



PAN CARIBBEAN PARTNERSHIP



AGAINST HIV & AIDS

**SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF
YOUTH LEADERS:
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE
HEALTH AND HIV AND AIDS**

**18-19 May 2018
PORT-OF- SPAIN
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

CONCEPT NOTE AND DRAFT AGENDA



CONCEPT NOTE

SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF YOUTH LEADERS: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV AND AIDS

18-19 May 2018, Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Regional Strategic Framework (CRSF) 2014-2018 articulates the vision and collective priorities of Caribbean states through their membership in the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP). The CRSF recognises that resources must be strategically allocated to target the epidemic at regional, country, community and individual levels. Doing so effectively will require establishing and sustaining an enabling environment (Strategic Priority Area 1) by addressing social and cultural drivers of the epidemic and by removing barriers to access sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. In particular, more conscious efforts to address human sexuality are needed in order to equip young people with the regional public goods including knowledge and tools they need for healthy development.

As of 2014, there were 280 000 [210 000–340 000] people living with HIV, 8800 [5700–13 000] AIDS-related deaths among adults, and 44% [33%-54%] of adults living with HIV accessing HIV treatment in the Caribbean. Young people, especially among key populations, in Caribbean are disproportionately at risk of HIV infection, and they face greater barriers to accessing prevention services. According to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), HIV prevalence among young people is 0.07% and 0.05% in females and males in the non-Hispanic Caribbean and 0.2% and 0.3% in the Hispanic Caribbean both respectively. In Jamaica, where the data are available, higher estimated HIV prevalence has been reported among gay, men that have sex with men (14%) and transgender adolescent girls (27%). While the regional response has realised some progress with a 43% reduction among adults and a 90% reduction in children acquiring HIV, gaps and challenges remain. HIV prevalence remains high among Key Populations (KPs) such as Sex Workers (SW), Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), and young people. At the same time, challenges regarding stigma and discrimination, violations of human rights and gender-based violence continue to hinder access to services for young people in general.

To work more systematically with young people belonging to KPs who are more difficult to reach, PANCAP/Global Fund grant programme proposed to collaborate with CVC/COIN to link at-risk youth with the CYAP. The CYAP provides a unique platform for leadership development and collaboration that can strengthen the participation of a more diverse and better-informed youth constituency in CARICOM decision-making. This will serve a mutually beneficial purpose of strengthening the relevance and impact of the Youth Ambassadors as well as providing access to high-level CARICOM fora for KP youth, allowing for collaborative approaches to high-level advocacy that better links the issues and priorities of CARICOM to those of young people. This initiative supports the inclusion and participation of some Key Population groups (i.e. PLHIV, MSM, SW and youth) in the regional response addressing the critical gaps given the overwhelming evidence of the main drivers of HIV transmission in these groups.

The First Meeting of Youth Leaders held in April 2017 allowed for in-depth discussion of sexual health issues affecting young people, identified what are barriers to their access to sexual health services, as well as identify what knowledge and tools are required to protect themselves from HIV. The meeting provided input required to develop a regional advocacy framework on key sexual health issues affecting youth and to inform subsequent training to strengthen advocacy skills of regional youth leaders. This has strengthened the inclusion of youth leaders in the regional and national responses to work towards a more coherent and holistic approach to issues affecting youth from key populations and young people living with HIV: the dissonance between the age of sexual initiation (before age 15), prevailing legislation on the age of consent (16 years), and the age for independent access to health care (18 years) with the exception of Jamaica in which age for independent access for health care is 16, the implementation of Comprehensive Sexuality Education in all schools in the Caribbean and Gender neutral laws that protect victims of sexual exploitation.

The formalization of a Steering Committee on Youth Advocacy and follow up meetings are an innovative approach to mobilise regional youth leaders to actively engage in high-level advocacy and policy dialogues by linking the CYAP with PLHIV youth leaders and other sexual and reproductive health youth activities/leaders.

The Second Meeting of Youth Leaders will provide the opportunity for in depth discussion on the achievements and challenges confronted by youth leaders in addressing the three priority areas identified in the Caribbean Regional Youth Advocacy Framework (CRYAF) to set in motion practical advocacy tools and techniques that can be adapted per country context. This meeting will serve to identify regional and international mechanisms that can be used as best practice models for the achievement of priority objectives, provide the opportunity to exercise advocacy techniques with parliamentarian(s), CSO representation and CYAs through a panel discussion addressing sexual and reproductive health issues and concerns identified by youth leaders. The meeting will enable the adaptation of a standardized data collecting and reporting tool used by youth leaders in their respective countries. This will better inform PANCAP of opportunities to support an innovative approach to mobilize regional youth leaders to actively engage in high-level advocacy, as well as further develop advocacy tools and materials to review and address policies, practices and laws that affect young people's vulnerabilities to HIV.

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To provide a forum for in-depth discussion on achievements and challenges of youth leaders during the advocacy of the Caribbean Regional Youth Advocacy Framework (CRYAF) priority objectives in their respective countries.
2. To identify and analyze regional and international mechanisms that can be used as best-practice models addressing barriers that impede youth access to sexual health services.
3. To provide the opportunity for practical high-level advocacy involving parliamentarian, CSO and CYAP representatives.
4. To agree on the data collecting and reporting tool of advocacy strategy implemented by youth leaders in their countries.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased understanding of the challenges and opportunities of youth leaders in order to develop advocacy supporting tools and materials.
- Increased understanding of best-practice regional and international mechanisms that address the reduction of young people's vulnerabilities to HIV and AIDS in particular, the inclusion of CSE within HFLE Curricula and Age of Consent for access to SRH services.
- Develop a draft document of key statements for decision-makers on the importance of the implementation of key priority areas identified in the CRYAF.
- Adaptation of a practical data collecting and reporting tool to be used by youth leaders
- Consensus on the key elements for further advocacy.

Methodology

Presentations by PANCAP and Youth Steering Committee leaders; representatives of CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, and Youth from key population groups. Plenary and working group sessions, panel discussions and edutainment.

Audience

CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, Youth from Key Populations, PANCAP Coordinating Unit (PCU),) and the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition/El Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (CVC-COIN).

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HI/V/PCP/YL/2018/2/1

**Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
18-19 May 2018**

30 April 2018

DRAFT AGENDA

DAY ONE

SESSION		PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS
SESSION: OPENING CEREMONY		
8.30 a.m.–9.00 a.m.	Welcome	Mr. Dereck Springer, Director PANCAP
	Remarks	Mr. Kevin Mendez, Chair, PANCAP Youth Advocacy Steering Committee
	Remarks	Mr. André Browne, Dean, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme
	Keynote Speaker	Ms. Terry-Ann Roy, Alliance for Justice and Diversity, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
9.15 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll Everywhere (Three reflection questions “Why are you here?”) 	Mr. Timothy Austin, Communications Specialist, PANCAP Knowledge for Health (K4H) Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of PANCAP Youth Leaders initiative, roles and objectives. Overview of the Second Regional Meeting of Youth Leaders. 	Ms. Alexis D’Marco, Vice-Chair of PANCAP Youth Advocacy Steering Committee

SESSION	PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation session on CARICOM - CARICOM bodies, Mandates and Person in charge • PANCAP initiatives that are aligned with the three priority areas of the Youth Advocacy Initiative
11:00 a.m. – 11:15am	COFFEE BREAK
11.15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Key Advocacy Statements: In groups, analyse the draft document. • Presentation of the gaps and strengths of the document.
12:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.	LUNCH
2.00 p.m.– 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary Discussion: To edit the Advocacy Statement document with consensus on the Key Messages including a synopsis of the situation and the reason why WE must act NOW [per key areas.]
3.30 p.m.– 4:30 p.m.	<p>Chair: Mr. Lucien Govaard</p> <p>Presentation: Country Focal Point</p> <p>Rapporteurs</p> <p>Knowledge Café: (45 mins: 15 mins per best practice)</p> <p>Best Practice Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belize’s HFLE Curriculum (2010) which is C.S.E. inclusive - PANCAP’s Anti-Discrimination Legislation - Access of SRH Service <p>[Divide the group in equal parts where the integrity of the country delegates is respected.]</p>
4:30 p.m.– 4:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll Everywhere (Virtual interactive evaluation)
END OF DAY ONE	

DAY TWO

SESSION		PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS
8:45 a.m. –9:15 a.m.	RECAP of Day 1: Story Telling Activity	Chair: Mr. Kevin Mendez
9:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Country Group Planning: Advocacy Strategy [with feedback from country polls. Each country cohort will be tasked to create an online poll to identify country’s order of priorities] 	Chair: Ms. Terisa Thompson Presentations by Country Rapporteurs
10:30 a.m.– 10:45 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orientation of Monitoring and Reporting Tool 	Chair: Mr. Kevin Mendez
11:15 a.m. –11:45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Country Group Work: Measure plan using the Monitoring and Reporting Tool 	
11:45 a.m.– 12:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Presentations 	Country Focal Point
12:45 p.m.– 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:00 p.m.– 2:15 p.m.	Ice Breaker	
2:15 p.m.–3.15 p.m.	Advocacy Panel Discussion: CYAP, Steering Committee Member, Key Population Leader.	Chair: Ms. Raymoniya Lawrence
3:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll Everywhere #Hashtag & Social Media Exercise with “I commit to.” [Each participant will take a photograph with an “I Commit” statement adopting one of the key statements developed. This tool will formalize commitment of youth leaders in addressing the priority areas. 	Mr. Timothy Austin

SESSION		PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS
3:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Way Forward• Closure	Ms. Alexandria Viloría Tejada Mr. Dereck Springer

