STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF HEALTH SYSTEMS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
DAY 1

- Opening Ceremony
- Feature address
  - “Health care systems are critical front line institutions... and are critical for dealing with violence against women”
  - The establishment of formal protocols and policies between health and other stakeholders
  - Need for accurate data on violence against women and more information on violence against men
  - “Together we can change our culture...”

“Step up to the plate and live the theme every day. Be bold for change.” Ms. Beverly Reynolds
MORNING SESSION - PLAN OF ACTION

- Actions that the health sector can take
  - Publicly commit to address and condemn all forms of violence against women
  - Allocate budget resources
  - Integrate violence against women prevention and response
  - Advocate to adopt or reform laws and policies
  - Designate a unit or focal point
MORNING SESSION- EVERY CARIBBEAN WOMAN AND EVERY CARIBBEAN CHILD

- Caribbean Initiative
  - 4 priority areas
    - Adolescent pregnancies
    - Violence against women and children (to include trafficking)
    - Cervical cancer
    - Mother to child transmission of HIV
Common Gaps and Barriers
- Lack of data
- Lack of policies
- Inaccessible programmes
- Human resource constraints
- Financial Resource constraints
- Cultural biases and myths
MORNING SESSION- UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE...

- Understanding the public health approach
- Most common form of violence against women is intimate partner violence
- Measured by both victimization and perpetration
  - Under reporting is a challenge
- Violence starts early
  - Prevalence is highest in the younger age groups
- High levels of violence during pregnancy
- Health consequences
  - Injury
  - Mental health problems
  - Limited sexual or reproductive health control
  - Difficulty seeking health care
- Negative affects on children
  - Behaviour and health problems
  - Higher rates of infant mortality
  - Poor school performance
- Socioeconomic consequences
  - Loss of wages and productivity
MORNING SESSION- UNDERSTANDING THE EVIDENCE...

- VAW is widespread
- Consequences for women and their children
- Intergenerational consequences
- Adverse socio economic impact on families communities and society
AFTER BREAK SESSION- RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Identifying
  - Most effective prevention programs work on reducing risks and enhancing protective factors
- Individual
  - Social history
- Relationship
  - Characteristics
- Community
  - Neighborhood settings, social norms
- Societal
  - Laws
  - Level of empowerment
AFTER BREAK SESSION - RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Individual
  - Childhood abuse
  - Low education
  - Harmful use of alcohol
  - Personality disorder

- Relationship
  - Mens control
  - Quality of relationship
  - Men having multiple sex partners
AFTER BREAK SESSION - RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Men’s perpetration
  - Frequent quarreling
  - Childhood emotional abuse or neglect
  - Transactional sex
  - Witness abuse of mother
  - Childhood physical and sexual abuse
  - 2+ lifetime sexual partners
AFTER BREAK SESSION - RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- Look at data in our own countries
- Look at the risk factors and identify the ones that can be changed
- Look at target group and determine which ones will be affected by the largest number of risk factors
- Risk factors
  - Childhood abuse
  - Gender inequality
- Development of prevention measures
- Reduce risk and enhance protective factors
RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS-EXERCISE

- Lifeline

- Problem Tree
PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- 27 effective interventions
- Framework
  - Access to justice
  - Support services for survivors
    - Shelters
    - Crisis centres
    - Screening and referrals
  - Violence prevention
PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- Batterers interventions did not work
- Health care interventions
  - Encourage autonomy and empowerment of women
  - Multiple interventions
  - More than a six months in duration
  - Addressed social norms
  - Victim advocacy
PROMISING OR EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- SASA - means "now"
  - Involves institutions and community leaders to build critical mass
  - Talks about the imbalance of power in the household
  - Stages of change model
    - Learning about the community
    - Helping activists gain confidence
    - Strengthening skills and connections between community members
    - Trying new behaviors, celebrating change
UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Promotes a common understanding on preventing violence against women

- Scope
  - Intimate partner violence
  - Focus on adolescent girls
  - Focus on stable context
  - Prevention as part of a comprehensive approach
  - A theory of change approach
  - Identification of specific factors at local, regional and national level which protect against violence
UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Violence is taking place due to deep rooted gender inequality
- Levels of prevention
  - Response
  - Early intervention
    - Changing the trajectory
  - Prevention
UN FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Framework
  - Complements efforts in response
  - Resource, support and encourage prevention activity
  - Underpin a unified approach
  - Contribute to sustained and planned action
HOW TO WORK WITH MEN WITHIN FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

- Community prevention program
  - Targeting prevention in young men and women
- The Caribbean has many of the elements that make for a successful intervention
  - Need to be melded into a coordinated comprehensive program
  - Developmental progress
- Caribbean male action network
- Men as allies and men as partners
WORKING GROUP – GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Rich discussion on strategies for prevention and response
THANK YOU