INTERNATIONAL INTERAGENCY MEETING ON ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PREVENTING ADOLESCENTS PREGNANCIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

MANAGUA
17 – 19 MARCH 2014

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CARICOM Secretariat
OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Introduction
- Background Information
- The Mandate
- The Regional Integrated Strategy
- Best Practices
- Immediate Next Steps
THE JOURNEY:

- ADOLESCENCE
- ADULTHOOD
- CHILDHOOD
• Caribbean: Ages 10 – 24 represents one third of the total population of the region

• Between 18 – 34% of the population is 15 years or younger

• They are shaping social and economic development, challenging social norms and values, and building the foundation of the world's future.
Caribbean children who were sexually active had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 10 (42.8%) (WHO 2000)

Sexual abuse and exploitation is one of the most common types of abuse in the Caribbean (PAHO, 2001).

In the Caribbean region, CSA and exploitation is an escalating social problem (WHO 2002)

The Caribbean has the earliest age of sexual “debut” in the world (World Bank, 2003)

There is an increasing involvement of both boys and girls in commercial sexual exploitation (IOM, 2005)

Child sexual abuse very often goes unnoticed and is usually surrounded by “a culture of silence and stigma”. (UNVAC 2006)

There is clear evidence of a growing market for child sex tourism. (UNICEF 2009)
### Age of first intercourse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;10 years</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td></td>
<td>42.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 - 12</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 15</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16+</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR:
### Number of Sex Partners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>&lt;12</th>
<th>13-15</th>
<th>16-18</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>72.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;12</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>51.3</td>
<td>49.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
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<td>19.3</td>
<td>20.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sexual Behaviour

Of the one third of adolescents who have had intercourse, almost half report that their first sexual intercourse was forced.

Over half of sexually active boys and about a quarter of females state that the age of first intercourse was ten years old or younger.

Almost two-thirds had intercourse before the age of 13.
Recommendations of COHSOD XXIII in July 2012 and COHSOD XXIV in May 2013

Identified Adolescent Pregnancy as a form of CSA and a Regional Priority

Recommended establishment Multi-sectoral Task Force led by UNFPA; CCS to provide oversight

Development of an Integrated Regional Strategic Framework to Reduce Adolescent Pregnancy

Technical Meeting convened in 28 – 30 October 2013 in Guyana

High level Consultation on Adolescent Pregnancy on 9 December 2013 in Trinidad and Tobago
The Integrated Regional Framework for the Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy
THE OVERALL GOAL OF THE FRAMEWORK

To reduce the number of adolescent pregnancies in each country of the English- and Dutch speaking Caribbean by at least 50% within the time-period 2014 – 2017
# THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## KEY RESULT AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome 1:</th>
<th>Outcome 2:</th>
<th>Outcome 3:</th>
<th>Outcome 4:</th>
<th>Outcome 5:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to responsive sexual- and reproductive health services, information and commodities: the framework proposes</td>
<td>Access to age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education</td>
<td>Social protection mechanisms for the prevention of all forms of violence against adolescent girls.</td>
<td>Legal Standards</td>
<td>Exchange of knowledge, information and good practices in addressing adolescent pregnancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Outcomes will contribute to the objectives of the CARICOM Youth Development Plan (CYDP) 2012-2017, the Regional Framework for Action for Children 2005-2015 and other Caribbean-wide frameworks.

• Outcomes will respond to the recommendations made in the Report of the CARICOM Commission on Youth Development (January 2010).
Outcome 1:
By 2017 all adolescent boys and girls have access to responsive sexual- and reproductive health services, information and commodities.

Strengthening and increasing the availability of differentiated and friendly sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents, particularly for 14 years and older without parent consent.
**Outcome 2:**
Access to age appropriate comprehensive sexuality education

- By 2017 Health and Family Life Education implemented in all schools.
- Sexuality education through informal education modalities to out-of-school adolescents.
- Parenting Education in Sexual and Reproductive Health
Outcome 3:

By 2017 all Governments to implement Social protection mechanisms for the prevention of all forms of violence against adolescent Girls especially the poorest and most marginalised.
Key Elements

- Institutional strengthening and capacity building
- Empowerment of adolescents, family and communities
- Development, implementation and monitoring of community outreach programmes
- Development of positive, safe and responsible social environments in schools and communities
- Special social programmes for those most at risk with low socio-economic status
Outcome 4:

By 2017, all Governments to adopt common legal Standards

CARICOM MS to share a set of standards for the enactment of legislation that can regulate the ages of marriage, consent, access to contraceptives and sexual and reproductive services.

A common set of standards to sanction and prosecute sex offenders and protect victims of sexual violence.
PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Context

Identification, attention and rehabilitation of victims of sexual abuse and violence

Removing legal barriers, aimed at the standardisation of age of consent for sexual intercourse, child marriage and parental consent for access to services.

Implementation of norms and standards for safeguarding of anonymity of adolescents, and others.
Outcome 5:

By 2017, Governments will exchange knowledge, information and good practices in addressing adolescent pregnancy.
Integrated Response

- Identify, evaluate and document good practices relating to Adolescent Pregnancy
- Focus on societal influences, lifestyles and behaviours that promote risky sexual behaviour
- Resources, technology, knowledge and Information sharing
- Inter-governmental collaboration and cooperation
- Coordinated South-South Collaboration within and outside the Region
- Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder integrated response
PROPOSED STRATEGIES

Evidence based policy advice and action

Knowledge management to create evidence required for policy advice and action

Design and adjustment to policies, programmes, laws and implementation mechanisms based on analysis

New courses in tertiary education for personnel in these sectors

Capacity building in the health, education, child and social protection sectors
Implementation Mechanisms

**COUNTRY-LEVEL**

Establishment of a National Multi-Sectoral Commission

- Establish a country level baseline for each of the indicators
- Monitoring, Evaluation, Coordination, identifying best practices and Reporting

**CARICOM-LEVEL**

Standardisation of laws, policies and programmes

- Oversee and review the annual country reporting on progress for discussion at policy and technical meetings
- Function as knowledge broker for South-South Collaboration
  - Extensive collaboration with International Organisation
Best Practices

1. Early Childhood Interventions
   - provide enhanced educational and social support in the early years of life

2. Youth Development:
   - engage and provide young people with skills and educational opportunities that will help them succeed as adults and develop career aspirations.

3. Involvement of Family and Other Caring Adults:
   - affects an adolescent sexual behavior and the risk of early pregnancy.
Jamaica Offers a Model for Preventing Adolescent Pregnancies while Supporting Young Mothers

Talking to adolescents about sex can make for important but sometimes uncomfortable conversations.

“Women’s Centre of Jamaica Foundation and WAD of Guyana”
Best Practices

4. Boys and Male Involvement:
   - Males play a critical role in unintended and early pregnancies, and should be involved in efforts to prevent adolescent pregnancy.
   - CariMan (empowerment of boys and men)

5. Cultural Relevant
   - Culture plays a critical role in influencing values and attitudes about sex, child bearing, and parenting - interventions will increase the effectiveness of efforts.
CaribMAN: Caribbean Male Action Network (12 Countries)

- Training sessions to address issues such as Violence and Life Planning
- Create Champions for Change network to combat violence against women.
- Sensitization sessions on gender roles
- To provide a forum for discussion on Masculinity, sexual diversity, relationships
- Design and develop interventions to facilitate communication around manhood
- To share best practices.
Best Practices

7. Service Learning:
- connects meaningful community service with academic learning, civic responsibility, and personal growth.

8. Increasing Employment
- Opportunities for adolescents is necessary to assure economic self-sufficiency, generate self-esteem, and create the motivation to delay early childbearing.

9. Access to Reproductive Health Services
- The sexually active need support and encouragement to use contraception effectively and consistently.
Immediate Next Steps

- Familiarization of Monitoring and Evaluation e-Instrument
- Development of Model legislation

National and Regional Implementation Plans to be developed

- Workshop to develop Consolidated Framework on 6 – 8 May 2014
- Review of the Data

Collate information received from Member States on Framework

Strategy should target the home, school, community, youth leaders, media, policy makers, adolescent girls especially the marginalised and high risk, multi-sectoral programmes to include life skills education, sexual and reproductive health, education, employment and legislation.
THANK YOU