

Advocacy Communications Action Plan

HIV Prevention for girls & young women Project



Project Partners:

International Planned Parenthood Federation

United Nations Population Fund

Jamaica Family Planning Association

Duration: Monday, July 21, 2008 to September, 21, 2008

Contents

Consultation Report Next Steps.....	3
Participation and Rights Component	4
Availability of Services Component.....	6
Legal & Policy Provision Component	7
Accessibility to Services Component.....	8

Consultation Report Next Steps

Objective

1. To explore the possibility of forming a network to advocate for HIV prevention for girls and young women in Jamaica

Action Items

- a) Design MS Access Advocacy Communications Database
- b) Prepare advocacy letter to the head of the National Student's Council board and Circle K International, soliciting a meeting to discuss the issue, need for their support with the recruitment of students for an in-school youth network and partnership for advancing SRH programmes in schools
- c) Prepare advocacy letter to the executive director of National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) soliciting a meeting to discuss the need to access their database of youth groups island wide and the need for their support in recruiting young people and advancing SRH programming nationally
- d) Market the blog, on-line group, etc. to other national groups involving young people, e.g. Young Professionals Network of Jamaica, which has more than 660 members
- e) Create a blog in order to record: experiences; display crucial information about the network; display videos, photos, and reports; share experiences; publish the project outcomes so they will be available to girls and young for their feedback, despite location differences
- f) Create a professional profile and group on a networking site e.g. Facebook to facilitate the creation of nation, regional, or international advocacy network for HIV prevention for girls and young women

Participation and Rights Component

Specific Intent (Goal)

2. To provide age-appropriate access to information and services

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letters requesting meetings with relevant stakeholders to discuss the need for age-appropriate access to SRH services within schools and the need for their support in the achieving the goal and strategies outlined above
- ii. Establish a working group, based on interaction with stakeholders, to plan and oversee the nationalization of the goal and strategies outlined above

Specific Intent (Goal)

3. To increase input from persons infected or affected by HIV in programme development and to normalize the participation of youth in programme and country development

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letters to relevant stakeholders requesting meetings to discuss the need for their support to:
 - Normalize youth participation in programme and country development nationally and in realizing the strategies SRH services outlined above
 - Come to a consensus about students' access to suitable supportive texts for accompanying the HFLE curriculum, its purchase/ publication, and distribution
 - Promote awareness about SRH within schools
 - Nationalize the display of children's rights and non-disclosure laws at visible locations used by youth

Specific Intent (Goal)

4. To increase knowledge and practice of HIV prevention among girls and young women in rural and urban Jamaica

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letters to relevant stakeholders seeking a meeting to discuss their support in:
 - Increasing knowledge and practice of HIV prevention in rural and urban areas and fulfill the related strategies outlined
 - Designing and implementing education programmes, which deliver SRH information to young children in an entertaining and age-appropriate way
- ii. Liaise with potential funders and design funding proposal aimed at increasing access to HIV prevention services

Specific Intent (Goal)

5. To organize youth to advocate to the Prime Minister, and the relevant government ministers, church leaders, DJs and other community leaders for the prevention of HIV for young women and girls

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letters to:
 - Media houses seeking a meeting to discuss the facilitation of free and reduced cost ads, publication of issue-based articles, and the distribution of SRH, children's rights, and HIV prevention fliers through newspapers
 - The Hon. Bruce Golding seeking a meeting to discuss the need for his support and commitment to advocating for the improvement of SRH service
 - Leaders of church-based organisations seeking meetings to discuss the need for their support in advancing SRH services within the church community and educating and empowering the pastoral community
 - Relevant stakeholders at JAMPRO and the musicians associations seeking meetings to discuss their support for and assistance with improving SRH services

Specific Intent (Goal)

6. To implement projects aimed at bringing together males and females for HIV prevention and to empower women

Action Items

- i. Liaise with potential funders and design funding proposal aimed at increasing access to HIV prevention services in relation to the goals and strategies outlined above
- ii. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders seeking meetings to discuss the:
 - Need for their support in implementing projects aimed at bringing together males and females for HIV prevention
 - Need for their support in advancing discussions around malicious intent laws and protecting the rights of persons to disclosure in a relationship
 - Potential to target boys in school and to centralize it as an issue for moving forward on prevention for girls and young women
 - Potential to empower women with SRH information and skills, and to improve their confidence and self-worth
 - Potential for training artists and musicians in SRH and getting them involved in the delivery of positive SRH messages through their songs, poems, etc.

Availability of Services Component

Specific Intent (Goal)

7. To increase access to confidential services (counseling and information) in schools

Action Items

- i. Address the issue of making access to confidential SRH services in school a discussion item in the advocacy letter to the leaders of the national students' council, national PTA, Minister of Education, Guidance and Counseling Unit and seek their support and commitment in supporting the strategies that relate to the stated goal

Specific Intent (Goal)

8. To thoroughly train all health care workers in customer services

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to the relevant stakeholders seeking meetings to address the:
 - Potential for creating supportive legislation to penalize health workers who deny others their SRH rights or uses discriminatory practices in the delivery of SRH services
 - Potential for creating a special customer services course, which includes SRH and human rights as core modules, to be designed and implemented as mandatory for all health practitioners and trainees
 - Potential for designing and implementing a client redress system for clients if their rights are breached

Specific Intent (Goal)

9. To address irregularities among the different government agencies where it concerns adolescent sexuality management

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders requesting meetings to discuss the potential for addressing irregularities among the different government agencies where it concerns adolescent sexuality management and the need to identify a common age of consent for marriage, voting, and access to SRH services

Legal & Policy Provision Component

Specific Intent (Goal)

10. To ensure that healthcare is delivered non-prejudicially and is universally accessible

Action Items

- i. See the action item that relates to Goal #8

Specific Intent (Goal)

11. To provide public education about the illegality of abortion and risks associated with illegal abortions. This is due to the many misconceptions that exist about abortion and its legality in Jamaica

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders requesting meetings to discuss the need for public education and consultation on abortion
- ii. Integrate information about abortion as a key issue under the proposed project proposal outlined as an action item of Goal #6

Specific Intent (Goal)

12. To increase awareness of the risks associated with buggery

Action Items

- i. Integrate information about alternative sexual practices (buggery) as a key issue under the project proposal outlined as an action item of Goal #6

Specific Intent (Goal)

13. To educate persons about the various contexts within which rape can occur, especially within the context of marriage

Action Items

- i. Include the issue of integrating self-esteem and relationships education as a component of schools' sexuality curriculum in the advocacy letters to the Minister of Education, Guidance and Counseling Unit, etc.

Specific Intent (Goal)

14. To reduce experiences of HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders requesting a meeting to discuss the potential and value of integrating HIV/AIDS services into other health services. In addition, the meeting would be used as an opportunity to get commitments from stakeholders on addressing the problem

Specific Intent (Goal)

15. To make legislation more accessible to the public. People need to be aware of the laws that exist, especially those working in the area of sexual and reproductive health

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders requesting meetings to discuss the potential implementing mandatory training programmes for healthcare and other health facility staff on SRH laws and policies, and to have staff commit to upholding appropriate behaviours through individual contracts, visible signs, and institutional policies

Accessibility to Services Component

Specific Intent (Goal)

16. To end overcrowding in clinics

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letter to relevant stakeholders requesting a meeting to discuss the recommendations for improving the quality of customer service and access to SRH services at the local level: increased mobile clinics, appointment system at clinic, increased use of volunteers and health aids, increased VCT locally, reorganization of clinic spaces

Specific Intent (Goal)

17. To maintain a high level of confidentiality across the health services sector

Action Items

- i. See action items outlined under Goal #8

Specific Intent (Goal)

18. To increase personal awareness and acceptance of responsibility for accessing services

Action Items

- i. See the action items for Goals #5,6, 7, & 13

Specific Intent (Goal)

19. To reduce the distance travelled to access SRH services, especially in rural areas

Action Items

- i. See the action items outlined for achieving Goal#16

Specific Intent (Goal)

20. To increase the number of support groups

Action Items

- i. Prepare advocacy letters to relevant stakeholders requesting meetings to discuss the need for the establishment and reenergizing of support group networks for Seropositives, etc. and obtain commitment from them for their implementation

Specific Intent (Goal)

21. To address discrimination by service providers towards married and unmarried clients

Action Items

- i. See the action items outlined for achieving Goal #8

Specific Intent (Goal)

22. To increase parental involvement

Action Items

- i. Include parental education on SRH as a focus issue of the project proposal outlined under Goal #6
- ii. Prepare advocacy letters to relevant stakeholders requesting meeting to discuss the potential for providing information on SRH to parents, including the SRH rights of children and adolescents