and strengthening of monitoring and evaluation systems**
 - **Building capacity for information, knowledge management, and dissemination**





Primary Activities 2006



- **Building capacity for monitoring and evaluation**
 - Building national capacity for information, knowledge management and dissemination
- **Continuing activities related to**
 - Improving access to services and medications
 - Strengthening, expanding and re-orienting health services
 - Building human resource capacity to ensure an effective sustainable programme





Challenges



- **Resources**

- Human
- Financial

- **Establishing Monitoring and Evaluation component of NAP**

- **Stigma and discrimination**





Thank You!

