

UNFPA Staff Participate in First Diploma Course on HIV/AIDS Prevention

Over thirty persons from UNFPA who work directly in HIV/AIDS prevention in the Caribbean and Latin America recently completed a two week diploma course designed to strengthen their skills to fight the pandemic in the region. The course on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS was jointly organized by the University of Brasilia, the International Centre for Technical Cooperation on HIV/AIDS; and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Held at the University of Brasilia, Brazil, South America from November 19-28, the Course focused on exploring some of the barriers that prevent universal access to sexual and reproductive health including gender and culture; and building the capacity of field workers to advocate strengthened willingness and national capacities to address stigma and discrimination that prevent access by vulnerable groups to HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

Over the two-weeks of the Course there were panel discussions and presentations on a range of topics, led by experts in the field representing the host university, as well as, the University of Sao Paulo, UNAIDS, UNFPA, the government of Brazil, the private sector and non - governmental organizations working in the field. These included bio-ethical reflections and human rights issues in relation to HIV/AIDS; women and girls and their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS; integration of SRH and HIV/AIDS prevention programmes; prevention of HIV/AIDS among men who have sex with men; the challenges of universal access; cultural approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention; creating favorable environments for the prevention of HIV/AIDS; advocacy and the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

The Course allowed participants an opportunity to share best practices within Latin America and the Caribbean and to build a network of partners who share a common goal: combating HIV/AIDS.