

## Press release

### Launch of publication on response to AIDS in the Caribbean

**Grenada, Eastern Caribbean, 31 May, 2007** - the CARICOM based Pan-Caribbean Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) are today launching a consolidated analysis of national AIDS responses in the Caribbean. This publication demonstrates the practical commitment shown by 15 nations throughout the region, towards developing more effective and widespread programmes to address the AIDS epidemic in this region. The publication also highlights key challenges in terms of the status of national responses, including the coverage of essential prevention and treatment services to those in need.

The report ***Keeping Score: AIDS Responses in the Caribbean*** provides, for the first time ever, a consolidated analysis of available data on key services being delivered to populations at higher risk of HIV infection throughout the region. Data are analyzed from 15 Caribbean reports submitted last year to the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS). The launch offers a crucial opportunity for those involved in national AIDS responses in the region to take stock of lessons learned in time for improved reporting and programming to achieve specific targets set for universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services by 2010.

Governments around the globe, including those in the Caribbean, first pledged to rapidly scale up towards universal access to essential services at the World Summit in September 2004. These services include access to antiretroviral therapy, rapid testing for HIV, preventive medical services, education, counselling and other social support services. This pledge was reaffirmed in the Political Declaration arising from the UNGASS High-Level Meeting held in New York, June 2006. Lessons learnt and recommendations drawn from this consolidated analysis clearly demonstrate that governments in this region have the will, the means and the knowledge to keep this pledge – at least for priority services. Achieving nationally set targets for service coverage will, however, involve more concerted efforts to plan strategically, and to budget and implement effectively, between now and 2010.

The publication launch forms part of the opening ceremony of the Eighth Meeting of the PANCAP Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), involving countries representative of the region and key regional partners, to be held in Grenada 31 May-1 June, at the Coyaba Beach Resort.

The Meeting will be conducted under the Chairmanship of Dr. the Hon. Jerome Walcott, Minister of Health, Barbados, and will be addressed by Carl Browne, Director, PANCAP and Sen. the Hon. Ann David-Antoine, Minister for Health, Social Security, the Environment and Ecclesiastic Relations, Grenada. The opening ceremony will also include an address by Karen Sealey, Director, UNAIDS Caribbean, for the launch of the publication.

Up for discussion on the RCM agenda is the status of implementation of regional projects supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM), and selection of a new Caribbean representative on the Global Fund Board. Other PANCAP projects supported by additional donors will also be reviewed, including those addressing Law, Ethics and Human Rights, and the Caribbean Education Sector HIV and AIDS Response.

***Keeping Score: AIDS Responses in the Caribbean: a consolidated analysis based on Caribbean reports submitted to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV and AIDS, 2006*** ISBN 978 92 9173 579 2

**Contact**

**For further information on *Keeping Score, AIDS Responses in the Caribbean* and on setting national targets for moving towards Universal Access by 2010:** Hilary Hughes, Regional M&E Advisor, UNAIDS Caribbean, 1 868 623 7056 Ext. 279, [hughesh@unaid.org](mailto:hughesh@unaid.org)

*UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations to respond to AIDS. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through the UN theme groups, and the joint programmes on AIDS. Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)*