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| **Week ending Friday, 05 October 2012 - Issue # 26** |     |

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| **Whats New..***[Elimination of Stigma and Discrimination high on Global Agenda](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=344&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*Four newly appointed UN Secretary General Special Envoys for HIV met in Geneva on 4-5 October 2012 to discuss a plan of action with Michel Sidibé, UN Undersecretary General and UNAIDS Executive Director. In addition to sharing the strategic priorities for Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Envoys agreed that they would adapt a collaborative approach with UNAIDS to support the UN Secretary General in achieving the objectives of the Political Declaration resulting from the UN High Level Meeting (June 2011). This new way of working across the regions of the world is expected to accelerate the implementation of programmes intended to advance the cause of an AIDS-free generation.[Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=344&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*[Increased participation for second SISTA workshop on Nevis](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=338&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*NIA CHARLESTOWN Nevis, October 04th, 2012 -- An intervention programme to assist Health Officials on Nevis with the prevention of HIV infection among women, commenced its second session on September 24th, 2012 with 15 participants, five more than the first session held earlier this year.[Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=338&mailid=75&subid=295)*[Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=339&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*The Collaborative Initiative for Paediatric HIV Education and Research (CIPHER) Grant Programme is designed for mentored early-stage investigators to advance paediatric HIV research and to fill critical knowledge gaps related to infants, children and adolescents affected by HIV. Scientific areas of interest include both clinical and operational research. The implementation of the CIPHER Grant Prgramme was made possible through an unrestricted grant from ViiV Healthcare. The content and structure of the programme has been guided by paediatric experts convened by the IAS. [Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=339&mailid=75&subid=295) *[The Caribbean takes a stand](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=340&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*Ministers of Health from 14 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries have taken a step to ensure the survival of the region's AIDS response.The Caribbean has asked the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS TB and Malaria to review new eligibility criteria for funding which "have prejudiced the region".  The [letter](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=341&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank) was sent to Global Fund General Manager Gabriel Jaramillo, its board members and UNAIDS in September. In it, the Ministers noted that although the region continues to have the world's second highest HIV prevalence, there has been "a narrowing window for Caribbean countries to access Global Fund resources". [Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=340&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)**You may have also missed**...*[Commonly Prescribed HIV Drug May Attack Brain Cells Leading To Memory Decline](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=342&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*The way the body metabolizes a commonly prescribed anti-retroviral drug that is used long term by patients infected with HIV may contribute to cognitive impairment by damaging nerve cells, a new Johns Hopkins research suggests. Read More*[Importance of education in the HIV and AIDS response](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=345&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon has released a global initiative aiming to raise the profile of [education](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=346&mailid=75&subid=295). Entitling it ‘Education First’ he stresses the importance of universal education, especially at a time when the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) deadline is approaching and MDG 2 – to achieve universal primary education - is not on track to meet its targets. There are strong linkages between education and the HIV and AIDS response with regard to reaching these global targets, which should not be overlooked.[Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=345&mailid=75&subid=295)*[Canada’s Supreme Court modifies law on disclosure of HIV](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=347&mailid=75&subid=295" \t "_blank)*Canada’s Supreme Court has ruled that people [living with HIV](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=348&mailid=75&subid=295) are only legally obligated to inform sex partners of their HIV status when [transmission](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=349&mailid=75&subid=295) is "a realistic possibility”. This ruling has modified a 1998 law which said that carriers of HIV could face prosecution for aggravated sexual assault if they did not disclose their HIV status to their sex partners. This is in line with studies by UNAIDS which show that there is no evidence to suggest that [criminalising HIV](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=350&mailid=75&subid=295) transmission is an effective means to prevent the further spread of the virus or to achieve criminal justice.[Read More](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=347&mailid=75&subid=295)      |  |

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| **PANCAP Events**[**Annual General MeetingBelize**](http://pancap.org/index.php?option=com_acymailing&ctrl=url&urlid=86&mailid=75&subid=295)**October 25 & 26 click here to see eventsIf you have an event you would like to submit please contact Mr Christopher Lawrence at** **clawrence@caricom.org.** **We will be sure to circulate the details of your event.**  |

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