
THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN – COMMUNITY ACCESS PROJECT (EC-CAP): Increasing Access to HIV/AIDS Services through Evidence-Based Programming

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In collaboration with the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Alliance and Intrahealth, CAPS is working in four Eastern Caribbean countries to enhance the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The USAID-funded Eastern Caribbean Community Action Project (EC-CAP) supports prevention, development and use of strategic information, roll-out of community-based counselling and testing, and provision of care services (palliative / home based care).

As one of three partners, CAPS's specific aims are:

- Identify the barriers and facilitators to access and delivery of HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services (Antigua-Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent-Grenadines);
- Assess the feasibility and acceptability of prevention interventions for different population groups at risk for HIV (St Kitts-Nevis), and;
- Provide technical support and capacity building to improve regional, country and programmatic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for assessing the quality and impact of HIV services (all countries).

CAPS is providing specific expertise and technical support to design a series of special studies to describe HIV risk and health seeking behavior, conduct studies on implementation and scale-up community-based HIV counseling and testing, train local prevention providers on monitoring and evaluation systems, data use and program planning, provide local organizations with technical assistance in strategic information, package findings and recommendations of the evaluations into a best practice publications, and disseminate the publications at the international, regional, and national level.

SIGNIFICANCE

This project will bring enhanced capacity to the region that aligns with national strategic priorities in each of the four countries.

INTERESTING FINDINGS

From needs assessments conducted thus far, we have discovered that each country is in a different state of preparedness to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS services. Secrecy around sex exchange and stigmatizing attitudes towards MSM, combined with an overall lack of reliable surveillance data create challenging conditions for this work.

PROJECT RECRUITMENT DATES: All recruitment will be conducted internationally beginning in March 2008.

PROJECT END DATE: September 2011