



PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit

Spotlight

on stigma

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PANCAP

SCALING UP THE CARIBBEAN'S RESPONSE TO HIV AND AIDS
PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HIV AND AIDS



SOS is a quarterly publication of the PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit (RSDU) which showcases the anti-stigma work of the RSDU and its partners. Funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development.

Cover Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2009

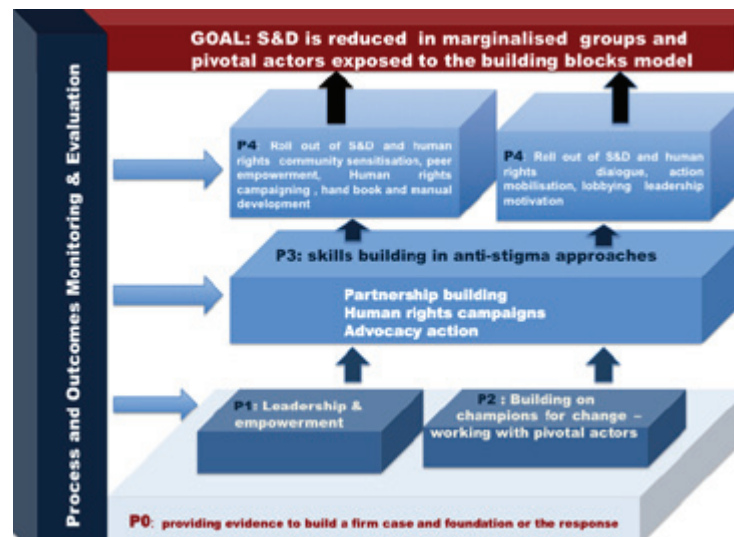


PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit

About the RSDU

In 2009, the PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit was established through funding from the Department for International Development (UK) with a goal to contribute to the reduction of stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV, their families and other vulnerable groups throughout the Caribbean. The RSDU will assist PANCAP with developing evidence based approaches to addressing stigma and discrimination, including development of a user friendly assessment tool the SCOR-B. Go to page 3 to learn more about the SCOR-B. To date, the RSDU has made strides towards achievements of it's objectives enlisted in the CRSF 2008 – 2012 which include: provision of technical assistance for country programmes addressing stigma and discrimination, support to countries with operational research on stigma and discrimination, advocacy on HIV and related human rights issues and dissemination of best practices and tested methodologies on reducing stigma and discrimination.

Through participatory, step-wise approaches, the RSDU works with National AIDS Programmes and community partners in the OECS, Belize, Jamaica and Guyana in the following areas P0 – P5:



P0: Baseline research, response analyses and needs assessments to inform the design and implementation of anti-stigma action. **P0 What is your SCOR? –**

P1: Preparing for Action - Community Advocacy & Leadership development to promote involvement of key community and marginalised groups in the response and to foster partnerships by closing the gap between community groups striving to tackle the same issues. **Stigma and discrimination “upstaged” in a leaders’ consultation in Jamaica**

P2: Preparing for Action - Building on Champions for Change - Identification of and support to local champions and Ambassadors and strengthening their reach

to marginalised groups and other key actors in the anti-stigma response. These champions may be community leaders, politicians, key institutional leader, music or sporting celebrities, etc and will have interest in advocating publicly for rights of marginalised groups and in providing public platforms for the groups to voice their needs. **Spotlight on Champions from the faith-based community**

P3: Training and capacity building of target groups in anti-stigma approaches including advocacy action and campaigning- once empowered to cope with self stigma issue and to speak out, marginalised groups will be better enabled to work together in skill building sessions to further acquire skills to develop and roll out advice and human rights actions for positive changes within there

spheres of influence. **(Flipping the Script in Country Capacity Building Sessions-responsibilities with human rights)**

P4: Initial production & development of BCC materials and Advocacy action – Target groups will be provided with opportunities and support for using their skills acquired in P3 in initiating, conceptualising and leading in the development of anti stigma and advocacy materials appropriate to the information needs, emotional needs and empowerment needs of their target groups. **(P4: Increasing Human Rights Literacy in Belize)**

P5: End line Evaluation and Dissemination of BCC materials, research and best practice models

Produced and Published by PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit

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Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of Spotlight on Stigma (SOS)! The SOS is a publication of the PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit, which showcases the work of the Unit and its partners. The feature story of this issue “Highlighting Champions from the Faith-based Community”, shows the dedication and commitment of faith based leaders Pastor Figuhr Fabien and Pastor Ira Penny in supporting the needs of the communities they serve and how this work contributes to a reduction in stigma and discrimination.

Also in this issue, read about our community leaders in Belize and how they have been empowered to address stigma; learn how governments are strengthening partnerships with RSDU and see how our young leaders can fight stigma through dance4life. These and other articles highlight our reach to various groups across the region. We are looking forward to your feedback!

What is your SCOR?



The Stigma Community Response Baseline SCOR-B© has been specially designed by the RSDU to measure baseline and endline stigma levels, human rights issues and empowerment needs following the implementation of targeted stigma reduction and human rights community based projects and programmes. The process of application is community and support group driven. Therefore, built into the SCOR-B implementation process is the objective to empower community teams with requisite leadership and technical skills and credible and current information to participate meaningfully in designing projects to tackle stigma and discrimination in various settings.

The information from the SCOR-B will be used to assist the National AIDS Programmes and community partners of the region with developing targeted programmes in stigma and discrimination for the respective groups. It will also provide the RSDU with baseline information to assess the effect of our

programmes. The data collection instruments cover aspects of self-stigma, experiences of stigma and discrimination, attitudes towards marginalised groups, knowledge of human rights, demographics, knowledge of HIV and access to services. A field officers' handbook, focus group rap sheets, an analysis plan & framework and a community-based interviewers' training guide accompany the survey instruments.

The SCOR-B utilizes highly participatory methodologies and focuses on engaging members of the target communities as researchers. This peer process facilitates greater ownership and empowerment of the affected communities and encourages their participation in the design of initiatives to address the identified issues. It enables the researcher and community to record and discuss the exact nature, prevalence and impact of S&D and attitudes towards groups such as people living with HIV, sex workers, migrants, and men who have sex with men in one assessment process. The assessment tool also explores the actions and covert stigma by key gatekeepers and or perpetrators identified through rapid assessments. Information from the SCOR-B conducted at periodic intervals ensures that changes in S&D trends are identified over time.

New questionnaire items have been informed through country level participatory needs assessments, response analyses and forums that identified: types of stigma and discrimination prevailing within various



communities; groups that are stigmatised; pivotal community actors (PCA); stigma perpetrators and community gatekeepers. Items have also been informed by reviewing instruments and indicators previously validated and used to measure forms and levels of stigma in regions outside the Caribbean and through past research projects undertaken globally. These

include the Horizons Project, The UNAIDS PLHIV Stigma Index and UNAIDS stigma indicators.

The pre- test of the SCOR-B took place in BVI and in St Kitts in October and November 2010. It was subsequently validated and approved for use as a regional research tool for measuring stigma and discrimination through a review and validation process that was led by statistician, Professor Ian Hambleton of the UWI School of Clinical Medicine and the RSDU Research Technical Working Group comprising of statisticians, M&E specialists and Community Human Rights Advocates from CHRC, CRN+, CVC with special oversight from the PANCAP Stigma Unit Advisory groups made up of key partners, PANCAP PCU, RSDU, CBMP, UNAIDS, UWI and the OECS HAPU.

The SCOR-B has so far, been rolled out in Belize, St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent- statistical analysis is underway.

For more information on the SCOR-B, please visit www.rsd.org

The PLATFORM

Stigma and discrimination “upstaged” in a leaders’ consultation in Jamaica

Aston Cooke, well-known Jamaica playwright of “Oliver” fame was a co-facilitator and participant in the RSDU’s Edudrama and Script Writing for S&D Reduction in March 2011. Following this workshop Cooke worked with members of Jamaica AIDS Support for Life to devise and deliver an interactive piece that addressed issues of S & D at a high level forum.

April 29, 2011, the Jamaican Minister of Health (MOH) Rudyard Spencer hosted a high-level leaders consultation on stigma, discrimination and gender issues in HIV/AIDS. Prime Minister Bruce Golding, Opposition Leader, Portia Simpson Miller, UNAIDS Regional Director, Dr Ernest Massiah and US Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater were some of the participants.

The MOH extended an invitation to Jamaica AIDS Support for Life (JASL) to make a short presentation at the opening session.

With the guidance of Cooke, members of the PLHIV support group at JASL were given the challenge to develop this presentation. A dramatic presentation was used to communicate issues of stigma and discrimination experienced on a daily basis and it highlighted the attitudes of health care service providers towards PLHIV in public hospitals and clinics across Jamaica while engaging the policy makers in discussion on the issues and what recommendations could be made for changes.

The scene was set in a local clinic with characters such as a doctor, an insensitive nurse and PLHIV with the main predicament being the Nurse’s discriminatory perception and attitude towards PLHIV. The Hot Seat theatre method was utilised where the performers in the skit answered questions, while still in character, from the audience on their motivation behind their actions.



Leader of the Opposition, Portia Simpson-Miller posing a question to the actors during the ‘Hot Seat’ section of the Edu-Drama presentation.

During the ‘Hot Seating’ session, Opposition Leader Portia Simpson Miller challenged the ‘Nurse’ on her treatment of PLHIV, US Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater wanted to hear more about why men were treated differently to women by the ‘Nurse’. UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Dr Pierre Somse asked each member of the cast to make suggestions for change to the Minister of Health who was also at the head table. Later in the afternoon, JASL was granted a short roundtable discussion session to evaluate the edu-drama presentation. The issues raised in the edu-drama presentation resonated throughout the day and permeated many of the other sessions.

CHRC Caribbean Health Research Council, RSDU - Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit, CRN+ - Caribbean Regional Network of people living with HIV, CVC- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition) with special oversight from the PANCAP Stigma Unit Advisory groups made up of key partners, PANCAP - Pan Caribbean HIV/AIDS Partnership Project Coordination Unit, RSDU- Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit, CBMP- Caribbean Broadcast Media Partnership on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, CVC- Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition, UWI- University of the West Indies and the OECS HIV/AIDS Project Unit.

Increasing Human Rights Literacy in Belize

“Know Your Rights and Laws”, an upcoming human rights campaign in Belize, will benefit from the lessons learnt in a community driven campaign developed during the inception phase of the RSDU. The Unit has entered a strategic partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National AIDS Committee (NAC) of Belize to provide technical assistance in the design and roll out the campaign. Evidence informed, strategic approaches will be used to raise awareness on human rights and the law, targeting populations vulnerable to S&D

and key community groups such as faith-based organizations and the uniformed services (police and immigration officers).

With the support of the NAC and UNDP, the RSDU has convened a local Media and Communications Team, which comprises representatives from key communities. The RSDU will provide skills building sessions to build the MCT’s knowledge in Human Rights, Advocacy and Material Development to facilitate their input in all stages of the multi-media campaign. The campaign launch is slated for early 2012.



Spotlight on Pastor Figuhr Fabien – St. Lucia



Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2009

Pastor Figuhr Fabien, who was born in Dominica and now resides in St. Lucia is an author, health enthusiast, radio show host and has been appointed Health, Communications and Music Director of The Saint Lucia Mission of the Seventh-day Adventists. Pastor Fabien shares about his life, community work and his passion to be an Agent for Change with the RSDU.

SOS: What was your first experience reaching out to someone living with HIV?

Pastor Fabien: In 2000, during my years as a District Pastor, I met a young lady who was HIV positive and reached the point of having AIDS. She had respiratory distress

and Kaposi's Sarcoma. Based on all I knew at that point I understood that there was no risk of me becoming infected through contact with her. I did Bible study with her, was comfortable holding her hands during prayer... I knew that my presence, my interaction with her, my non-discriminatory behaviour helped her to know God. She decided to give her life to the Lord. Soon after she passed on and I was the Minister at her funeral.

This reinforced for me that for many years you may not realize how close you get to people who are HIV positive. It woke me up. I believed then, and believe now that people with HIV need the same care, love and companionship that we extend to everyone....After this experience I continued to share about HIV within our health programmes. We encourage the membership to know their status by getting tested. We also encourage our membership to support people with HIV.

SOS: Do you see stigma as an issue within faith based organisations? What do you think is needed to address it?

Pastor Fabien: Absolutely! Historically, people have looked upon certain sicknesses as judgment from God. I have heard those types of statements from the mouths of Preachers. Preachers have said that HIV is a judgment from God as a consequence of the world's return to sodomy and immortal practices. It is with this kind of information, that you cannot represent the ministry of Christ to HIV positive people. The Adventist Church has a clear understanding – it has

position statements. We are clear that HIV is one of the many diseases that can affect anyone in the society, even though it is lifestyle related. Diabetes is lifestyle related, and it's not considered as God's judgment. Everyone is important to God. I believe we have to do more in educating our membership so that people who come in the church can see the truth and see everyone as a child of God.

SOS: How do you see yourself joining the response to stigma?

Pastor Fabien: I see myself being a catalyst – with the training that I have received from the RSDU and other organizations I believe that I can certainly help make a difference by informing and educating others, building that sort of knowledge – I stand ready and willing to assist in the RSDU in this regard. I want to help people to recognize the joy of living. Whatever affects someone else also affects all of us. I want to be an agent of change, a catalyst. If I can do that as God allows me the opportunity, any way I can do more. I will. It will not be for me but for the benefit of humanity and the glory of God.

Under Pastor Fabien's leadership the Seventh Day Adventist Church has reached thousands in many communities across St. Lucia through health expos. A key success story has been the diabetes reversal programme, which has shown tremendous benefit over the last 3 years. A recent study ranked St. Lucia as having the highest incidence of diabetes in the world.

A Stigma Framework for the Caribbean

The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) with support from the USAID Health Policy Project (HPP) held a meeting September 5 to 6th 2011, in Port-of-Spain Trinidad as part of an initial phase in the participatory development of a framework for a comprehensive national response to stigma and discrimination.

The meeting brought together partners from the PANCAP Coordinating Unit (PCU), PANCAP RSDU, Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC), Caribbean Regional Network of Persons Living with

HIV (CRN+), UNAIDS and PANCAP consultants to discuss the key components for a comprehensive response to stigma and discrimination.

The Stigma Framework will provide countries with guidance on the key components and strategies critical in reducing stigma and discrimination. An initial draft will be presented at the inaugural 2011 Caribbean HIV Conference (November 18 – 21) in Bahamas. HPP will pilot the framework in two countries prior to finalisation and dissemination across the region.

Spotlight on Pastor Ira Penny – St. Kitts



Photo by F. Fabien 2011

Pastor Ira Penny is a youth pastor and church administrator in his home church, Rivers of Living Waters Christian Centre in St. Kitts. He is currently one of the RSDU FBO master trainers in Empowerment for leadership and shares with Spotlight on Stigma his passions for his new found responsibilities to bring about change.

SOS: What projects are you currently involved in?

Pastor Penny: As a church we have an ongoing youth programme whereby we educate our young people about HIV. We commit four days to a program we call 'Life on the Edge', it is where we get the youth away for the four days and address different things with them including HIV.

SOS: What was your first experience of someone living with HIV?

Pastor Penny: I have had to deal with a few people who were HIV positive and to the point where it progressed to AIDS. I have been on the front line of having to care for

them physically, spiritually and emotionally and in particular when it comes to stigma and discrimination. Gaining insight into their experiences, what they are feeling, thinking etc. Then there are times when we have to provide basic assistance when they ask for it.

SOS: What have you done to raise awareness?

Pastor Penny: I go to the schools, three high schools at least once a week, and from time to time I share on HIV and this is to raise awareness. We do this under 'Project Strong' a project for those school aged youth attending remedial school, where we answer and ask questions around HIV. I have promised one school that I will go a bit more in depth as the students have a lot of concerns about HIV and how it is transmitted etc.

SOS: Do you think stigma is an issue?

Pastor Penny: Yes it is. It is a major hindrance. Speaking with those attending the empowerment country level workshop that we just concluded highlights the ignorance, the ignorance that leads to stigma and discrimination. The influence of the anti-gay song has a strong influence on our youth and creates a problem. Just last week two guys went in on the first day of a three day workshop that was being conducted on the other side of the island and attacked the MSM there violently. This has now caused a big outcry in St. Kitts. Stigma is a major issue here and our Prime Minister and the Ministry of Health are really trying but until the ignorance is eliminated then it will remain a hindrance.



Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2009

SOS: What then do you think is needed to reduce stigma?

Pastor Penny: Sensitization across the board. The manuals/toolkits for the various groups are really important to get those key individuals and organization sensitized to stigma and discrimination so they can treat these groups much better. The TV station did an HIV sensitization workshop with their staff and workshops of this nature will help and also with the church. It is tough here in St. Kitts because ignorance exist at all levels and I work in schools not just to teach about HIV and how you get it but to really, really address the mentality of the students which can be passed down from parents.

SOS: What would you like other Faith based leaders to know about S&D?

Pastor Penny: As a master trainer I want to sensitize the other faith based leaders so we can as leaders teach our people (congregations) how to have better attitudes towards people affected and infected with HIV. Everybody needs to do their bit and the faith based leaders cannot be exempt, they need to sensitize their people, they need to be involved.

Pastor Penny has a passion for sharing the information and skills he has received from the master training session put on by the RSDU. He has conducted training in St. Kitts and is eager to continue to work not just with the vulnerable populations but with FBOs, Health Care Workers and the youth in the hopes that once there are aware and their general attitudes changes then stigma and discrimination across the Caribbean will be reduced.



Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2009

Fighting stigma through youth leadership and dance



Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2009

dance **4** **life**
start dancing stop aids

Fighting stigma through youth leadership and dance...

"I enjoyed every minute of it [dance4life event] as did all of the young'uns! It was indeed an amazing feeling and we all represented well. Thanks for including me in this first experience. It was a pleasure. It can only get bigger and better!"

*Dr. Jacqueline Wiltshire-Gay
Director of the National HIV/AIDS
Commission*



"The work that you are doing is dynamic, positive and so needed! The skills4life tool is fun and extremely interactive"

*Leah Odle-Benson
Programme Coordinator, UN Women.*

dance4lifeBarbados mobilizes young leaders to take action to push back HIV through youth driven interventions and novel strategies. The programme engages young people aged 13 to 19 in a fun and interactive way, strengthening their voice through music, dance, sports and the arts- inspiring them to make positive contributions to their communities.

Following the official launch in October 2009, dance4life has reached over 3,500 youth from 6 schools in Barbados through the heart connection tour and skills4life.

Heart connection tour

The heart connection tour is made up of many different elements- music, dance (the dance4life drill), peer education, edu-drama, real life stories, and audiovisuals. It is the first connection young people have with dance4life and is therefore designed to be a fun and interactive workshop to inspire students to become involved. Leila Raphael School's Officer, describes how the hct addresses stigma & discrimination. " The peer educational component of the sessions focuses on breaking down myths and taboos that young people have on how the virus is transmitted. We use fun, interactive activities aimed at making youth think about stigma and the damaging effects it can have. We look at all the different ways youth are stigmatized across the globe, positive speakers have been used to share the message of what it means to be young and HIV positive. In Barbados, we share stories of young people living with HIV...and illustrate the fear of discrimination that doesn't allow them to come forward ...". The outcomes of the programme have been positive and the team has been monitoring the achievements of the youth involved in the skills4life programme. The youth eagerly look forward to the sessions and stakeholders have been extremely supportive.

Dance4life big event

In November 2010, d4l Barbados participated in its first satellite link up with 28 other d4l Countries. Over 20 local partners witnessed 600 Barbadian youth, and 50, 000 across the globe, celebrating their achievements in pushing back the spread of HIV.

"I enjoyed every minute of it [dance4life event] as did all of the young'uns! It was indeed an amazing feeling and we all represented well. Thanks for including me in this first experience. It was a pleasure. It can only get bigger and better!"

*Dr. Jacqueline Wiltshire-Gay, Director of the
National HIV/AIDS Commission*

skills4life

Using a fun, interactive, youth tailored manual developed by d4l Barbados, dance4life trained youth peer educators provide students with a non-judgmental forum where they feel comfortable to discuss sensitive issues affecting them.

The skills4life manual covers a vast range of topics including: building trust and self-esteem, sexuality, gender, human rights, substance abuse, stigma and discrimination, leadership and entrepreneurship; additionally students learn skills for better public speaking, debating, negotiation, and decision-making- all of which empowers them to make positive decisions about their futures.

The skills4life manual and programme have been endorsed by the National HIV/AIDS Commission and local partners including UN Women. "The work that you are doing is dynamic, positive and so needed! The skills4life tool is fun and extremely interactive"- Leah Odle-Benson, Programme Coordinator, UN Women.

The RSDU will be supporting youth organisations across 3 target countries in implementing the dance4life stigma reduction approach.



Photo by Allan Harvey Photography 2010



dance4life file photo



dance4life file photo

I am very happy for this opportunity as it is the first time that I have been in a workshop where I'm not only learning about my rights but also my responsibilities.

VOICE

Mastering Stigma building capacity in community leaders to empower them to address stigma

Many of the 55 who attended Master Training Sessions have commenced capacity building in their respective territories. In the last two months an additional 50 persons were empowered to overcome stigma as the country level workshops continued in the RSDU target countries. Sessions have ranged from S&D reduction & empowerment for women, MSM, PLHIV in Grenada and St. Lucia; Empowerment for Leadership &



Participants of the S&D reduction, empowerment for leadership and influential Speaking Master Trainers Workshop held in Grenada

influential speaking in St. Kitts; Building Edudrama Skills for Stigma Reduction with youth (in Anguilla, Belize and St. Lucia) and Human Rights, Media and Advocacy for community actors in Belize.

The workshops have been an opportunity to pilot the training manuals developed by the RSDU which are scheduled for release in December 2011.

Equipping Pivotal Community Actors

As part of our support to the regional anti-stigma response, the RSDU has developed a number of community handbooks that have been used in the capacity building programmes since the inception phase. These user-friendly tools cover: 1) Edudrama and Script Writing Skills 2) Human Rights, Media and Advocacy 3) Empowerment for Leadership 4) Anti-stigma manuals for men who have sex with men, sex workers, and the Media. These manuals will be made available for country partners in December 2011.

Flipping the Script in Country Capacity Building Sessions - responsibilities with human rights

"I am very happy for this opportunity as it is the first time that I have been in a workshop where I'm not only learning about my rights but also my responsibilities."

RSDU Master Trainers Rosalie Staines and Martha Carrillo, the Senior Technical Associate for the RSDU in Belize, shared their experience in conducting the Human Rights, Media and Advocacy Capacity-Building Workshop, which was held at the USAID/PASMO conference room in Belize City during August 2011.

The workshop was the first of its kind in Belize specifically focusing on this topic and targeting vulnerable populations. One of the 7 participants shared: "I am very happy for this opportunity as it is the first time that I have been in a workshop where I'm not only learning about my rights but also my responsibilities."

The attendees included the members of the Media and Communications Team (MCT) of the RSDU/UNDP Human Rights Campaign Project as well as two key persons identified by the National AIDS Commission. The objectives of the 4 day session included building the capacity of trainees in the area of human rights, advocacy and campaign development, equipping them with ideas and approaches for promoting community action on human rights and HIV and providing participants with practical guidelines for planning, designing, producing and evaluating Human Rights and Advocacy Campaigns for broadcast and print media.

The positive feedback from participants demonstrated the readiness of the team to move forward in their advocacy work. "We are now equipped with the knowledge and the skills to advocate for ourselves and our



The Belize HR Campaign Media and Communications team during a recent meeting

peers," stated one of the participants at the end of the workshop... "If we don't stand up for ourselves we can't expect others to do so for us."

The MCT is currently supporting the development of the Know Your Rights and Laws Campaign that is slated for launch in early 2012.



Governments strengthening partnerships with the RSDU



Workshop participants are pictured here during their presentations on event planning for a World AIDS Day commemorative activity, as part of the capacity building workshop on Human Rights, Advocacy and Media held in Barbados by the RSDU in partnership with World AIDS Campaign on 11 – 15 July. (Photo Credit: Minister Robert 'Storm' Wright)

The Governments of the Virgin Islands along with other Caribbean islands continue to strengthening partnerships with their by human rights capacity building initiatives through representation a master training workshop in Barbados on Human Rights, Advocacy and Media. The National AIDS Programme of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, British Virgin Islands, was represented by Minister Robert "Storm" Wright, Th. M., D.M, at the workshop which was held from 11 – 15 July, and hosted by the Pan American Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit (RSDU).

The training was designed to build capacity of country partners in the production of tailored, culturally based audio and visual public awareness and sensitisation campaigns. The session was facilitated by The RSDU and World AIDS Campaign (WAC) and responds to the needs identified by country partners to build capacity in the areas of advocacy and human rights, and the call for culturally specific campaigns.

On completion of the training, participants will work within their local community organisations and spheres of influence, with the technical support of the RSDU and targeted community groups, to deliver and facilitate training sessions in Human Rights Media and Advocacy Skills. Trainers and trainees will be further supported in the development of advocacy and human rights action, based on the identified needs in the target groups.

The resultant campaigns will focus on reducing stigmatisation and discriminatory behaviours by the community, pivotal actors and gatekeepers towards people living with HIV and other vulnerable groups.

National AIDS Programme Coordinator Mrs. Noelene Levons-Clarke supported Minister Wright's nomination to represent

the Virgin Islands. She noted that as a radio disc jockey on ZKING 100.9 FM; a gospel minister with the Methodist Church BVI Circuit and the Spiritual Advisor to the BVI New Day Foundation, a support group of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Virgin Islands, he was the ideal candidate for the training.

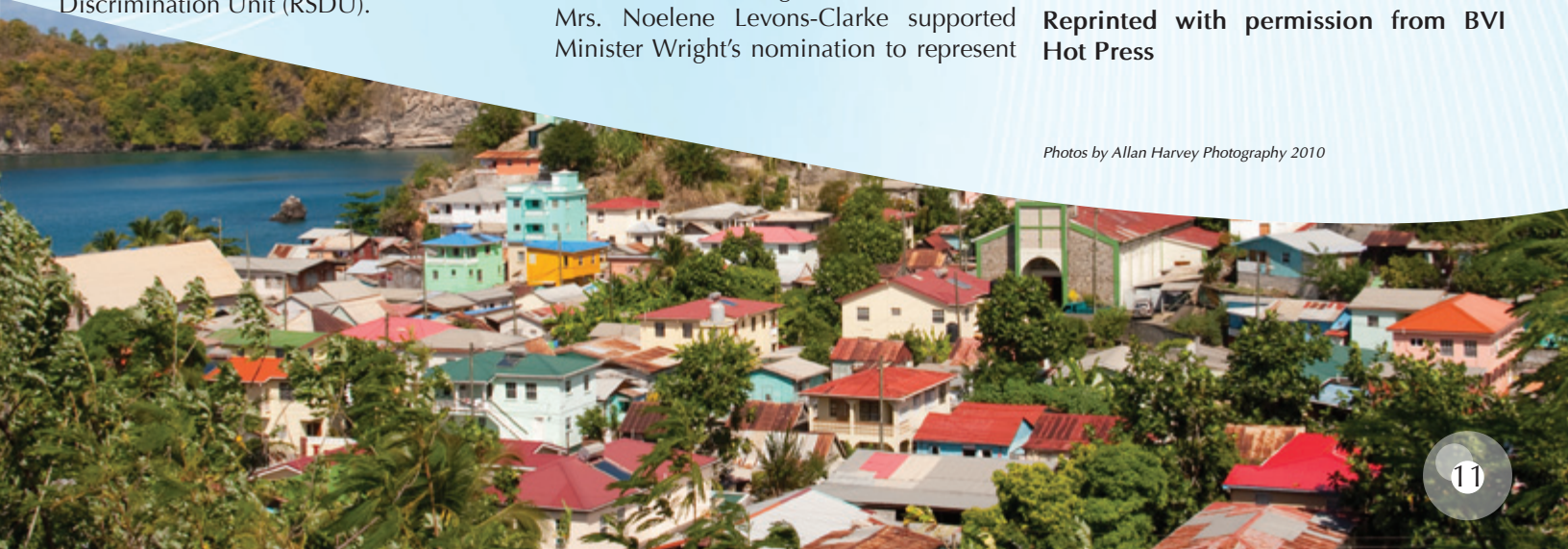
Mrs. Levons-Clarke stated, "Minister Wright has also committed to the role of trainer upon his return, and we look forward to more community based actions as we work to sensitise the Territory on the need to reduce stigmatisation and discriminatory behavior in the Virgin Islands."

Minister Wright affirmed that the training was worthwhile and very productive as there was a lot learnt. He envisions using his new skills to further advance the current work being done, and to ultimately enrich the lives of people in the community who are served through local churches, Governmental ministries and the media.

The National AIDS Programme functions as the HIV/AIDS focal point for the Virgin Islands and collaborates with local, regional and international agencies in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

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PANCAP Regional Stigma and Discrimination Unit

Spotlight on stigma

You are invited to RSDU Spotlight on Stigma events at the Caribbean HIV Conference 2011, November 19th – 21st Atlantis Resort and Casino, Bahamas.

Visit the Stigma Booth throughout the Conference coordinated by the Health Policy Project (HPP) – Futures Group in partnership with the PANCAP RSDU.

Saturday November 19th

Special Session: PANEL DISCUSSION (RSDU & HPP)

- **Making the Case: Stigma, Evidence and Health Systems Strengthening in the Caribbean**

Venue: Grand F Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Partners' Dinner Meeting

- **Overview of progress and outputs of the RSDU Stigma response model.** (*Partners' Dinner Meeting: by invitation only*)

Venue: to be confirmed Time: 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Monday November 21st

Skills-Building Session

- **RSDU Pilot Series: Development of a Community Driven Rights-based Stigma Response Model: Human-Rights Messaging Campaigns in St Lucia, Jamaica and Dominica**

Venue: Adonis II Time: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- **“Introducing Dance4Life best practice approach – Youth leadership movement to tackle stigma, discrimination and human rights issues.** (*Partners' Meeting: by invitation only*)



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SCALING UP THE CARIBBEAN'S RESPONSE TO HIV AND AIDS

