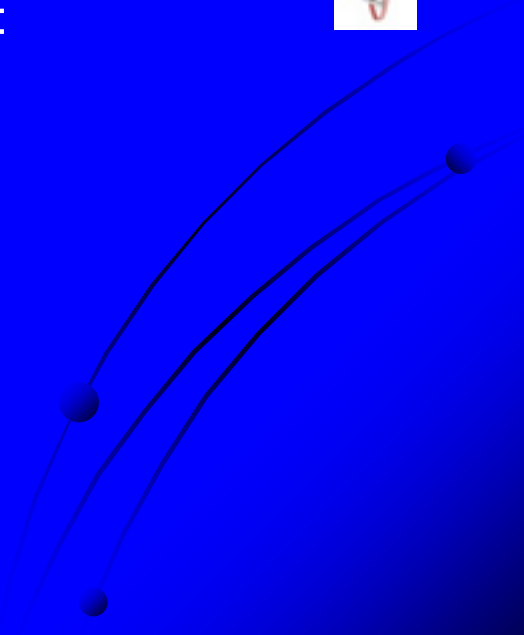


# The Barbados Informal Worker's HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project

Empowering Workers to Protect  
Themselves from HIV/AIDS

*November 23, 2007*

*The Savannah Hotel, Barbados*



- Nicole Hazel - Senior Projects Coordinator
- Maisha Hutton- Project manager
- Sarah Adomakoh – project director
- Susan Lewis - Community liaison officer
- Peter Auguste - Community liaison officer
- Student interns
- Volunteers
- Nurses
- 4 Focal persons – taxi and Fisher folk
- Peer educators – Manufacturing sector (ILO project)

# Funding and Project Management

## **Funding**

- AIDInc. received a grant of \$15 000 USD from the United States Embassy, Caribbean Ambassador's Fund (CAF).
- The fund supports regional community based organisations with the funding to undertake projects focusing on health, social and economic development.

## **Project Management and Execution**

The project is being implemented by Community Health Action and Transformation (CHAT) a division of Associates for International Development.

CHAT is a non profit organisation committed to participatory health and social development programmes that meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups, communities and civil society organisations.

# Partners

## **Target Groups**

Barbados National Union of Fisher Folk Organisations, Port Taxi Association, Mibus and Route Taxi Associations, Barbados Cooperative Society,

## **Government**

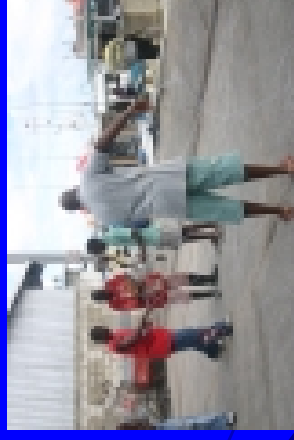
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Conservation Commission, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, National HIV/AIDS Commission, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Transformation-Community Development Department, Ministry of Tourism and International Transport,

## **International Agencies**

United States Embassy Caribbean Ambassador's Fund, United States Department of Labour and the International Labour Organisation.

# Project Aims

- To sensitize and educate informal workers specifically fisher folk, taxi, minibus and route taxi drivers. In order to encourage and support HIV/AIDS risk reduction and behaviour change.
- This first phase of the project focuses on fisher folk and taxi drivers.



- Phase two will involve programmes with the minibus and route taxi drivers.

# Why the Informal Sector?

HIV/AIDS interventions have been conducted in communities across Barbados – schools, churches, health facilities and workplaces.

However, there has been a lack of programmes within the informal sector due to limited information about the sector and its hard to reach nature.

- This project aims to raise awareness about the need for workplace education programmes within the informal sector.
- To provide a coordinated response for programming that is responsive to the needs of the population.
- To present a model of best practice for prevention and education programmes within the informal sector.

# Project Approach

## **Participation**

The participatory approach of this project has seen the target group members with the assistance of the project team being responsible for its design and execution.

## **Empowerment**

This project equips workers with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the need for and to take action towards behaviour change.

## **Capacity Building**

Developing peer leaders (change agents) from within the target groups. So as to ensure the sustainability of the outputs derived from the project.

# Activities

- Ongoing HIV/AIDS Sensitization
  - Peer Education
  - Onsite Educational Events
  - Behaviour Change Communication Materials Development
- 



# Activities

## Ongoing HIV/AIDS Sensitization



The fragmented nature of the informal sector has made it necessary for HIV/AIDS sensitization sessions to be conducted on a regular basis. That is, the persons available on one day may not be there on another.

# Activities

- Project Information brochures have been specially designed for each target group.

*Informal Workers' HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project*

**The Facts**

**IS THERE A CURE FOR HIV/AIDS?**

No. There is no cure for HIV/AIDS. However, there are medicines that fight HIV and help people with HIV/AIDS live longer lives.

**HOW CAN WE STOP THE SPREAD OF THIS DISEASE? THE ABCS OF HIV PREVENTION.**

**A** **Be Aware** of the risks of HIV. The best way to avoid getting HIV is not to have sex until you are ready to be faithful. Be faithful is marriage and long term relationships.

**B** **Be Faithful** in marriage and long term relationships.

**C** **Use Condoms** Consistently and correctly all of the time.

**YOU CANSET OFF HIV THROUGH:**

- By working with or being around someone who has HIV.
- From sweat, spit, tears, clothes, shaking hands, kissing, sharing needles, sharing needles, or through everyday things like sharing needles, or through everyday things like sharing needles, or through everyday things like sharing needles.
- From blood, semen, or vaginal fluids, like needles, blood, semen, or vaginal fluids, like needles, blood, semen, or vaginal fluids, like needles.
- Touching, hugging or shaking hands.

**For more information on HIV/AIDS contact:**

The AIDS Memorial Centre #145-5200  
The AIDS Hotline #1-888-2-HEALTH

**Rommel's Story...**

Rommel, 35, was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2005. He had been having sex with women for several years. He had a steady girlfriend, but he had other girlfriends. He had a steady girlfriend, but he had other girlfriends. He had a steady girlfriend, but he had other girlfriends.

**The Barbados Informal Workers Peer Education Project**

**BRIVING AWAY HIV/AIDS!**

**BRIVING AWAY HIV/AIDS!**

educating workers about HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support in Barbados.

**ABSOLUTENCE**

**Community Health Action Trust (CHAT)** is a non-profit community based non-governmental organization and is a division of Associates for International Development Inc (AIDICI).

CHAT came into existence in 2005 to initiate and support community based programmes aimed at improving the health status of vulnerable populations of diverse groups in local communities.

**Keyring**  
2nd Avenue  
St. Michael  
Tel: 429-8959 Fax: 429-6589

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**Maisie's Story...**

Maisie, 38, was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 2005. She had been having sex with her partner for over 15 years. She had a steady girlfriend, but she had other girlfriends. She had a steady girlfriend, but she had other girlfriends. She had a steady girlfriend, but she had other girlfriends.

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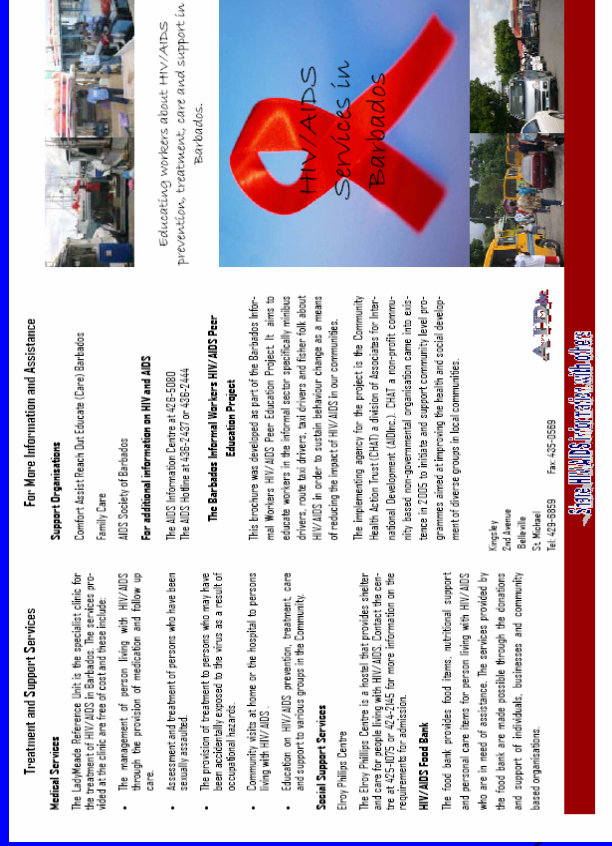
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# Activities

A brochure outlining the basics of HIV/AIDS and sources for treatment and support services within the community and health sector was also designed by with target group input.



**Medical Services**  
The Lady Meade Reference Unit is the specialist clinic for HIV/AIDS in Barbados. The services provided at the clinic are free of cost and these include:

- The management of person living with HIV/AIDS through the provision of medication and follow up care.
- Assessment and treatment of persons who have been sexually assaulted.
- The provision of treatment to persons who may have occupational hazards as a result of their work.
- Community clubs at home or the hospital to persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- Education on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support to various groups in the Community.

**Social Support Services**  
**Evory Phillip's Centre**  
The Evory Phillip Centre is a health club that provides shelter and support to persons living with HIV/AIDS. For more information on the requirements for admission, contact the Centre at 465-4055 or 424-2445.

**HIV/AIDS Food Bank**  
The food bank provides food items, nutritional support and personal care items for persons living with HIV/AIDS who are in need of assistance. The services provided by the food bank are made possible through the donations and support of individuals, businesses and community based organisations.

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**For More Information and Assistance**  
**Support Organisations**  
Comfort Assist/Plan Dax Educare (Care) Barbados  
Family Care  
AIDS Society of Barbados




**For additional information on HIV and AIDS**  
The AIDS Information Centre at 465-6000  
The AIDS Helpline at 465-2427 or 465-2444

**The Barbados Informal Workers HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project**  
This brochure was developed as part of the Barbados Informal Workers HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project. It aims to educate workers in the informal sector specifically minibus drivers, rouse bus drivers, taxi drivers and fisher-folk about HIV/AIDS in order to sustain behaviour change as a means of reducing the impact of HIV/AIDS in our communities.

The implementing agency for the project is the Community Health Action Trust (CHAT) a division of Associates for Inter-national Development (AIDInc). CHAT, a non-profit community based non-governmental organisation came into existence in 2005 to initiate and support community level programmes aimed at improving the health and social development of diverse groups in local communities.

Kingley  
Bridgetown  
St. Michael  
Tel: 493-3859 Fax: 493-3559

**HIV/AIDS Services in Barbados**



# Activities



Barbados Informal

Workers HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project

**Peer to Peer - Educating Each Other About HIV/AIDS**

**Peer Education is:**

- When a person educates his colleagues, friends or family.
- A good way of sharing information about an issue.
- Training and supporting members of a given group to effect change

**Where Does Peer Education Take Place?**

- Street Corners
- Community Centres
- Workplaces
- Schools
- Churches
- Bars or Shops
- Sport Clubs
- Any Location Where People Meet

**Who Are Peer Educators?**

- A Person who is trained about an issue in order to share what they learnt with others.
- Peer educators teach others about HIV/AIDS in order to bring about behaviour change.
- Being a peer educator does not mean that one has to leave one's job. Peer educators can conduct their activities as part of their work or after work activities.

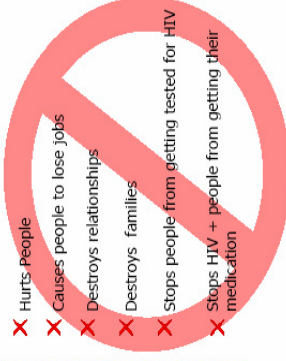


**WAYS OF TRANSMISSION**

- Body fluids such as blood, vaginal secretions or semen.
- Sexual intercourse through vaginal, anal or oral contact.
- Sharing needles.
- From an HIV positive mother to unborn child during pregnancy, delivery or through breast feeding.

**STIGMA & DISCRIMINATION**

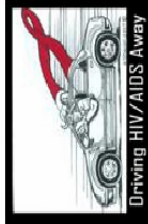
- Hurts People
- Causes people to lose jobs
- Destroys relationships
- Destroys families
- Stops people from getting tested for HIV
- Stops HIV + people from getting their medication



Don't Let HIV/AIDS Get A Hook On You!

**Do you have what it takes to be a peer educator?**

Give us a call at 435-0569 to sign up for the peer education workshops and to find out more about the Barbados Informal Workers HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project.



Driving HIV/AIDS Away

## Peer Education Flyer

# Activities

Peer Education-Through workshops with the target groups. The ILO Workplace Peer Education Manual is currently being adapted for use in the informal sector.



# Activities

## Peer Education Workshop Strategy

Testing of two approaches for the peer education workshop will be done in December 2007.

Onsite training - will be conducted at the taxi stands with the taxi drivers.

Venue based training - will be done with the fisher folk.



# Activities

Onsite Educational Events- To mark World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 events were held with the target populations at the Oistins Fish Market and the Accra Beach Taxi Stand. These included health checks, an edu drama and distribution of health Information.



# Activities

In order to reach a wider cross section of the groups another event was held on December 14, 2006 at the Bridgetown Fish Market and the taxi stands at Lower Broad Street (in the area of Knight's Pharmacy) and National Heroe's Square.



Tee-shirts with BCC slogans were also designed for the events.



# Activities - Fisher Folk

BCC Materials Development  
The two groups developed BCC materials that are specific to their needs.



A vendor models his apron with the project slogan “Is it Worth It?”

# Activities -Taxis

- 100 Key Rings were distributed to taxi drivers at three sites (Accra, the taxi stand on Lower Broad Street and National Heroes Square)



# Activities –BCC Poster Development

- Posters addressing issues such as HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination, risk reduction behaviours (Abstinence, partner reduction and condom) and peer education were designed based on a needs assessment with the target groups.



# Activities – BCC Poster Development

## Protect Yourself from HIV Infection

### A - Abstain

Abstaining is only full proof way of protecting yourself from acquiring HIV.

### B - Be Faithful

Have one faithful HIV - partner.

### C - Condomise

Wear condoms consistently and correctly each time.

Is it Worth it?

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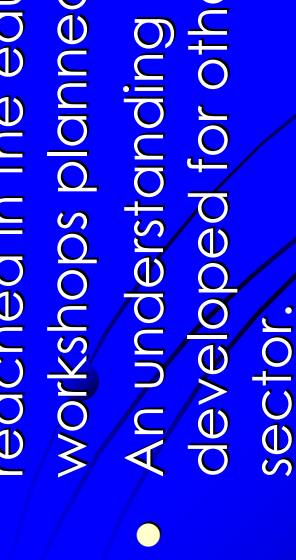
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Is it Worth it?

# Challenges

- Funding – The CAF grant of \$15 000 USD covered the main components of the project BCC materials development and the peer education workshops. But in order to reach a greater number of people within the target populations additional funding is required. The lack of funding resulted in the project being divided into two phases.
- Human Resource Input – The hard to reach nature of the informal sector means that a project with this group is extremely labour intensive. Therefore, human resources had to be scaled up to respond to this need. However, human resources is not an area that is covered in the grant funds this was undertaken by CHAT/AIDInc. staff, student volunteers and ILO peer educators.

# Achievements/Results

- Target group buy in and participation. This is integral to the success of the project.
  - Capacity building of informal workers, ILO peer educators and student volunteers.
  - 382 of people within the target groups and by extension the local populations were reached as part of the onsite events in 2006. It is envisaged that an even greater number will be reached in the educational events and peer education workshops planned for December 2007.
  - An understanding of the informal sector and a model developed for other prevention projects with the informal sector.
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# Barbados Informal Worker's HIV/AIDS Peer Education Project

Thank you !

For more information on the project visit  
<http://www.aidincorporated.org>

THE END

