



YOUTH

WHAT STAKEHOLDERS  
BRING TO THE EQUATION

*PRESENTED BY*

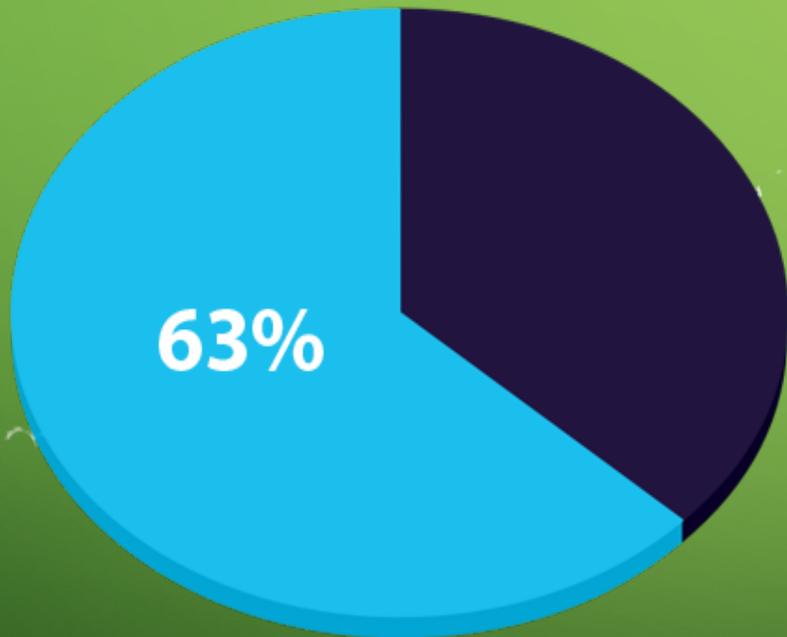
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# OUTLINE

- Youth at a Glance
- Centering Youth!
- Points from PANCAP Youth Meeting
- “What can youth bring to the equation”
- Conclusion

# YOUTH AT A GLANCE



- Approximately 63% of the regions population are youth (Under 30)
  - *Underscoring the continued **vulnerability of young persons** within the Caribbean region to the threat posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic*
- The report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (CCYD), entitled **“Eye on the Future: Investing in Youth NOW for Tomorrow’s Community”**, posited that the creativity, innovation and unique vision of young people; and **their willingness to challenge the status quo, make them ideally suited to play the leading role in responding to the challenges** of globalisation and regional integration.

# YOUTH AT A GLANCE

**The Ideal Caribbean Youth is said to be (among other things);**

- **Naturally charismatic, proactive, with strong leadership qualities;**
- Knowledgeable of country, Caribbean history and world affairs;
- Endowed with strong Caribbean identity, capable of living anywhere in the world;
- **Ambitious, confident, well rounded, well informed/read;**
- Patriotic, actively involved in the development of country and Region;
- Strong believer in culture, exposed to sport, cultural arts;
- **Creative, industrious, well educated, technologically savvy, ambitious and qualified to fulfill career/vocational aspirations;**
- An entrepreneurial spirit, somewhat of a risk taker, exploring the world market in search of different avenues to advance self, country and Region;
- Articulate, multi-lingual, excellent networking, inter-personal and communication skills;
- **Good deportment and attitude, a spiritual and moral dimension;**
- Understanding and embracing cultural differences;
- Assertive, determined to persevere in a competitive environment
- **Tolerant and respectful of others, a team player;**
- **Acting responsibly to benefit self, community and society;**

# CENTERING YOUTH

While some of these traits are inherent within some of our youth, for others we have to **have direct intervention to unearth, nurture, enable and support the development of these traits ...**

- In a presentation dubbed **“Centering Youth”** Ms. Myrna Bernard, (*Director, Human Development, CARICOM Secretariat*) suggested that this can be enabled through;

Capacity  
Building

Addressing  
Equity

Addressing Social  
Inclusion

Specific Regional  
Strategies

Building Social Capital

Fostering Regional identity

# A CONTINUED STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

- It was therefore a positive signal when PANCAP organized a Meeting of Youth Leaders: Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 in Port-of-Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with the following objectives;
  - To provide a **forum for in-depth discussion of sexual health issues affecting young people** including identifying barriers that impede their access to sexual health services;
  - To **determine what knowledge and tools youth require to reduce their vulnerabilities** to poor sexual health outcomes;
  - To **update youth on the new strategic directions required** for ending the AIDS epidemic and **discuss their role** in the national and regional response;
  - To **discuss and agree on the key elements of a framework for regional youth advocacy** on adolescent sexual and reproductive health issues and reducing vulnerability to HIV infection, particularly related to key populations.

# WHAT CAN YOUTH BRING TO THE EQUATION?

- **Regional Level:**

- Organize and facilitate meetings (virtual/face to face) to bring new awareness among youth groups in the Caribbean
- Encourage the use of the various resources available to young people for relevant statistics and information (website and social media pages for PANCAP, UNAIDS, PAHO/WHO, CVC-COIN, etc).
- Organize regional competitions to develop Apps, Blogs, Vlogs and other such solutions to enable more effective delivery, monitoring & evaluation of services

- **International Level:**

- Advocate in international forums
- Identifying and seizing scholarships / opportunities to enable research and development
- Translate international documents, agreements, divisions into Youth friendly language

- *Adapted from the Youth Leaders: Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV and AIDS Meeting Report*

WHAT CAN YOUTH BRING TO THE EQUATION?

**WVIBE**

Education + Entertainment

**EDUTAINMENT**



# CONCLUSION



**“Assets to be developed,  
not problems to be  
solved”**

CCYD 2010

- The meeting underscored the fact that the best way to effectively address issues facing young people is by work along with, and empowering them by ensuring that they are equip with the knowledge, skills, tools and resources, to actively engage and find solutions that work within their reality.
- For the equation to be fully effective – “Young people need to be a part of the dialogue in understanding the issues and executing strategies aimed at workable solutions”

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# THANK YOU

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