

Youth Visioning for Island Living

September 2009

Youth Combat HIV & AIDS

Dear readers, it has been a while since we last communicated but Youth Visioning is alive and well. Through the funds provided by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Youth Visioning has been providing support to the following eleven projects:

Atlantic and Indian Ocean Region

GUINEA-BISSAU Learning Prevention

MADAGASCAR Public Awareness Campaign on HIV and AIDS Through Sports

ZANZIBAR Empower Youth and Communities to Respond to HIV and AIDS

Caribbean Region

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Take Care of My Life, Take Care of Your Life

GRENADA Project Early - Puppet Television Show

HAITI Public Awareness on HIV and AIDS Through Theatre

Pacific Region

FIJI HIV and AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop

FIJI Rotuma HIV and AIDS Awareness

NAURU HIV/AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop

SAMOA Talking HIV and AIDS to Youth!

TONGA Clipping HIV and AIDS

Youth Visioning would like to thank UNESCO's Apia, Dar-es-Salaam, Havana and Kingston Offices, as well as EDUCAIDS - the Global Initiative on Education and HIV & AIDS to make these projects possible. And last, but not least, we thank all the young people who submitted proposals. Read through this newsletter to meet some of the project leaders!



© Vester Fido. Talking HIV and AIDS to Youth, Samoa.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Youth Visioning
for Island Living

SIDS and HIV & AIDS

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are highly vulnerable to the devastating economic and social impacts of HIV and AIDS due to the limited resources they have available to combat the pandemic. Youth, and young girls in particular, are among the most affected. 50% of new HIV infections are among persons between the ages of 15 and 25. The behaviour of this key age group greatly influences the future course of the epidemic, and for this reason, efforts are largely focused on this important demographic/group.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) plays a leading role in the UN system in HIV and AIDS awareness and prevention through education. Building a strong community of young champions and leaders is critical for an effective response to HIV and AIDS.

MADAGASCAR Public Awareness Campaign on HIV and AIDS Through Sports



© Claudia Zamany (third from left). Association VITASOA at the launch of the project.

The Association VITASOA headquartered in Majunga, Madagascar is a non-profit youth association with the objective of solving problems related to the lives of young people, women and children. Our association led by its president, Claudia Zamany Nirisoa, a medical student, has been created since 2006.

“We have contributed a lot each year to the fight against HIV and AIDS in our country.”

The two most popular sports have been chosen: football for the males and basketball for the females. Our campaign will be conducted during these sports events.

This year, thanks to funding provided by UNESCO's Youth Visioning for Island Living initiative we will undertake a project to fight against HIV and AIDS. The project, "Public Awareness Campaign on HIV and AIDS Through Sports" will take place in the city of Majunga Madagascar.

To assess the effectiveness of our activities we will evaluate the HIV and AIDS knowledge of the participants before and after the sports activities by making a survey of 100 young people in each district.

Let's fight together to stop HIV and AIDS!
Claudia Zamany (21/03/09)

ZANZIBAR Empower Youth and Communities to Respond to HIV and AIDS

“ Hi, we are Alama Haji Khatib and Harith Abdulla Mohamed from Zanzibar Island situated in the Indian Ocean in East Africa. ”

We are peer educators of Youth Self-Employment Foundation (YOSEFO). There were 10 of us who received training on how to facilitate other youth on HIV prevention.

Our project is to be implemented for a period of 9 months commencing from March to October in the year 2009 in six Shehias of Western district of Unguja namely Fumba, Bweleo, Dimani, Kombeni, Maungani and Shakani.

The main objective of our project is to increase the knowledge and skills on HIV prevention to more than 400 young fishermen and women in order to reduce risk behavior which leads to new HIV and AIDS infection.

A variety of activities will be implemented and these include the following:

- Promoting Youth Visioning in our community;
- Introduction meetings on the project;
- Development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC)/Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) materials;
- Conducting drama shows and radio programs;
- Conducting six sessions of debates and six sessions of dialogues;
- Conducting surveys before and after the activities to measure knowledge relating to HIV and AIDS.

The project will be implemented in collaboration with different partners including the Zanzibar Theater group, TVZ and Radio Zanzibar. There will also be consultations with the Zanzibar AIDS Commission.

Alama Haji Khatib (22/02/09)



Photos © Alama Haji Khatib (top), Harith Abdulla Mohamed (bottom).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Take Care of My Life, I Take Care of Your Life



Photos © ASOLSIDA

“ Hello, greetings to all! I am Dahina Delgado, a member of the *Red de Jóvenes por Siempre** (ASOLSIDA), from the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean.”

Red de Jóvenes por Siempre was formed by a group of youth leaders trained in the issues of HIV and AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, public health policies and labour. Our work has a special emphasis on training young people in technical theatre for the dissemination of information in a didactic, entertaining and effective manner in schools around the country.

We are grateful for the support of UNESCO for our project, *I Take Care of My Life, I Take Care of Your Life*. Over nine months, we intend to increase the knowledge of adolescents and young people (13-24 years of age) and students from three public schools on the ways of HIV prevention, risk and vulnerability and responsible sexuality.

We have collectively developed theatre scripts, which will be presented in the communities. After the end of each presentation, the public have the opportunity to interact

with educators to clarify and emphasize the themes represented in the plays.

Sex and HIV are topics that are surrounded by great taboos in our country and are rarely treated openly by parents or teachers. We look forward to breaking barriers through theatrical presentations, to discuss openly about HIV and AIDS, the risks of contracting the disease, conditions of vulnerability and throughout, always respecting the freedom of thought and religious beliefs.

We hope to share the results with other organizations in the region and anyone who is interested in using this model.

I hope you all success in your projects!
Dahina Delgado (19/03/09)

* Network for Young People Forever

GRENADA Project Early - Puppet Television Show



© Amanda John (first from left). Group photo of participants working on the Champs Club TV show.

“ Hello everyone, my name is Amanda John from Brain Storm Productions in Grenada, a small island in the Southern Caribbean. ”

We were very grateful to obtain funding from UNESCO to assist us with a four month pilot project to produce the first series of an HIV and AIDS awareness television puppet show for kids targeting ages 6-21.

We are producing these shows in collaboration with Angel Mountain Limited, an active NGO on the island committed to educating people about health issues and healthy living.

Sexual initiation begins very early in our region, as early as 9 and there is still a great taboo talking about sex and HIV to young children as well as adolescents, even adults! We hope to help break this barrier with these informative, entertaining 25 minute shows which will feature young

people in the above age groups interacting with each other and life-size puppets who will be the main medium for educating them about HIV.

We are now in the pre-production stage where we have several preliminary meetings to finalize sets designs and plan shooting schedules.

The show promises to be an exciting one and we hope we can share its content with the rest of the region and anyone who might be interested in using it as a model for their own territory.

We wish everyone success with your projects!
Amanda John (28/01/09)

HAITI Public Awareness on HIV and AIDS Through Theatre

“Hello everyone, we are James Martial and Ove Martha Jean from the island of Haiti of the Greater Antilles, the first black republic.”



The *Collectif des Artistes du Septième Art Haitien** (CASA) is a group of talented young artists with various disciplines such as singing, acting and music. We also belong to a film company called Yara Production and we often develop cultural events using theatre, dance and fashion. The objective of the *Collectif* is to contribute to the development of young Haitian adolescents by guiding them through activities such as prevention, training and education. We are currently in the process of starting a project to assist young Haitians living abroad who face enormous challenges such as acculturation, drugs, juvenile delinquency and problems of identity.

We are pleased to work with UNESCO on our HIV and AIDS project. The activities are orientated towards schools, especially since there is no formal sex education in our country. This project will hopefully make a big

difference to the lives of young people in prevention, education, training and information on HIV and AIDS.

The project has been officially launched and we have chosen drama, dance, fashion and entertainment to spread our message. At the end of our project, we will produce a documentary to reach other schools who may not have had the chance to participate in our project.

Bye everyone and good luck with your projects! I wish we could do something together in the future!

Ove Martha Jean (18/03/09)

* The Haitien group of cinema artists



Photos © Ove Martha Jean (top-left), James Martial (top-right). Performance rehearsals (left).

FIJI HIV and AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop

“Bula all,
I’m Luisa
Senibulu of
the Dakuivuna
Youth Group.”

We have obtained funding for HIV and AIDS and life skills training for 4 villages in the Wainibuka District, and this is scheduled for 6 - 7 March 2009, coinciding with National Youth Day.

Our project is a one-off, we’re running a 2 day workshop for our young people focussing on HIV and AIDS and life skills. The project is a follow-up to a similar capacity building training we had in 2008, and this time we the organising committee would like to specifically focus on youth and reproductive health. We believe that this is an issue of concern in Fiji, especially with the increasing numbers of reported HIV and AIDS cases, and the fact that youth are the most vulnerable.

Unintended teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and the threat of HIV and AIDS on youth and their families have emerged as important concerns not only for policy makers in Fiji but more so in an isolated rural village community like Dakuivuna. Teenage pregnancy is an issue of concern for elders in Dakuivuna as many of the young girls become victims of unintended pregnancy. In recent years several young people were also infected with STIs. There is definitely a need to take capacity building trainings and information sharing opportunities to the grass-root level for our young people so that they are educated and equipped with the right



© Luisa Senibulu. Organising committee members.

information about their reproductive health and issues on treatment, testing and the proper use of contraception.

We are liaising with the Ministry of Youth for the possibility of at least 3 of our young people from the training to be recruited as volunteers for the Pacific Youth Festival in Suva later this year, and 1 or 2 to undertake the Training of Trainers (TOT) for the Life Skills program.

Luisa Senibulu (29/01/09)

“Noa’ia ‘e Mauri everyone!”
(Cordial Greetings)



© Emily Erasito

It has been inspiring to hear from all the project leaders. First thing, let me introduce myself. My name is Emily Akata Erasito, and I hailed from one of the most remote islands called Rotuma. I was also born and raised there and everything about Rotuma I would say, always will be a part of me. I am the Rotuma Youth Representative for the Provincial Youth Forum of the Fiji Islands (PYFFI) and a member of the National Youth Advisory Board as the vice chair. As a peer educator being attached to the Ministry of Health, my proposal to be Rotuma’s Peer Educator has been accepted and this would be effective after I complete my work under UNESCO.

“The project I am running is on HIV and AIDS Awareness for the whole island.”

The project I am running is on HIV and AIDS Awareness for the whole island. The duration for this project is just four months. Rumour has it that there are people living with HIV and AIDS for the past couple of years. With UNESCO’s help especially financial assistance, I wish to enlighten the inhabitants in Rotuma about the facts and reality of HIV and AIDS and clear any myths that has been around as a stumbling block... some of my activities include a presentation to the Rotuma Island Council, workshop for the youth, teachers’ workshop including community outreach and school visits on the subject of HIV and AIDS.

Wishing you all the best in all your endeavours....once again thank you UNESCO.

Alalum (Blessed)
Emily Erasito (13/02/09)

NAURU HIV and AIDS and Life Skills Training Workshop

“Greetings to you all. My name is David Dowiyogo from the pleasant island of the Republic of Nauru.”



© David Dowiyogo (middle), Nerida-Ann Hubert (left), Horasio Cook (right).

I would like to introduce on behalf of our team the Nauru National Youth Council (NNYC). It is our great honor and appreciation to obtain funding from UNESCO. It's going to be a most valuable time for our young people and us the decision-makers in the Council to initiate decision policy to promote youth to youth interaction in alleviating HIV/AIDS/STIs. Thanks to UNESCO for your kind assistance to help fund our project.

As it stands we are in a stage of instigating and at present strengthening AFL actions with the Cabinet Minister of Sports, Health and Justice, Hon. Matthew Batsiua MP, who is also keen on running with the young people at senior levels playing AFL training. We currently have an AFL training session three times a week with the Nauru Australian Football League (NAFL) newly established committee. Two of our NNYC members are also executive members of the NAFL and they are helping the Youth Visioning project get on its way. We are looking forward to the visit of the Oceania AFL representative, Mr Andrew

Cadzow, this month between 21st to 28th February. We will ensure that our promotional billboard and signs will be up, to send our message across whole communities on prevention and protection against HIV and AIDS. This is crucial to our actions plans.

We are also members of peer educators. The meeting this Friday is moving towards youth mobilization. Talking HIV and AIDS to youths always plays a pivotal role. In our view, HIV and AIDS alleviation always depends on one another's actions. Peer educators in partnership with NNYC are already conducting meetings to discuss the project plan of action to further develop personal skills and strengthen community action.

David Dowiyogo, Nerida-Ann Hubert, Horasio Cook
(12/02/09)

SAMOA Talking HIV and AIDS to Youth!

“ Talofa from Samoa ”

Photos © Vester Fido



Hello everyone, I would like to introduce our team from Samoa AIDS Foundation working as Community Educators for Youth Visioning project, Talking HIV and AIDS to Youth, funded by UNESCO. My name is Vester Fido, and my fellow peers are Ana Fepulea'i, Iosia Tiatia, and Avau Memea.

We thankfully appreciate UNESCO's support in funding this project for us and we would love to hear more from all of you in the Pacific region who are doing the same as what we are doing and that is to keep the Pacific informed and be aware of the seriousness of HIV and AIDS in the Pacific.

Regards,
Vester Fido, Ana Fepuleai, Iosia Tiatia, Avau Memea (11/02/09)

“ Please see report and photos of our first Public Outreach for the month of January. ”

(L-R) Avau Memea, Ana Fepuleai, Iosia Tiatia



UNESCO's Youth Visioning targets HIV/AIDS in Samoa



One of the most recommended interventions in HIV prevention around the globe is the peer-to-peer strategy where young people reach out to the other young people to talk about issues that are conventionally sensitive to open up to.

Since the wake of the AIDS epidemic about two decades ago, the primary concern for all UN and Government resolutions in regards to HIV and AIDS, have been on prevention. However, the rising trend of this disease in every country around the world is evident of the complexity of human behaviour and the challenges of innovative strategies that could effectively contain this pandemic.

HIV/AIDS in Samoa is no different, and UNESCO through its Youth Visioning Project has allowed Samoa AIDS Foundation to “Talk HIV/AIDS to the Youth” through an exciting new Project that targets young people in public places in urban Apia.

This project was initiated to address that portion of young people who are not in the formal education system where most of these outreaches are done. Whilst this portion of our population is becoming more and more visible, so are the risks that they face on the streets.

These young people are known to be increasing in numbers especially in urban Apia selling wares, exchanging favors for money exposing them to sexual exploitation and increasing their vulnerability to all kinds of diseases including the deadly HIV virus.

The Fugalei Market was the initial venue for this Project where SAF's Peer Educators spoke with young people on their knowledge of HIV and AIDS and also on preventive

measures and available services to allow for more informed choices in their relations in regards to HIV and the devastation of AIDS.

The program started with a small introduction, and informing the public of what outreaching on HIV/AIDS is about. People of different ages stopped by to ask questions and to learn more about HIV/AIDS.

A questionnaire was developed to assess young people's level of knowledge on STIs, HIV and AIDS with information sheets also available in both Samoan and English. The majority of young people who responded (36%) were between the ages of 16 and 18 years with a relatively good level of general knowledge on HIV/AIDS.

However, our attitudes towards this disease continue to become as stubborn as the virus itself. Findings reveal that one in every three persons who answered the questionnaires still holds common stereotypes, which turn into stigma and can lead to discrimination against our men, women and children living with HIV.

The turnout was excellent and the market setting allowed for a variety of people to listen to the messages in a non-formal setting and getting informed on their health without affecting their daily schedules.

SAF wishes to acknowledge UNESCO for allowing Samoa AIDS Foundation to be among six Regional organisations to receive this Funding.

SAF also acknowledges the kind endorsement of the Accident Compensation Corporation Management for the use of the Fugalei Market for this outreach.

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TONGA Clipping HIV and AIDS

“ My name is Ebonie Fifita from the friendly, South Pacific islands of Tonga. ”

MALO E LELEI and greetings to you all!!

I will be working with our youth organisation - ON THE SPOT- to pull together a team of talented young people and support them in creating a series of creative, informative and educational film clips to battle the ignorance, fear, apathy, discrimination and myths surrounding the HIV and AIDS issue in Tonga. Clips will be for local television and distribution to other HIV and AIDS awareness promotion groups and organisations.

As part of the project the team of young people will also be conducting public surveys, meeting with stakeholders and other HIV and AIDS awareness related organisations, conducting private screenings of clips to assess viewers response and film effectiveness, and working with media professionals to develop their creative skills in using film for change.

We will be working together with Nitalia Productions and TMN TV2 as well as with the assistance and guidance from the National Youth Congress, Tonga Family Health association , Fili Tonu Drama group, Ministry of Training Employment Youth and Sports, Leiti Association, Youth Stakeholders Committee, and others.



It is extremely exciting to receive this funding through Youth Visioning and to hear from all of you (project leaders) about the exciting projects you will be initiating in your own countries.

BIG MALO!! (Thank you) to you all for your cooperation - enabling us to receive this funding.

Best wishes to you all.
Ebonie Fifita (29/01/09)



Photos © ON THE SPOT Arts Initiative. Projects leaders: Ebonie Fifita (top), (L-R) Harri Samiuela Hapa, Hernan Christopher Clark Fakautoki, Yvane Fifita, Samiu 'Ofa, George Robert Hurrell.