

global youth coalition on hiv/aids



republic of macedonia



democratic republic of congo

world AIDS day

december 1, 2006



nigeria



pakistan



GYCA World AIDS Day: December 1, 2006

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS is a youth-led, UNFPA and UNAIDS-supported alliance of close to 2700 young leaders and adult allies working on HIV/AIDS in over 100 countries worldwide. For more information about GYCA and to join, please visit <http://www.youthaidscoalition.org>

On December 1st, 2006, GYCA members commemorated World AIDS Day with 50 local events in 30 countries. In some countries, multiple events were held, often in collaboration with other organizations, networks, universities, and with local governments. Events were held in:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bangladesh | 11. Japan | 21. Rwanda (2) |
| 2. Bolivia | 12. Kenya | 22. Sierra Leone |
| 3. Cameroon | 13. Macedonia, Republic of | 23. South Africa |
| 4. Canada (3) | 14. México | 24. Sudan |
| 5. Colombia | 15. Nepal | 25. Switzerland |
| 6. Democratic Rep. Congo | 16. Netherlands | 26. Togo |
| 7. Dominican Republic | 17. Nigeria (13) | 27. Turkey |
| 8. Egypt | 18. Pakistan | 28. United States |
| 9. Ghana (4) | 19. Panamá | 29. Vanuatu |
| 10. Guyana | 20. Perú (2) | 30. Venezuela |

Members reported back on the proceedings with pictures and feedback from participants and we are please to share with you information from their reports:

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CAMEROON

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Sensitization and Awareness Campaign

Location: 52 schools, health centers, companies, organizations, institutions and universities in Cameroon



Youth Policy Group for Reproductive Health and Adele Reproductive Health Centre conducted a sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS, providing information on the disease and distributing female condoms, posters, and the Essentials of Contraceptive Technology Handbooks to schools, health centers, companies, organizations, institutions and universities throughout Cameroon. In addition, four conferences for youth and women's groups were organized under the theme, "HIV/AIDS and Child Abuse: Fight the virus and Stop the

Murderer." Information on HIV/AIDS and the importance of youth involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS was also broadcast on Ocean City Radio.

The campaign was an overall success, resulting in a general commitment to promote HIV/AIDS education for families and communities and even inspiring some youth to make a documentary on HIV/AIDS using stories gathered during this year's WAD. The film will be entitled, "Pilgrimage Inside You," and is intended to be finished by late 2007.



CANADA

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MTV Staying Alive 48 Fest Film Screening

Location: University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta



The event was intended to raise awareness and share knowledge on HIV/AIDS issues affecting youth. Approximately forty youth, mostly students at the University of Calgary, attended. Free pamphlets, handouts, condoms, and snacks were provided. The event began with a



welcome followed by a brief presentation by sexual health educator Beatrice Duprey regarding the AIDS 2006 Conference outcomes. The MTV Staying Alive 48 Fest documentary was then shown along with a screening of eight other films on HIV/AIDS. Many students expressed enjoyment in the event. Comments included:

"Yeah, I never knew there were so many problems to fighting AIDS – this was definitely an eye opener".

"I think this was a good educational presentation to open the eyes of everyone around us."

"This event really opened my eyes to many issues regarding AIDS that I had not even considered. Many people would probably not have even thought about how AIDS can affect someone physically and socially. The low prevalence of AIDS and the accessibility of healthcare in first world nations blinds people of the true dangers of AIDS. I felt that MTV 48 fest was organized and executed very well and more events on AIDS should be held to raise awareness of such a devastating disease."



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Workshop

Location: Auditorium of the 519 Community Centre, 519 Church Street

B'Care Canada did a workshop in collaboration with the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention and ASAAP, Canada. Participants included 519 community members, as well as members of People with AIDS Foundation, AIDS Committee Toronto, ASAAP, 519 Community Centre, and other organizations. At the workshop, "international peace tiles" made by Indian HIV positive network NHP+ productions were exhibited. One hundred tiles were exhibited during the event and a few tiles are still on exhibition at the ASAAP, Canada office.

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Awareness Campaign

Location: University of Ottawa, Canada

Members of Students Against Global AIDS at the University of Ottawa in collaboration with other campus organizations, including Be AIDS Aware and the Children's AIDS Health Organization, held a small networking session to discuss the social, economic, and medical determinants of HIV/AIDS. Speeches were given by Marco Gomes, the North American Regional Focal Point Coordinator for the Global Youth Coalition for HIV/AIDS and Shamin Mohamed Jr., founder of the Children's AIDS Health Organization. Evening prayers were given to honor those that have died from AIDS and a film screening was held for the movie "Transit," which depicts the various modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS.



Approximately 40 students participated in the session. Although few in numbers, the students participated actively in the discussion and were knowledgeable and incredibly dedicated to doing what they could to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. A significant focus was placed on Canada's role in responding to the epidemic, distributing condoms, ribbons, and signing a petition that calls for Canada to take four decisive steps to increase its role in delivering aid for the response.

Kristin Pristupa

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Awareness and Education Campaign

Location: University of Toronto St. George, University of Toronto Scarborough, York University, University of Guelph, McGill University, London School of Economics



Dignitas Youth chapters across Canada and in the UK held various events to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS issues, such as access to healthcare and medication, as well as promote education, advocacy, and youth involvement. Events included speeches, HIV/AIDS information booths, class presentations, silent protests, slideshows of past events held by DY, candlelit vigils, as well as entertainment, including a capella groups. Through the many fundraising and awareness activities,

Dignitas Youth chapters raised over \$2,000.00 and helped to educate and raise HIV/AIDS awareness on their campuses.

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

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HIV/AIDS Conference
Location: Kinshasa



GYCA, in collaboration with Religious for Peace Youth Network, UN Volunteer and the Network of Congolese Associations of Young people against the HIV/AIDS as well as the Committee of the Students of the University held an HIV/AIDS conference for the students of the Protestant University. More than 150 participants took part in this conference. Speakers included Mr. Issa, the National Coordinator of RACOF, and Joel Vengo, GYCA Regional Focal Point for Central Africa. Mr. Issa spoke about

youth, sexuality, and HIV/AIDS, emphasizing the importance of condom use in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and eagerly joined in the discussion. Condoms were distributed at the end of the speech.

Joel discussed the successes of the International AIDS Conference in Toronto and encouraged participants to become political advocates on HIV/AIDS issues.

EGYPT

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HIV/AIDS Discussion and Presentation
Location: Egypt



Members of the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS along with members of other groups, including Scouts, Y-PEER, and GYP, held a discussion session and presentation on HIV/AIDS



issues. The information session lasted two hours and enabled participants to learn more about many important issues, including modes of disease transmission and condom use. Five of the participants did not know what a condom is and believed that HIV is transmitted through kissing. Some participants thought Egypt to be free of AIDS. These misconceptions were corrected and a presentation was given on recommendations to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS.

As a part of the "World AIDS Day - 2006" celebrations in Egypt, a three-day Youth Camp was held in Isma'eleya in a place called the "Olympic Village". What makes this Youth Camp such a remarkable event is that it was a youth-to-youth event; where the National AIDS Program used the help of five youth-led organizations/networks in Egypt to organize and coordinate that event.



The event, December 3-7, was attended by about 300 young people from different governorates all over Egypt. It was supported by UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and Population, and USAID programs.

The Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA) was one of the main organizers of the event. The GYCA team was formed of six members (3 males and 3 females) from three different governorates in Egypt. During this camp GYCA's team had great accomplishments that include: Raising awareness of about 50 young people about HIV/AIDS and discussing their fears and questions, Coming up with recommendations from the young people attending on how to better fight HIV/AIDS and support HIV+ young people and presented those recommendations at the closure ceremony where representatives from the UN agencies, religious leaders and other decision makers were attending.

KENYA

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"Stop Stigmatizing & Discriminating Youths Living With HIV/AIDS for Better Peer Education"

Location : Nairobi, Kenya

As part of the national theme for World AIDS Day, "STOP AIDS, KEEP THE PROMISE," the Kenya Red Cross organization and a local CBO held a three-kilometer procession followed by a meeting at a local center. Entertainment was provided, and individuals from various



organizations gave presentations. Josephine participated, speaking about the stigmatization and discrimination of youth living with HIV/AIDS and promoting HIV/AIDS intervention for youth through better peer education. The National AIDS Coalition Council Office assisted by providing fliers, paper caps, and a t-shirt that she wore during the presentation.

During gatherings throughout the country, many people lamented that a stronger emphasis should be placed on HIV/AIDS interventions for youth because most infections occur between the ages of 15 and 35 years. On the positive side, due to better availability of free ARVs, the number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS each day has decreased from 700 to 350. The infection rate is also down as compared with last year.

MACEDONIA, REPUBLIC OF

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Location: Skopje (capital), Strumica, Sveti Nikole, Veles, Resen, Ohrid and Struga, and their rural surroundings



Events were organized by young people in MIA-Association for Health Promotion and Health Education to promote cooperation between young people and local governments and businesses on HIV/AIDS issues. Events included:

HIV/AIDS Information Desks

Location: High Schools around the country

Information desks were open in high-schools around the country, offering free materials on AIDS-related topics and providing information on how to get involved in activities to educate individuals and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Mall Campaign

Location: Skopje shopping mall

Stores throughout the mall were displaying posters with slogans to "Stop AIDS." Young volunteers patrolled the shopping center, handing out information and prevention materials, as well as red ribbons. The mall radio station supported the campaign, playing AIDS messages and calling on more people to join the event.



Media coverage

Location: National



All WAD activities were announced on TV early in the morning and were later covered by the local and national TV and radio stations. In addition, a short video clip and a song for AIDS written by young people were broadcasted.

In addition, faith-based organizations gave their support by organizing morning prayers for people who died from AIDS.

NEPAL

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Seminar on HIV/AIDS and Present Situation
Location: Bangladesh

The seminar was set up by Mr. Ghanashyam Sharma, President of Health, Environment and Agriculture Development Program (HEADP-Nepal) and a student of MPH programme of Northern University Bangladesh (NUB). Speakers included political heads, such as Patricia A. Butenis, US Ambassador to Bangladesh, and Abu Bakar Siddique, Acting Vice Chancellor and Treasurer of the NUB; program directors from major international organizations, including Family Health International, Save the Children, USAID; as well as doctors and other medical professionals.

The keynote speech on the present situation of HIV/AIDS in South East Asia was given by Ghanashyam Sharma. In the speech, she called for creating social awareness for preventing the disease in the rural Bangladesh. Other speakers stressed the need to effectively combat HIV/AIDS throughout the world and proposed extending Medicare facilities in the country to promote better health and better fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The speeches were followed by a film on HIV/AIDS. There were over 200 participants in attendance, most of whom were young adolescents, and some of whom were from rural communities and did not know the basic information about the HIV/AIDS.



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World AIDS Day Celebration

Location: Kathmandu



The Association of Student of Social Work (ASSW) in collaboration with the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Nepal (NAP+N) held a celebration in Kathmandu in honor of World AIDS Day. Over 1500 students and other invitees participated in lighting *diyos* (typical traditional light made from clay and organic oil) and painting a red ribbon on the city's main road. At the close of the celebration, there was a moment of silence to remember those who have died from AIDS, which ended with six gongs from the city's main clock tower.

NIGERIA

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Lecture: The Health Care Worker and Care for People Living With HIV/AIDS

Location : Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Umuna, Orlu

Mr Emeka Onukogu, Program Director of Matilda Onyejinwa Foundation, lectured student nurses on the importance of taking proper care of patients living with HIV/AIDS. In his words, "a patient's retroviral status must not deter you from performing your duties". Many student nurses attended.

AIDS Sensitization Campaign

Location : St. Joseph's Secondary School, Umuna, Orlu

Students were given the opportunity to improve their awareness of HIV/AIDS and were challenged to inform their peers about the reality of the disease by becoming peer educators. Twenty students showed interest in being trained.



Statewide Rally

Location : Family Support Complex, Owerri

Under the aegis of Civil society on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (CISHAN), members of APON joined the Imo State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA) on a state wide rally to sensitize the citizenry on the reality of HIV/AIDS and the need to avoid all forms of stigmatization against PLWHA.

Lecture: The Journey So Far



Location : Family Support Complex, Owerri

Mr Benjamin Mbakwem, Program Director of Community & Youth Development Initiative lectured members of various civil society organizations on SACA Imo state efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Many civil society organizations participated and posters and CD-ROMs were shared by coordinators of partner organizations.



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School Visit

Location: Iju Ishaga Community



Over two hundred students from three secondary schools were in attendance in the school hall of Smartland School. Activities included songs and a lively drama presentation given by Students of Smartland School. Program Officer Ola Alatishe also facilitated a question and answer session on issues relating to HIV/AIDS, including sexuality, reproductive health, and drug abuse.



Azubike Nwokoye
Task Force Member, GYCA
Nigeria

March to National Assembly
Location: Eagle Square, Abuja



The National Youth Network on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NYNeTHA) celebrated World AIDS Day by joining the Constituency Coordinating Entity for youth-led/focused organization working on HIV/AIDS in Nigeria in a march to the National Assembly in Abuja. With the broad message: STOP STIGMA!! STOP AIDS, the march was intended to sensitize the leadership and members of the National Assembly on stigma and discrimination of PLWHA.

The procession was received by a representative of the Office of the Clerk at the National Assembly, where speeches were given on the negative implications of stigma and discrimination on the national response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The National Assembly was asked to give their support in ensuring that an act prohibiting these actions is put in place by the end of the current administration in May 2007. A banner reading, "Young People Demand Universal Access to HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care & support. Leaders, We Demand Accountability. Keep the Promise. Stop AIDS," was then hung in the National Assembly complex.

The procession continued the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), where it was received by the Secretary of Health, FCT, who represented the Honorable Minister of FCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai.



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Youth Discussions

Location: Owerri Imo State



Eighty-three young people from 27 Local Government Areas, including educational and vocational institutions, social and religious youth groups, deliberated on how to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Many supported the proposition for mandatory involvement of young people in state leadership and governance, as well as holding a state-wide youth forum on HIV/AIDS to promote the development of a Youth HIV/AIDS Strategic Framework for 2007 - 2010.

In honor of the theme of this year's World AIDS Day, "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise," SAYHI Nigeria also documented the commitments of various leaders and advocates. One teacher stated,

"I commit to ensuring that students in my school dedicate time to sexuality education and HIV peer education, especially during the moral instructions periods. I will devote more of my time to counselling these students on issues around sex, HIV, reproductive health and family life so as to protect their future" - Ugoeze Chika Okonkwo (Guardian Counsellor/Teacher, Egbu Girls Secondary School, Owerri)

Others committed to donating money to support the campaign to prevent the spread of AIDS, while others pledged to fully support young people in their efforts to implement HIV/AIDS-related projects.

PAKISTAN

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Community Forum

Location: Al Hamra Hall III, The Mall, Lahore



The AIDS Prevention Association of Pakistan, in collaboration with Action Aid Pakistan, Pakistan National AIDS Consortium, Punjab AIDS Consortium, and Punjab AIDS Control Program, held a community forum in honor of World AIDS Day. Four-hundred community members, including youth, medical students, and people living with HIV/AIDS, joined to hear

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speeches on the current issues surrounding HIV/AIDS and efforts being done to improve the situation.

Speakers included Bryan D. Hunt, Principal Officer Consulate of the United States of America in AIDS Prevention Association of Lahore; Sabha Sadiq, Advisor of Chief Minister of Punjab; Saeed A Mirza, Provincial Manager Punjab AIDS Consortium; Zulfiqar Abbas, Field Officer NATPOW Lahore; M. Imran Shahdi, Field Supervisor of AIDS Prevention Association of Pakistan; Dr. Kulsoom Akhtar, Education Secretary of AIDS Prevention Association of Pakistan; Saeed A Mirza, Provincial Manager Punjab AIDS Consortium; and Shadman Aziz, Program Officer, PAC. Refreshments were provided and participants were asked to sign a banner for HIV/AIDS. In total 24,000 signed the banner.

RWANDA

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Local Gathering

Location: Butare, Rwanda



Focusing on the goal of creating sustainable improvement in living conditions of vulnerable communities at the village level, members of the Rwanda Village Concept Project celebrated World AIDS Day by organizing a series of activities to teach youth living in rural areas more about HIV/AIDS. Among the activities were movies screenings, sports competitions, an HIV/AIDS quiz, and capacity building sessions that focused on the HIV/AIDS situation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Games were also played to help participants understand more about HIV infection.

Being that a large number of the participants were non-schooled, unemployed youth, they do not have the means to access current information and statistics on HIV/AIDS. Many, however, agreed to relay the information they learned to other family and community members.



TOGO

Yawo Abotsi

Kudzo Tameklo

The School Festival of Football Against HIV/AIDS

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Location: Kuma

To commemorate the theme of this year's World AIDS Day, a two-week festival was held, during which approximately 20,000 people from five villages in Kuma participated in poetry, design, and poster contests. Information on HIV/AIDS, which is not otherwise available due to lack of information technology, was provided and discussion sessions were held on AIDS-related topics. At the end of the festival, there was a march to the college of Kuma Adamé, where speeches were given and suggestions were made to local government officials on how to prevent the

spread of HIV/AIDS. The festival concluded with a football contest and award ceremony for the winners of the various contests held throughout the festival.

Overall, the festival was a success. It helped to inform and mobilize individuals, including various notable chiefs, representatives of the primary and secondary schools of Large Kloto, parents and students in these communities to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. As one wise man stated, "AIDS should not decimate our population, we must all mobilize..."



VENEZUELA

Jhon Esteban

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Location: Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela



GYCA's National Focal Point for Venezuela, Jhon Esteban, organized a local meeting with 90 young activists from Tachira state which is one of the most affected by HIV/AIDS in that country. The meeting was held in the Universidad Bolivariana de Venezuela where some local



organizations have open doors for work related to youth.

Besides HIV/AIDS, the participants also discussed human rights and peace culture; they identified a need for building advocacy skills in order to participate within the new structures of the government of President Hugo Chavez. After the meeting many of the participants joined specific campaigns for youth which are developed in night clubs and neighborhoods with a high concentration of young people most at risk.

