



# UNFPA TT VOICE

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## ‘UNFPA TT VOICE’

Welcome to the inaugural issue of ‘UNFPA TT Voice’. This initiative is one of the contemporary ways in which the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Sub-Regional Office (SRO) in Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) will connect with all partners, stakeholders and the general public. ‘UNFPA TT Voice’ will be an annual publication that aims to provide a conduit of information through which UNFPA Trinidad and Tobago’s Office (TTO) will update all actors on the work being done, not only by our office, but also, by our partners throughout T&T. This publication will also provide a platform for the dissemination of the latest developments in Sexual & Reproductive Health (SRH), Gender Equality & Equity and Population & Development Strategies. While the foregoing form the core components of UNFPA’s programming, three cross cutting issues are Gender Mainstreaming, Youth and Results-Based Management. Our vision is to make the ‘UNFPA TT Voice’ interesting and informative, so we look forward to your feedback and contributions.



In Photo: Map of Trinidad and Tobago painted in the colours of the National Flag.

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### Special points of interest:

- Launch of *UNFPA TT Voice*
- Partnership efforts with UNFPA TTO reaps rewards
- 7 Billion People—A Global Movement for All Humanity
- Youth members have a fun-filled training session
- YAGees celebrate International Youth Day (IYD)
- M&E Corner
- Congratulations to *Josanne Warner* our first UNFPA TTO Intern
- *Leah-Mari Richards* bids adieu to UNFPA TTO

## UNFPA support to Trinidad & Tobago for 2011

### SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (SRH)

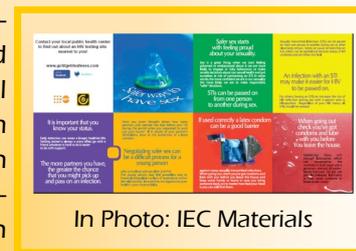
#### Ministry of Health (MoH)

One of the mandates of the MoH through the Population Programme Unit (PPU) is to strengthen and further the development of SRH service delivery in T&T. As such, an initial assessment was conducted in 2010 on the SRH Services in T&T. Findings of this assessment revealed that there is need for improvement in areas of Service Delivery, Human Resource and Responsibilities, Training, Information Technology, Research, Promotion and Communication and Procurement & Storage. Based upon these findings, several requests for further technical and financial support were made to UNFPA in an effort to provide solutions to the shortcomings identified. As a result, National Capacity Building Workshops on Family Planning and Reproductive Health & Rights in T&T were held in 2011. Approximately, 50 Medical Practitioners in T&T were trained in the areas of Contraceptive Technology, SRH Rights and the Performing of Pap Smears. Additionally, the Decision-Making Tool for Family Planning Clients and Providers was disseminated to over 100 public health institutions to better facilitate the counselling process with family planning clients in their choice of contraception. These are some of the challenges that remain, such as, gaps in service delivery; absences of services to selected groups in the population; need for guidelines on the provision of SRH services; and need for consistent training for relevant categories of staff in SRH service delivery.

Another project that was undertaken by the MoH in 2011 was the Assessment of Male-Specific SRH Services in T&T. Some of the objectives of this project included: Developing a clear understanding of all SRH services available to men and boys; Assessing the extent of linkages and coordination, between the various entities within the public health sector that provide these services and those services provided by external partners; and Gathering ideas from all health sector stakeholders on how their activities can be best coordinated to deliver improvements in SRH services delivered to men and boys. Through the application of a cohesive methodology, the use of relevant data collection instruments and the co-operation of participants from varying organisations, findings were countless. **Some of the findings demonstrated that Male-Specific SRH services are available on a limited basis in each Regional Health Authority (RHA); Composition of SRH services are not standardised in each RHA and SRH Service development and delivery is provider initiated rather than institution/policy directed.** Gaps were also identified, such as, lack of Male-Specific SRH services; and limited choices in contraceptive commodities for men. Also, this study found that there was a lack of a clear policy framework on SRH Male-Specific services, as well as human resource, finance and service delivery challenges. As a result of this assessment these are some of the recommendations that were presented: PPU should develop guidelines and technical support for Male-Specific SRH services to RHAs and other agencies; Comprehensive packages of Male-Specific services should be developed; and Collaborations should be established to lobby for the implementation of a comprehensive Health and Family Life Education (HFLE).

#### Population Services International (PSI/Caribbean)

PSI is dedicated to improving the health of people in developing countries and in November 2011 this NGO partnered with UNFPA to execute Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities. Culturally-Specific IEC



In Photo: IEC Materials

materials on the male condom was also developed during this period.

#### Advocates for Safe Parenthood Improving Reproductive Equity (ASPIRE)

In 2011, UNFPA provided both technical and financial support for ASPIRE's 3rd Annual HFLE Quiz. UNFPA has supported ASPIRE's HFLE Quiz in the past. However, additional resources were mobilized from Sister Agency, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support the expansion of the HFLE Quiz, which targets persons between 12-15 years. The areas covered in the HFLE Quiz were: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Puberty, Family Life, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Personal Development. A total of 14 teams participated, 7 teams from Trinidad and the same for Tobago. Each team comprised 5 participants, with 1 member selected as an alternate. The respective teams competed against each other in the Prelims and Semi-Finals. However, in the final round, which was staged for the first time in Tobago, the Penal Rock Road Charitable Foundation emerged as winners. Overall, ASPIRE's 2011 HFLE Quiz was an overwhelming success. Youth were equipped with information, which will enable them to make responsible and informed choices in their lives; even parents/guardians admitted that they too learnt a lot from this process and there was also peer-to-peer education.

### Advocates for Safe Parenthood Improving Reproductive Equity (ASPIRE) - Continued

Meanwhile, ASPIRE also collaborated with UNFPA and Pan-American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO) to host a Maternal Health Symposium in October 2011. Discussions were led by 4 panelists, who are experts in the field of Gynaecology/Obstetrics, Nursing and Law. Approximately 140 Health Care Professionals participated in this activity, which served as a platform for the exchange of critical information. At the Symposium, several recommendations were put forward to improve maternal mortality and morbidity. Additionally, pictures submitted by local entrants of the PAHO/WHO Regional photo competition on the Safe Motherhood Initiative were featured by way of an exhibition. Overall, 90% of the participants found that the symposium was useful and ASPIRE intends to continue to seek funding to spread this great initiative throughout T&T.

### The Family Planning Association of Trinidad & Tobago (FPATT)

Over the years, UNFPA has established a working relationship with FPATT and in 2011 support was specifically provided for the following initiative: 'De Roving Living Room: Going Beyond the Walls'. Essentially, this project is designed to increase awareness of SRHR and increase access to SRH services among young people, including the persons with disabilities, between the ages of 14-25 in marginalized communities. In 2011 'De Roving Living Room' was successful in the following activities: The first phase consisted of awareness sessions and drama presentations on SRH Issues; The second phase consisted of the provision of 4 different clinical packages. Both phases were carried out at the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, Goodwill Industries Ltd and Youth Friendly gatherings. Apart from the aforementioned activities,

### The Family Planning Association of Trinidad & Tobago (FPATT) - Continued

FPATT was able to deliver more services to the targeted group through other activities that were held throughout the year, such as, the commemoration of International Youth Day and World AIDS Day. Based upon the needs expressed by marginalised groups, FPATT intends to collaborate with other organisations to expand the coverage for future activities.

## GENDER EQUITY & EQUALITY

### Young Women's Christian Association of Trinidad & Tobago (YWCA)

YWCA observed the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which featured the 'In Her Shoes Exhibition'. UNFPA, as chair of the Gender Theme Group of the UN System in T&T mobilised

on SRH issues; Facilitate youth and leadership development; and Facilitate the sustainability of YWCA and its future programmatic efforts through the recruitment of members and volunteers. These activities proved to be successful as the following results were achieved: The Roving Community Outreach Services were hosted at 20 different locations in T&T and over 15,000 persons were reached; Data was collected on attitudes, behaviours, experiences and perceptions of identified target groups on Gender-Based Violence, its prevalence, causes and effectiveness of support systems; Implementation of YWCA 2011 Life Skills Programme for Youth; Implementation of YWCA Be a Volunteer Campaign and other identified strategies; Implementation of Y Clubs in Secondary Schools and Homework Centre and Successful Communication Strategies for Mainstream and Social Media. A new element of the campaign was launched, the 'My Life in Words' youth competition, in the last quarter of 2011.



In Photo: Dr. Hernando Aguedelo—UNFPA's Deputy Director & Ms. Keisha Cruickshank - YWCA President at YWCA Head Office

significant technical and financial resources to support YWCA's activities. The main objectives of this initiative were the following: Facilitate awareness, dialogue, data collection, information sharing and behaviour change in the national community in support of the elimination of Gender-Based Violence; Facilitate awareness, dialogue, information sharing



In Photo: Participants of FPATT's 'De Roving Living Room: Going beyond the Walls'

## Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA)

International Men's Day (IMD) was celebrated throughout the world on November 19<sup>th</sup> 2011. This auspicious day, which originated in T&T, calls for people worldwide to focus on solutions to adversities that young men face. These challenges include; Health and life expectancy; Education; Rights to Fatherhood; Tolerance of Violence; and Real life choices.. IMD theme for 2011 was 'Giving boys the best possible start in life'. Considering the mission of both the YMCA and UNFPA, activities were planned to ensure that this esteemed day for men was acknowledged with much more grandeur and purpose. As such, Men in T&T participated in a week of key activities. On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 over 100 males participated in a Men's Symposium on what it means to be male in T&T. Also, during the week of activities, men residing in Black Rock, Tobago were able to benefit from medical assessments provided by FPATT's Mobile Health Clinic. Additionally, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, men and young boys were able to partake in the IMD Family Day at The University of the West Indies (UWI) Sports and Physical Education Centre (SPEC), St. Augustine, while simultaneously benefitting from medical tests. YMCA considered the week of activities a success and this organisation was able to fulfil the main aim of IMD while establishing new partnerships. The YMCA plans to utilise all recommendations for future activities.

### CariMAN T&T

The UNFPA SRO for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean has been partnering with the Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN) for 6 years. Subsequently, within the last 2 years, the UNFPA TTO has collaborated with the local arm of CariMAN, so that the latter can sensitize relevant bodies on Male-Specific gender issues.

These sensitization sessions revealed that there is inadequate information on the number and nature of organisations working with boys and men. Therefore, in 2011 UNFPA TTO provided support to CariMAN to facilitate the creation of a database of such organisations and also provide an assessment of existing and future capacity needs in the areas of: Programme Planning, Programme Implementation, Programme Monitoring & Evaluation and Financial Management for all entities wishing to partner with such organisations in T&T. This exercise proved to be quite beneficial as organisations can now tap into a wider source of information on all entities working on social programmes for men and boys. CariMAN continues their work in this area and looks forward to the continued support from NGOs that address gender-related issues.

## POPULATION & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

### Ministry of Planning and the Economy — Census Planning and Management Division

As part of the National Census Exercise in 2011, UNFPA supported the Census Planning and Management Division (CPMD) in a number of key areas related to data editing and validation, as well as Computer Assisted Coding. Through UNFPA's intervention, several members of CPMD were able to benefit from Regional training opportunities in the development of the data editing and validation programmes for the 2011 Population and Housing Census, as well as training in the design of an editing manual to be used by both the Subject Matter Section and the IT Unit as a tool for effective communication between Units. As 2012 begins, UNFPA continues to support CSO with those processes involved in the implementation of the Editing and Validation program for the 2011 Population and Housing Census, as well as the data dissemination aspects of the 2011 Population and Housing Census.

## 7 Billion People, 7 Billion Actions—A global movement for all humanity

On October 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 the world's population topped 7 billion. To celebrate this milestone, UNFPA TTO held a 7B Knowledge Fair on the Brian Lara Promenade, in Port of Spain, to sensitise the country about this milestone. The Knowledge Fair consisted of a cadre of local NGOs. The 7B Knowledge Fair was also aired live throughout the nation on 'The Boom Champions' radio station 94.1FM (which has the largest youth listenership); this served as a broader platform for the dissemination of information. This unique moment in human history represents both an achievement and a challenge, and will have an impact on every single person on the planet. Consequently, a world of seven billion has implications for sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment. However, it also offers a rare call-to-action and an opportunity to renew global commitment for a healthy and sustainable world. For more information visit: <http://www.7billionactions.org>.

## The Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Corner

### Results-Based Management at UNFPA

What is Results Based Management (RBM)? RBM is a management strategy by which an organization ensures that its processes, products and services contribute to the achievement of desired results (outputs, outcomes & impacts). RBM rests on stakeholder participation and on clearly defined accountability for results. It also requires monitoring of progress towards results and reporting on performance/feedback, which is carefully reviewed and used to further improve the design or implementation of the programme. For further information on what RBM at UNFPA means visit: <http://www.unfpa.org/monitoring/toolkit/>

## UNFPA Trinidad & Tobago Youth Advisory Group (TTYAG)

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, UNFPA hosted an Induction & Capacity Building Workshop for its TTYAG members or *YAGees* as they are endearingly called.



In Photo: TTYAG Members, UNFPA Staff & Minister in the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Ms. Stacy Roopnarine.

The *YAGees* were graced with the presence of Minister of State in the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure & Member of Parliament (MP), The Honourable Stacy Roopnarine, who delivered a compelling and inspiring story of her own personal development in which she broke gender barriers throughout her life and successfully entered male-dominated fields in sport, education and politics. Additionally, the *YAGees* experienced a dynamic and impassioned speech by Opposition Senator, Shamfa Cudjoe. Senator Cudjoe relayed her enthusiasm to work with the United Nations, particularly with the youth of T&T, offering the message that you can achieve your dreams once you believe in yourself. Also, Mark "Polo" Nirvalle, Radio Disc Jockey (DJ), from the number one rated youth "urban" radio station in T&T—94.1FM-The Boom Champions', was especially memorable. It was inspiring to learn about his past experiences living in a tough environment and subsequently rising above the situation. His abil-

ity to overcome difficult circumstances and create opportunities for himself profoundly resonated with the group and the *YAGees* eagerly shared their admiration for his resilient spirit and determined mind with

words of encouragement for him.

The TTYAG was launched in 2010. This group was designed to ensure that UNFPA's initiatives are youth-friendly and

responsive to young people's concerns, particularly their SRH Rights & Needs and HIV/AIDS & Gender Issues.



In Photo: Balloon Release—TTYAG & CARE World AIDS Day Activities in Princes Town 2011



In Photo: Participants of World AIDS Day Activities in Princes Town 2011

### *YAGees* Celebrate International Youth Day on the Sister Isle

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July, the TTYAG held an Outreach Activity in Lowlands, Tobago to commemorate International Youth Day and to raise awareness on SRH, HIV/AIDS and Youth Issues under the theme: '300,000 Young People. 300,000 Positive Actions' - A Nationalised version of the 7 Billion slogan. This event was quite successful. The *YAGees* were able to disseminate information to over a hundred and fifty (150) persons with information on SRH, HIV/AIDS, Population & Development, Gender-Based Violence, Family Planning and Youth Issues. The interactive games proved to be a key attraction to the booth, as several participants were rather eager to test their knowledge on the subject areas and win tokens donated by UN agencies and partner organisations (UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, ILO, PSI).

### TTYAG World AIDS Day

#### Activity 2011

In 2011 TTYAG collaborated with the Community Action Resource (CARE) to commemorate World AIDS Day with a *Walk* in Princes Town on December 02nd, 2011. The *Walk* began from 4 key locations and ended at the Princes Town Promenade after which 365 balloons were released. The alarming statistics released by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in May 2011 states, that there are on average 4 new HIV cases diagnosed each day in T&T. To this end, the 4 Less Initiative was born, which seeks to employ innovative and new media strategies to stimulate thought and raise the level of consciousness on issues related to HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and advocacy.

## UNFPA Trinidad & Tobago Office

### UNFPA TTO welcomes its First Intern

In July 2011, UNFPA TTO welcomed aboard its first Intern, Ms. Josanne Warner. Josanne, who is currently pursuing an M.Sc. In Global Studies at the University of The West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, undertook numerous activities during her tenure. More specifically, she supported the implementation of activities by the TTYAG; the HIV/AIDS Programme Officer in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of TTO's Comprehensive Condom Programming (CCP) activities; and Logistics and planning for meetings and workshops with partners.



In Photo: Ms. Josanne Warner

### UNFPA TTO BIDS Farewell

To many of our stakeholders UNFPA TTO was synonymous with the name Leah-Mari Richards, who was the first Assistant Representative for UNFPA TTO, and it was with a heavy heart that we bid Leah a fond 'farewell' in December 2010. Not only did December 2010 end with Leah-Mari moving on to begin a new chapter in her life, but Moira Denman's CCP consultancy also came to an end. Our two beloved Colleagues have made substantial contributions, not only to UNFPA TTO, but also, to national development and for that, we continue to say, "Thank You Ladies"!



In Photo (from left to right): Moira Denman, Tammy Yates, Leah-Mari Richards & Nicole Darmanie

### Staff Movements at UNFPA TTO

In December 2011, Ms. Tammy C. Yates was appointed Assistant Representative for UNFPA SRO-CAR TTO. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Yates was the HIV/AIDS Programme Officer for UNFPA in T&T. Meanwhile, for the period, November – December, Ms. Rachel-Ann Charles provided programmatic and administrative support to the Office. In 2012, Ms. Charles will be a Ph.D. Candidate at Birmingham City University, England.



In Photo: Participants at UNFPA TTO's 7B Knowledge Fair

UNFPA TT VOICE is an annual newsletter of the UNFPA Branch Office in Trinidad and Tobago

### Feedback Corner

We hope you enjoyed reading this issue and we would like to hear from you.

Email your contributions to UNFPA TTO at [yates@unfpa.org](mailto:yates@unfpa.org) or Call at 623-7056 ext 238



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UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.