

about Artist

Elizabeth Xavier was born on the 24th August 1978. She has always had the natural talent to reproduce whatever captures her interest.

Her artistic flair began to develop at Providence Girls Catholic School where she was awarded annually for art via the honour roll, and also received a Grade 1 at the CXC examination level. Soon after she was accepted into St. Joseph's Convent Port-of-Spain where she discovered her passion for painting. It was here that both teacher Ms Sheila Edwards and former local Artist Patrick Warsing Chu Foon, recognized her talent, offered inspiration and encouraged her to pursue her gift.

At age 18, Elizabeth contributed to a mural of St. Francis of Assisi designed and painted by Pat Chu Foon.

Elizabeth then completed a fundamental art program and did one year of illustration at the Sheridan Art College, Oakville, Canada. Since then Elizabeth continues to read books on artists and art forms and she believes that creativity like nature, continues to grow and evolve. Elizabeth has been particularly drawn to the works of local artists, Cazabon, Larry

Mosca and Leroy Clarke. She has developed her own stylized realism, which is easily distinguished by her detailed use of vibrant colours.

Although her favourite medium is acrylic on canvas she also enjoys working with her hands and has experimented with charcoal, sculpture, batik, and ceramics.

Elizabeth's paintings are focused on the beauty of Mother Nature and the simpler ways of life in T&T. She is also drawn to different forms of water, which presents itself as a recurring theme in many of her works.

Inspired by the natural beauty of creation Elizabeth believes that humanity could learn a great deal from nature and hopes that through her paintings she can bring forth a deeper awareness and appreciation for the Supreme Artist. She is humbly grateful to be blessed with a talent that allows her to create a representation of his greatest works.

She is currently painting various pieces for her first show later in the year.

about Cover



Beauty Revealed

by Elizabeth Xavier Acrylic on Canvas 2005

The lotus lily... passion and committment in nature.

In contrast to other water lilies whose leaves generally float on the surface of the water, the leaves of the lotus lily are usually held above. Stems arise from the mirky depths of the swamp, growing to lengths of over 1.5 m long, breaking the surface and upholding its bold large leaves towards the sun.

The lotus is committed to surviving and providing much needed food and protection to certain insects. When the rain comes the rising water levels of the swamp causes the leaves to become submerged. They die, but are restored, nourished by their underground food reserves. With the on-set of the dry season, this plant forms new leaves and flowering begins with all the passion it can muster... revealing its beauty both for its own survival, and for the survival of the insect communities that depend on it.



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OUR VISION

We are a rights-based, dynamic, volunteer organization which is the leading innovator of SRH services in the region driven by passionate, service oriented professionals.

OUR MISSION

To advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, through advocacy and the provision of quality services to men, women and young people in Trinidad and Tobago.

THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION WESTERN HEMISPHERE REGION

"Inspired by human rights global treaties, we have made great strides in family planning in this part of the world."

DR CARMEN BARROSO



To step into the arena of human sexuality with the intentions of creating acceptance and change is to take on the challenge of bringing together extremes. Yet, this is the daily goal that members of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) strive to achieve. Inspired by human rights global treaties, we have made great strides in family planning in this part of the world. An even more daunting battle continues with regard to gaining acceptance for: a woman's right to choose to become a mother or not once she finds herself pregnant, mankind's right to express sexuality in its diverse forms, and an adolescent's right to be a sexual being and to be supported in his/her choices.

Against tremendous odds, its affiliates steadfastly reaffirm the IPPF/Western Hemisphere Region's vision regarding the fundamental right of every woman, man and young person to live in a world where "sexuality is recognized as a natural and precious aspect of life; a world in which choices are fully respected and where stigma and discrimination have no place." This is the challenge that IPPF/WHR's affiliate, Family Planning Association Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT), has embraced with passion and commitment for the fifty-one years of its existence.

In a context where young women are forced to quit school and compromise their futures because of a chance pregnancy, where births to adolescents account for 20% of all births in Trinidad and Tobago, and where persons are considered and treated as second class citizens

simply because they experience their sexuality differently from the majority, FPATT represents a crucial point of convergence. With education and open exchange, new understandings can be reached and fresh perspectives formed, allowing for the creation of true community. In large measure, polarities and intolerance exist simply in the absence of ongoing dialogue and deeper reflection that can open a pathway to a larger truth and wider acceptance. FPATT exists to help bridge the gap between our current reality and a brighter future.

In 2007, FPATT began to bridge that gap in rural communities, both in terms of dialogue and services. This was made possible through the government's recognition of the value of FPATT's work and its award of a significant grant for work in rural communities. Today, FPATT is able to ensure that through its roving youth tents, its army of youth and adult volunteers, and its well equipped staff - all of whom work well beyond the call of duty - people everywhere, rural and urban, are able to have access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and perspectives that help build healthier and more enlightened communities. Already, less than one year into this initiative, FPATT has significantly increased access to SRH services to underserved persons across the country. In 2007, FPATT provided thirteen times more contraceptives than it did in the previous year.

This expansion program is a reflection of FPATT's vision and unfailing efforts over the years to ensure that sexual and reproductive

health remain a central theme in any national discourse on development. As the government engages in formulating a National Health Sector Reform Program, FPATT continues to demonstrate its leadership and commitment to community building, by advocating for SRH to take its rightful place in that process.

In addition, the courage that has always been the mark of FPATT's entry into uncharted territory will lead it again onto new ground this year as it embarks on a project to ensure that the sexual and reproductive rights of sex workers in Trinidad and Tobago are not compromised.

The work that FPATT and IPPF affiliates worldwide embark on may not always be popular, but it lies at the core of respect for human dignity. It may not always be readily embraced by all, but it represents a watershed, a place of convergence where the possibility exists for growth and greater understanding of what it is to be human, what it is to be a community. IPPF/WHR would like to commend FPATT for taking on this monumental task of societal evolution, as the organization reflects here on having completed yet another year of contribution to the development of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Carmen Barroso Regional Director, IPPF/WHR

"Our society, however, needs to nurture individuals and organizations that embody the concepts of equity, empowerment and social justice."

Since its inception, the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) has established itself as the nation's leading advocacy and implementation agency for sexual and reproductive health issues. FPATT's initiatives have touched the lives of many, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but also the wider Caribbean Region.

The Ministry of Social Development is pleased to have such a willing partner in the development and delivery of sexual and reproductive health services and programmes. Vision 2020 challenges each citizen to transform Trinidad and Tobago into a 'Caring Society', and clearly indicates the Government's commitment to ensure the overall well-being of the public.

Improved sexual and reproductive health can only be ensured through access to accurate, accessible, age-appropriate information and education, coupled with the easily accessible health services. This entire process includes assessing the nation's needs, developing medium and long-term programming, strengthening the capacity of service deliverers, and monitoring and evaluating the quality and effectiveness of relevant programmes.

The Government continues to work diligently to ensure that the public receives the information necessary in schools, via the media, and by direct communication to communities. It has long since been recognised that though policies play an important part in this process, the human element is integral to its success.

This is evident in the form of trained, competent and passionate members of Government officials, Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and social activists.

In this vein, the Ministry continues to partner with FPATT to design and deliver services that are friendly to all age groups and both genders, with confidential and non-judgemental delivery. I acknowledge and salute the success of FPATT in delivering sexual and reproductive health services to rural and underserved communities. The countless hours your staff and volunteers commit to help ensure that citizens can live healthy, fulfilled lives do not go unnoticed.

Our society, however, needs to nurture individuals and organizations that embody the concepts of equity, empowerment and social justice. To this end, the Ministry of Social Development is committed to building even more meaningful partnerships through inter-sectoral collaborations within the Government, and encouraging the participation of the private sector, regional and international communities, and critically, NGOs such as FPATT.

In my capacity as Minister of Social Development, I wish to thank the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago for your exemplary service to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and I look forward to the positive outcomes that shall continue to accrue from your programmes and advocacy.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DR THE HONOURABLE AMERY BROWNE

May God continue to bless our beloved Nation.

Dr The Honourbale Amery Browne Minister of Social Development



GERRY BROOKS



2006 was hailed as a time of victory and change for the organization, and it is indisputable that 2007 was bred of the same spirit, its intensity channelling through the Association's most significant assets: its human resources. Pioneering Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for over fifty years, FPATT excelled in 2007 in all of its key areas, better known as the five A's: Access, Advocacy, Adolescents, HIV/AIDS, and Abortion.

In August 2007 the FPATT team of Board and Staff crafted a new corporate strategic direction for 2008 – 2010, which has as its overarching goal to position the organization for increased sustainable development. This plan of action necessitated the revamping of the Association's vision and mission, which will ensure that we focus both our resources and our efforts on operating at the highest level of productivity while charting our future course.

We are a rights-based, dynamic, volunteer organization which is the leading innovator of sexual and reproductive health services in the region, driven by passionate, service oriented professionals. This vision speaks to the core of people, volunteers, service providers, the staff who carry on FPATT's work, and the clients whom we serve. It focuses on defining who FPATT is and our purpose. FPATT will continue to focus its energies on the people who drive its programmes and the people who are the recipients of its services.

It is possible to judge the progress and the principles of any institution by the people

they choose to serve. Marginalized groups and underserved communities are of utmost importance to our organization. As a service provider working towards a nation where women and men are able to exercise their right to take full control of their sexual and reproductive health, a considerable constituent of our efforts is the pursuit of universal access to the highest quality information and health services for the national population. Latin America and the Caribbean are often identified as regions with the highest global social inequality. Many rural and poor citizens lack access to the most basic needs, particularly sexual and reproductive health services. FPATT's ground breaking achievements in the Outreach Programme, with the doubling of the number of new communities served, the introduction of De Rovin Living Room to reach young people where they are, the introduction of new initiatives to offer access to vulnerable populations, will help to improve community sexual and reproductive health well being.

One of our newest initiatives is the Sexual Health Integrated Programme (SHIP) for sex workers. The introduction of this project also attests to FPATT's genuine commitment to ensuring that all our citizens, particularly the poor, marginalized, the socially excluded and underserved are able to exercise their rights, to make free and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health, and have access to sexual and reproductive health information, sexuality education and high quality services including family planning. Fundamental groundwork is underway through research and focus groups with members of the sex work community.

According to a CAREC surveillance report conducted in 2003, half a million people in the Caribbean are HIV positive, and the region has the second-highest prevalence after sub-Saharan Africa. Local Health Minister Senator Jerry Narace recently shared some alarming developments: 45% of new HIV infections occur in females, 70% of whom are under the age of 24. In 2007 alone there was an average of 4 new infections each day.

This situation serves to underscore the need for all adolescents and young people to be aware of their sexual and reproductive rights and to be empowered to make informed choices and decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health. They must be able to act on them, free from fear of stigma and discrimination. In 2007, officials at a Caribbean Summit on HIV/AIDS in the US Virgin Islands identified the widespread lack of HIV/AIDS awareness and education in the region, as the core factor hampering the efforts to reduce the spread of HIV in the Caribbean. The importance of supportive SRHR communication between parents and children is becoming more apparent; adults themselves need to be better informed on the dangers facing our youth, and as a society we need to realise that what we do not know can in fact hurt us. FPATT remains committed to supporting the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of adolescents and young people, by increasing access to a broad range of youth friendly services including comprehensive, youth friendly, gender-sensitive sexuality education, by working in partnership with youth organizations, other like-minded civil society organizations, the

private sector, and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Today we are also witnessing the re-emergence of the traditional sexually transmitted infections (STIs). According to our parent body, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), 'the urgency of the HIV/AIDS epidemic resulted in a gap in the response to other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Chlamydia, syphilis, and other STIs remain prevalent in Latin America and the Caribbean, causing dangerous health effects ranging from infertility to premature births.' Like our parent Association we recognize the need to increase access to interventions for the prevention of STIs through testing and treatment services. In this regard we are strengthening our partnership with the Queens Park Counselling Centre so that we are better able to integrate STI management in wider sexual and reproductive health services through the establishment of a fully functional referral network.

Globally each year, an estimated 19 million women and girls who are faced with unintended pregnancy risk the danger of unsafe abortion. FPATT joins the many other organizations locally, regionally and internationally that continue to struggle for the universal recognition of a woman's right to choose and have access to safe abortion, and a reduction in the incidence of unsafe abortion. Nearly 70,000 of these women and girls do not survive. On the 22nd of October 2007, our President Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe and Executive Director, Dona Da Costa Martinez were among more than 700 public health experts, government representatives and women's

advocates from 52 countries who participated in the inaugural Marie Stopes International Global Safe Abortion Conference. This was the first of its kind that was specifically devoted to the subject of unsafe abortion. This conference focused on improving and saving women's lives by creating an impetus for international efforts geared towards reducing the incidence and the ill-effects of unsafe abortion.

Limited access to safe services for women, who wish to terminate their pregnancy, is not only a global problem. Here in our own country there are thousands of women and girls who experience serious, sometimes fatal, health complications that arise from unsafe abortion procedures. We will continue in our quest to raise awareness among the general public, policy makers and key professional bodies on the public health and social justice impact of unsafe abortion and also to document and disseminate information about the legal status of abortion in Trinidad and Tobago. Of unquestionable significance to this objective was the development of a Draft Legal Opinion of the current abortion law in Trinidad and Tobago by prominent constitutional lawyer, Douglas Mendes. This realistic, moderate and simple interpretation of the abortion law in Trinidad and Tobago looks at some of the successful challenges made to this law, which was inherited from the United Kingdom by many Commonwealth countries. It looks at the judgments and developments, which have informed its application and could reasonably be used locally to provide access to lawful terminations under specific circumstances. I look forward to sharing this document with you in 2008.

It is clear to me that our passion and our commitment is motivated by our genuine interest as an organization in meeting the needs of our clients, in widening our client base to include all underserved communities, and in focusing efforts on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights awareness in our nation. We are a social warrior, protector and guide.

To accomplish all of this however requires the adoption of a strategic approach to advocacy that is fundamentally dependent on the support, political insight and the passion of our Board of Directors supported by a very experienced staff. Their role transcends their advisory capacity to include the promotion of our agenda within the political decision-making process, not excluding policy development and budget commitments.

FPATT is very fortunate to have the caliber of volunteers who freely contribute their time and skills to saving lives and building communities. It is the skills, experience and energy of our volunteers that help us to open doors that would otherwise remain closed and attract new supporters to the Association using their social influence and personal networks. We recognize that to be an effective advocate requires specific training. In December 2007 FPATT co-hosted a regional workshop with International Planned Parenthood Federation Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/ WHR) entitled Board Development Workshop: The Role of Boards of Directors with a focus on Advocacy. This workshop discussed the core areas of Board responsibility, including the mission and purpose, effective planning, and the importance of supporting the Executive

Director. Regional participants included Board representatives and Executive Directors from the Family Planning Associations in Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St Lucia and Suriname. A case study of FPATT's advocacy efforts formed the basis of this workshop and provided a framework for the programme's proceedings.

Another group of irreplaceable advocates is FPATT's spirited volunteers that comprise the Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM). They have truly gone the extra mile in 2007, hosting thirteen outreach events, designing a youth-oriented newsletter, and collaborating on an advocacy campaign. As per an IPPF recommendation, a youth representative was elected to the Board. FPATT is convinced that youth participation is crucial to the success of any undertaking with their interest at heart. Recognizing that we are unable to effectively or appropriately engage young people without their own input, FPATT has institutionalized youth involvement in many ways: as equal partners at the highest level of governance and policy making, as programme implementers, as researchers and as advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights. By so doing, our Association can make more informed decisions about the needs of young people thereby increasing the credibility of the Association's work with youth.

Young people exude initiative, imagination, vigor, and an original outlook to the Association's work. Their most important role in advocacy is directly tied to their role as peer educators as they are the most effectual teachers, communicating with youth in their own language and in their

own spaces. Over fifty years have passed since FPATT's inception; when the introduction of contraceptives was attacked and viewed as taboo by our social public and religious bodies. Over fifty years have passed and our youth still face barriers to the access of contraceptives, either through a lack of accurate information, societal pressure, or physical accessibility.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to commend FPATT on its Gala Dinner celebrations in May. This spectacular event celebrated FPATT as the leader in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for over fifty years. It was a time to give thanks to our Staff and Board, our supporters and our funders, and to reflect with pride on our countless achievements to date.

2008 will chart another new beginning for FPATT. There will be restructuring of the Association that will help us to maintain the volume and consistently high standard of work that we accomplish while pursuing our vision. We will focus our attention on the development of new products and services, increase access to appropriate high quality sexual and reproductive health services to marginalized and under-served groups, increase access to voluntary counselling and testing for HIV, and advance our youth driven programmes. At the Board level we commit to advancing IPPF's advocacy goal of strong public, political and financial obligation to, and support for, sexual and reproductive health and rights at the national level. We can only achieve this by continuing to work with our existing partners: government, key policy makers, other non government organizations, donor agencies, and

the private sector, to demonstrate that sexual and reproductive health and rights are vital to poverty alleviation and national development and by advocating for greater allocation of resources towards this end.

I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Board members for their continued strength and vision. To our Executive Director, Dona Da Costa Martinez who continues to serve selflessly and with distinction, to our staff and volunteers whose indomitable spirit contributes to the realization of our goals and make our vision a reality. I hail all of you as the true champions of what we believe in. On behalf of the Board I would like to commend the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and its Population Programme for their unstinting support, without which our goals will not be realizable. Specific mention must be given to the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs for partnering with us. To our International and Regional supporters: IPPF, PAHO/WHO, CAREC, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP we say a very special thank you for the confidence you have placed in us and for your continued support of our work. To our local trustees - Emile Elias and Company, Republic Bank Limited, the Haji GoKool Memorial Trust, and the JB Fernandes Trust - accept our deepest and sincere appreciation. To our sister organization, the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA), we thank you for treating with us as an equal partner and for helping us to transform our plans into reality. To our parent body, IPPF, IPPF/WHR, there are no words to

explain the invaluable support that you provide to us through financial and technical assistance. We continue to pledge our support to the achievement of our global vision of 'a world in which all women, men and young people have access to the information and services they need; a world in which sexuality is recognized both as a natural and precious aspect of life and as a fundamental human right; a world in which choices are fully respected and where stigma and discrimination have no place'.

Let us all face 2008 with rejuvenated minds and hearts, ready and equipped to face new challenges with the spirit to break new ground and contribute even further to the sexual and reproductive health and rights of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

> Gerry Brooks Chairman, FPATT

"We continued to strengthen communities and community involvement throughout our nation this past year, mapping the profiles of communities in order to determine where the need was greatest for sexual and reproductive health services..."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DONA DA COSTA MARTINEZ

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellowmen; and along those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects." - Herman Melville

2007 was an extraordinary year. As a pro-choice, rights based institution, FPATT continued its journey that champions a progressive vision, where all citizens can access sexual and reproductive health services, with optimum quality of care standards and the informed knowledge they will need to safeguard and maintain their Sexual and Reproductive Health. Our Association flourished in all its programmatic areas and excelled in the areas of access to the marginalized and underserved, in the expansion of service and information provision, supported by its advocacy efforts and buoyed by its spirit of volunteerism. The sheer passion and commitment of our human resources; our Board of Directors, our Staff, our Volunteers and our Clients, continue to attest the ways in which the Association is determined to go beyond the call of duty, to ensure that women, men and young people are free to choose parenthood or not; free to decide how many children they will have and when; free to pursue healthy sexual lives without fear of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. We continued to knock down barriers to equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights access, by implementing sensitization training for volunteers and staff, and by strategically channelling our resources into programmes that serve those most affected by these barriers.

Through the Port of Spain adult clinic, the San Fernando Clinic, the Tobago Clinic, De Living Room (Port of Spain Youth Clinic) and its Outreach programme, FPATT provided 61,983 contraceptive items to its clients during 2007; an increase of almost 300% over 2006. Four hundred and twenty-five pregnancy tests were done; 1,696 HIV/AIDS related services were provided; 29,764 gynaecological services including pap smears, breast exams and counselling were delivered; and 891 urological services were provided. How did we achieve all of this?

We continued to strengthen communities and community involvement throughout our nation this past year, mapping the profiles of communities in order to determine where the need was greatest for sexual and reproductive health services, and in so doing we were able to double the number of new communities served by our Outreach Programme to include 19 new districts from Boodoo Trace to Toco. Members of staff willingly donated their time on one of four Saturdays to facilitate special training sessions led by our spirited Community Outreach Coordinator, Lara Smith, for our unmatched foot soldiers, the Community Based Health Workers.

When you volunteer as a CBHW it means you unconditionally give of yourself. While her neighbours sleep, Roslyn Indarsingh organizes material on sexual and reproductive health. The next morning she meets Kaysee Boodoo to distribute brochures on HIV testing, and contraceptives. The sun is hot in Barrackpore, until a door opens and a lady offers them shade on her porch. They gracefully answer her nervous

questions, reassuring her about confidentiality, and they explain the Pap smear's importance in detecting cervical cancer. When the Mobile Clinic visits Talparo for the first time, Suzie Mohammed and Ann Marie Paul Reyes are excited. Walking door to door has paid off as they see neighbours and other residents crossing the street towards them. As newly trained Community Based Health Workers (CBHWs), Suzie and Ann Marie are already contributing to a better quality of life in their communities. It takes a village to raise a child and it takes passion and commitment to build a community.

It is indisputable that our youth is also an underserved community. Young people are still denied ready access to SRH information and education through their formal social networks: the family, school and home. 2007 saw the deepening of ties with our youth, by engaging them in discussions on their specific SRH needs, and encouraging and nurturing their leadership potential by widening the scope of their decisionmaking and involvement in planning and project design. In keeping with our promise to promote the involvement of young people in policy and decision making, the Association welcomed Marc Clarke, YAM representative to the Board of Directors.

De Rovin Living Room, a new collaboration between the Youth Advocacy Movement and Outreach Programme, physically reaches out to young people in their spaces, communicating in a language that is meaningful to them, yet providing them with accurate information. Sabrina Yatali and Rachael Harry are deliberating on a new



skit. As members of FPATT's Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM) they understand the importance of educating their peers about responsible sexual behaviour. Meanwhile, at De Rovin Living Room in Arima, April offers a condom to a shy but curious young man and asks him to show her the correct way to open the packet. All the while Cy Goodridge is walking further down the street, giveaways in hand, encouraging young people to visit the health booth a short distance away.

Some of these initiatives took the form of collaborative partnering with other like-minded organizations, such as PSI Caribbean, Condom Crew, and the YMCA. In 2007 De Rovin Living Room reached out to youth in Trincity, Arima, San Fernando, Toco and Cumana. Acknowledging that the population most affected by HIV/AIDS in the country are youth below the age of 24, De Rovin Living Room plans to integrates HIV/VCT testing in its portfolio of services, in addition to providing safer sex education sessions on site.

FPATT has significantly developed its endeavours to reduce the spread of HIV in response to this global and regional problem. The Association will expand its Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) services beyond the Port of Spain Clinic to include De Living Room, San Fernando Clinic and the Outreach Programme. Major infrastructural alterations have already been completed for the integration of the VCT programme in the static clinics. In commemoration of World AIDS Day FPATT collaborated with another NGO Red Initiatives to offer free HIV testing. We also partnered with South Aids Support to provide the same service in San Fernando. Over 500 clients have accessed HIV testing this year with the benefits of comprehensive pre and post-

testing counselling, and from feedback collected from our Client Satisfaction Surveys, clients have overwhelming praise for our exceptional quality of care service and professional standards.

The support of partners such as the Ministry of Health, the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC), the North West Regional Health Authority(NWRHA), UNDP, UNAIDS and CAREC was invaluable in helping us to improve capacity to respond to the sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS integration issues and opportunities.

Another such endeavour is FPATT's adoption of a family-based intervention programme developed by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago and adapted to suit our local context. The programme entitled the Collaborative HIV/ AIDS Management Programme (CHAMP) consists of a set of "family interventions that are developmentally grounded, targeting youth before and during the puberty transition. The interventions include education and skill building activities to strengthen family-level characteristics that relate to sexual risk-taking, such as parental monitoring, discipline effectiveness, conflict resolution, support, and parent/caregiver and youth frequency and comfort in communication about sensitive topics. The interventions also target youth social problem-solving abilities, such as recognition of risk and refusal and assertiveness in handling sexual peer pressure. Preliminary analyses of CHAMP pre-adolescent data suggest that the programme strengthens parental decision-making, increases parent and youth comfort in communication regarding sensitive topics, and increases parental HIV/ AIDS knowledge". (Community Collaborative Youth-Focused HIV/AIDS Prevention in South

Africa and Trinidad: Preliminary Findings, Donna R. Baptiste et al, Journal of Pediatric Psychology Advance Access published February 1, 2006)

This intervention was spearheaded by a Trinidadian, Dr. Donna Baptiste, a former employee of FPATT and who at present is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The Association is extremely grateful to her for leading us in this joint research initiative. The success of this endeavour to date can be measured by the enthusiasm of Anglican Priest Michael Chatfield, an individual committed to the well-being of his parish. Father Chatfield succeeded in implementing the research module with families in his church community. As a trained facilitator, he has been an advocate for the programme's potential to contribute significantly to Family Life Education, and to the reduction of sexual risk-taking amongst youth in the community.

In our pursuit to increase SRHR awareness and effect positive change, we continue to embark on interventions that operate on the ground level, in the field, and within our organization.vf 2007 saw the formation of strategic partnerships with the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA), the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA), government corporations, and 17 village councils. All of this with one aim 'to promote and support the development and implementation of effective and high quality national sexual and reproductive health programmes for all defined groups".

The partnerships that I have highlighted so far are prime examples of how FPATT works. Our Association is elevated on the pillars of team

strength and the ingenuity of collaborative effort both internally and externally.

In September 2007 our Association made a major breakthrough in the advancement of advocacy for women's reproductive rights. Local constitutional lawyer, Douglas Mendes, provided FPATT with a draft copy of his interpretation of the law as it relates to abortion in Trinidad and Tobago, an interpretation that assesses the current legislation on abortion, while dispelling myths about what the law really states about this sensitive issue. This document was commissioned under a multi-country Project to Address Unwanted Pregnancies and Unsafe Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Legal luminaries both regionally and internationally, will contribute attestations to this document, which will be published and launched publicly in 2008. It will also be sent to a number of organizations worldwide for research, education, and advocacy purposes. A layman's version of this document is also being developed and will be made available to government officials, scholars, other NGOs, research developers, and members of the general public.

The development of our volunteers and staff is of utmost priority in an organization whose success is grounded on their diligent work. An interactive communications and media training workshop, 'Making the Media work for you: Communicating support for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights", was facilitated in September, by Catholics For a Free Choice (CFFC). Almost a dozen organizations including the Barbados Family Planning Organization attended the sessions. We invited other local partners such as the Rape Crisis Centre, YMCA and ASPIRE to

participate. As a follow-up to this workshop and to further enhance their communication skills while developing their knowledge base, FPATT hosts monthly interactive sessions for the local participants.

In December FPATT hosted a two-day training workshop that concluded with an Award Ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for all its employees. This workshop succeeded in further heightening the espirit de corps of the Association through interactive team activities, slide presentations, informative videos and skits.

FPATT continued its collaboration with PAHO and CAREC in the development of a Sexual and Reproductive Health Advanced training curriculum for nurses through the University of the West Indies, School of Continuing Studies. This is as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between FPATT and the University of the West Indies, School of Continuing Studies. In preparation for this FPATT requested technical assistance from IPPF/WHR to facilitate a four-day skills training workshop in July for twenty prospective facilitators aimed at strengthening their knowledge and skills in SRH and training methodologies. IPPF/WHR Senior Quality of Care Advisor, Ilka Rondinelli along with Consultant Dr. Luis Bahamondes from UNICAMP-Brazil facilitated this workshop.

2007 however were not without its challenges. Two of these continued to be the limitations of space, particularly in the main Port of Spain Clinic and the difficulty of recruiting nursing staff. The space limitation problem will finally be addressed in 2008 when we move the clinic to the ground floor of the building, following significant renovations.

FPATT attempted to address the challenge of its nursing shortages by holding a recruitment drive in 2007. It had success in attracting persons who were willing to work on a sessional rather than on a permanent basis for the outreach and clinic programs.

All of what I have described is attributed to the dedication and obligation of our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, interested individuals, donors, and our clients. These represent people and organizations whose motivation is non-monetary, but driven by their passion and commitment, dedicating their time, their resources, and their efforts to saving and improving lives. Their only mission is to contribute to the overall well being of our nation.

Some people see things as they are and ask... WHY? At FPATT we will continue to dream of things as they never were and ask.....WHY NOT? To our Board of Directors I say a very special thank you. You continue to exhibit great foresight, wisdom and good governance through your exemplary leadership and your ceaseless advocacy efforts. To all my staff, I stand in awe of you. Your commitment to continue to make a difference for our clients is overwhelming and does not go unnoticed. To all our collaborators, we owe a great debt of gratitude to you and look forward to continued good relations with you. To our donors, it is because of your invaluable support to our work that we are able to save lives and strengthen communities. To the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, we thank you for recognising the important role that we play in national development and for making us an integral partner in that process. To our Parent

Body and our Regional Council IPPF/WHR, we are proud to be part of a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals, in promoting and defending the sexual and reproductive health and rights of every single individual. We thank you sincerely for providing us with the core funding, technical assistance and capacity building opportunities to be able to effectively carry out our mandate. To all our clients and interested individuals, you have all contributed significantly through your belief in what we do, through your commitment to positive change, and through your fervour for making it happen. You continue to prove that human contribution is indispensable; that it is only through the giving to others that we truly live.

Dona Da Costa Martinez Executive Director, FPATT

"We are clear that the type of organization we want to run is financially prudent and able to sustain its activities."

RELNA VIRE



SUSTAINABILITY REVIEW

Support from our Parent Body International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) increased from \$989,864 in 2006 to \$1,044,406 in 2007 and this translated into a 3 % slip from 20% to 17% of our total income. The weakening of the US dollar, the global escalation in food prices and energy costs may impact IPPF's ability to provide the same level of support and we have identified strategies to meet this potential challenge. These strategies include:

- Identification of Euro Donor Funds
- Services and Products Fees revision to ensure we cover costs
- Introduction of new services and products
- Expanded clinic opening hours on week days and on weekends.
- Relocation of our North Clinic to the Ground Floor Charlotte Street to benefit from pedestrian traffic along with expanding the range of products and services.
- Expansion of our Health Link Services to Corporate Trinidad and Tobago.

We are heartened by the increase from \$636,918 to \$799,574 in our Administrative income as well as the marginal increase in our Sales and Services from \$968,215 to \$1,041,652.

While there has been an increase in services and products provided in 2007, notably in our Outreach activities, this has not translated into significantly increased revenues. This is due to the subsidization of products sold by FPATT. We are working towards reducing subsidies gradually where possible and this would assist in improving income flows.

LIQUIDITY PERFORMANCE

FPATT remained in a liquid position enjoying a current asset ratio of 112% which decreased from 133% in 2006. We ended 2007 with 357 days cash in hand to pay our expenses. Even with Stock removed the Association maintains a healthy 10% surplus of available assets to meet our liabilities.

Operating Review

As mentioned before the Association has 357 days of cash to meet our expenses. This is up from 255 days in 2006 due to increases in the receipt of the five million dollar grant from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago along with grants from the Western Hemisphere Region of IPPF (IPPF/WHR) for the expansion of our North Clinic, which were unspent at year end. We ended 2007 with a 70% increase in cash and short term investments to \$6,224,634 over 2006.

Private funding showed a decrease from 22% of total income in 2006 to 14% in 2007. This trend is not expected to continue as FPATT has been able to secure funding from a number of UN Agencies - UNDP, UNAIDS and UNIFEM along with funds from our parent body.

Government funding accounted for 33% of our 2007 income due in part to the partial implementation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health services expansion project, which was funded through the allocation from the Ministry of Social Development.

This grant explains the growth of our balance sheet in 2007, we acquired new vehicles to target underserved communities, established a satellite location in Sangre Grande to serve the East and implemented infrastructural changes at our Clinics in the first phase of this service expansion, which sought to increase FPATT's capacity.

The Balance Sheet grew from \$7,937,365 in assets to \$12,340,852 in assets in 2007. This growth reflects a 139% increase in Deferred Income (funds received for projects which are unspent at the end of the year) from \$3,001,293 in 2006 to \$7,178,774 in 2007 which in turn led to increases in our cash, short term investments and receivables. Our total Current Assets moved from \$5,123,149 in 2006 to \$8,785,142 in 2007 this is an increase of \$3,661,993. The balance sheet growth also reflects an increase in our Fixed Assets from \$2,814,116.75 to \$3,555,710 that represent the acquisition of two vehicles, the establishment of a Hub in Sangre Grande, a computer server and upgrading our computer stock. While these additions will dilute our return on assets in the short term, we expect that with increased customer throughput and resulting efficiencies that these Fixed Assets shall contribute to the financial viability of FPATT.

In 2007 we have observed increased customer throughput.

However as was mentioned earlier this has not translated into increased revenues. We are taking steps to ensure that FPATT recovers all costs and reduces the level of subsidies as far as possible.

OPERATING DEFICIT

We continued to be in a deficit position at the end of 2007. In 2006 there was a deficit of 3.23% of income in 2007 at \$288,327 this represents 4.74% of income.

FPATT like other organizations contended with price spikes during 2007. Printing costs moved up by 13% to \$168,686 and the costs to maintain our fleet of vehicles increased by 17% moving from \$90,037 to \$105, 415, our principal Outreach vehicle, the 50 ft Mobile Clinic, is now 5 years old and in need of increased maintenance. Our increased fleet and computer stock pushed up our insurance costs, which along with malpractice insurance premium increases pushed our total insurance costs up by 19%.

The depreciation charge to Administration moved from \$69,639 to \$164,637 between 2006 and 2007. This reflects increased depreciation charges from our investments in computers, outreach vehicles and telephone system.

We are clear that the type of organization we want to run is financially prudent and able to sustain its activities. We are cognisant of the climate of increasing costs, and competition for resources. We at FPATT will continue to identify

opportunities to increase our revenues, manage our cost and deliver quality services.

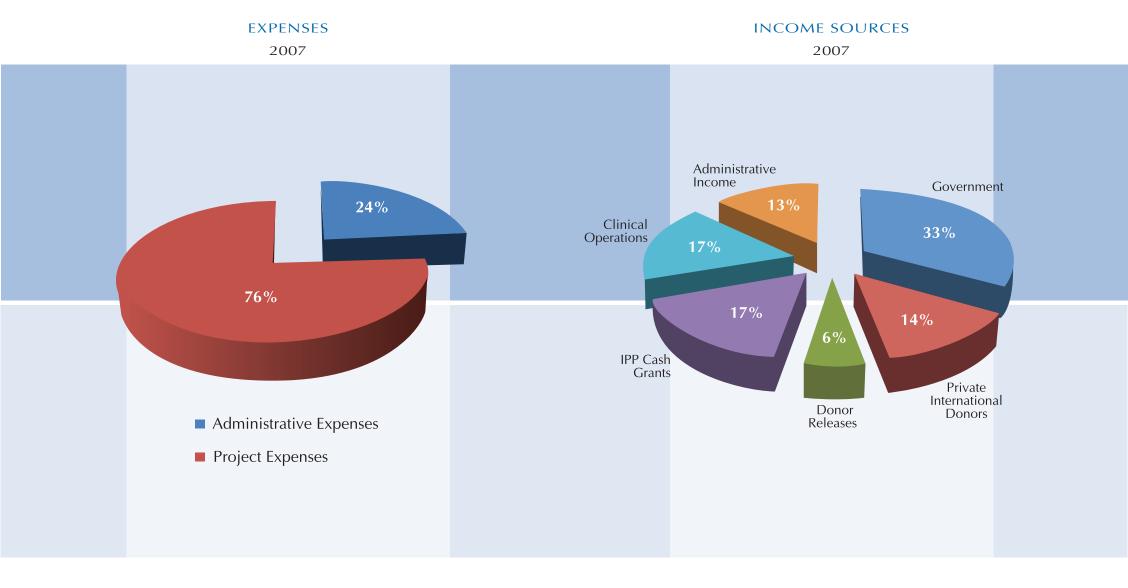
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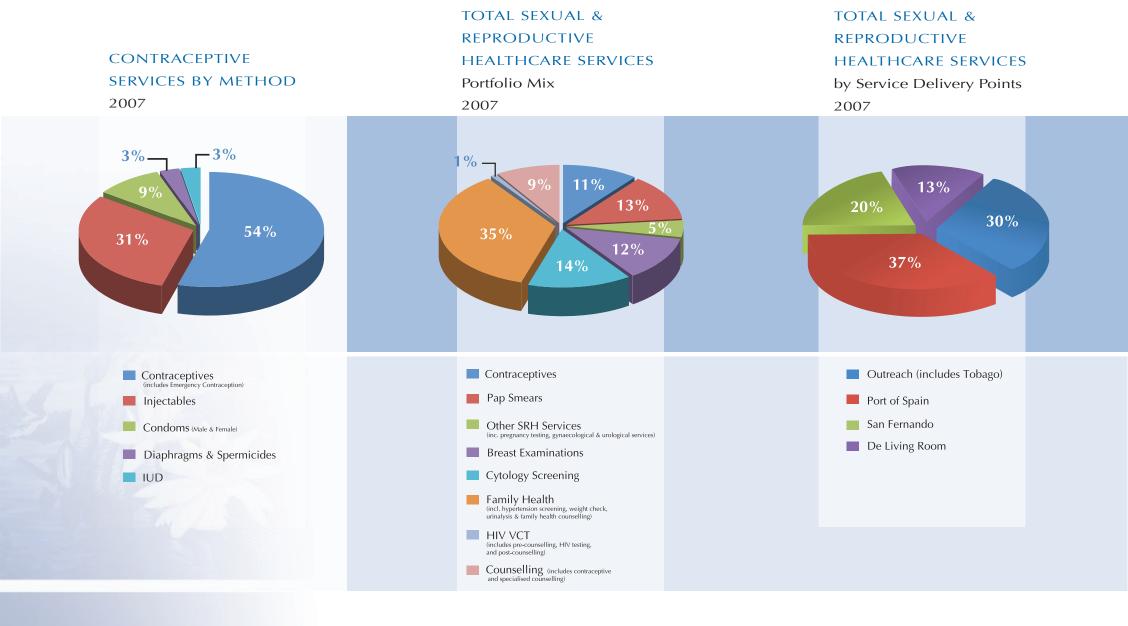
Treasurer, FPATT

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st (TT DOLLARS)

INCOME	2007	2006	EXPENSES	2007	2006
	TT\$	TT\$		TT\$	TT\$
INTERNATIONAL GRANTS					
IPPF Cash Grant	1,044,406.00	989,864.00	Project Expenses	4,854,130.00	4,119,710.00
Other International	835,917.00	1,097,699.00	Administrative	1,516,248.00	1,120,420.00
Sub total	1,880,323.00	2,087,563.00	Total Expenses	6,370,378.00	5,240,130.00
			Deficit	(288,327.00)	(164,178.00)
LOCAL GRANTS					
GOV'T Subvention	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	ASSETS		
GOV'T Services Expansion Grant	1,022,895.00	,,	Current Assets	8,785,142.00	5,123,149.20
Sub total	2,022,895.00	1,000,000.00	Non Current Assets	3,555,710.00	2,814,116.75
Nan total	2,022,033.00	1,000,000.00	Total Assets	12,340,852.00	7,937,265.95
INCOME - OPERATIONS			LIABILITIES & FUND BAL	ANCES	
& ADMINISTRATION			Current Liabilities	663,451.00	856,412.00
Sales & Services	1,041,652.00	968,215.00	Long Term Liabilities	495,050.00	506,250.00
Administration Income	799,574.00	636,918.00	Deferred Income	7,178,774.00	3,001,293.00
Donor Releases	337,607.00	383,256.00	Fund Balances	4,003,577.00	3,573,310.95
Sub total	2,178,833.00	1,988,389.00			
			Total Liabilities &		
TOTAL INCOME	6,082,051.00	5,075,952.00	Fund Balances	12,340,852.00	7,937,265.95





YEAR IN REVIEW 2007



Archdeacon and FPATT Board Member Steve West, invokes God's blessings at the start of the Gala dinner



Gerry Brooks and FPATT President Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe welcome Former First Lady Mrs Zalayhar Hassanali, to the Gala Dinner



President of the Senate, Dr. Linda Baboolal arrives with her husband Dr. Michael Baboolal at the Gala Dinner



FPATT employees Marcia Dennis, Monica Olivier, Sheldy Mc Gail, Gracelyn Peters and Yvette Chang chat before dinner



Dr. Linda Baboolal greets a guest while Board Member Grace Talma looks on



Gerry Brooks and Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe greet guests at the Gala Dinner



FPATT employees Joyce Lyman, Elcid Primus and Trezdivaughn Nedd relax before dinner



Spouses of Former Executive Director Glynne Gordon Carter and former Board Member Michael Lee Kim greet each other



Guests at the Gala Dinner chat with each other



Former Executive Director Glynne Gordon Carter



Gerry Brooks and Zalayhar Hassanali share a joke over dinner

YEAR IN REVIEW 2007



Guests listen attentively during the gala ceremony



Photo opportunity for Board Members and **Executive Director**



Honorary Secretary of the Board Roger McLean and Treasurer Relna Vire share some thoughts



Gerry Brooks makes a presentation to Dr. Linda Baboolal



Guests visit department booths after the presentation Gerry Brooks and Dona Da Costa Martinez of the Report to the Nation



in discussion prior to the Gala Dinner



Board Member Grace Talma says the opening prayer at the Report to the Nation



President of the Senate, Dr. Linda Baboolal presents the feature address at the Report to the Nation



Dr. Linda Baboola makes a presentation to the Senior Nurses of the Clinics for the best presented booth



Guests chat after the Report to the Nation



Project Coordinator Maureen Searles chats with CBHWs after the Report to the Nation



CBHWs listen attendtively at the Report to the Nation



Staff members with Chairman Mr. Gerry Brooks



Dona Da Costa Martinez makes a presentation to the Eastern Regional Health Authority as the two organizations prepare to collaborate



Community Based Health Workers at their **Graduation Ceremony**



Information Sytems Officer Shaun Charles makes a presentation to nurses at the SRH training for new service providers



Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe makes a presentation to Dr. Linda Baboolal



Guests at the Report to the Nation



Dr. Linda Baboola, Dr. Jacquline Sharpe and Dona Da Costa Martinez at the judging of the Department Booths



Dr. Linda Baboolal chats with staff of the Outreach Department during her visit to the Department Booths



YAM members sharing information with visitors at their booth at Trincity Mall



YAM Member demonstrating condom use at their booth at Trinicity Mall



Board Member Marc Clarke looks on while another YAM member demonstrates how to put on a condom

YEAR IN REVIEW 2007



Training of Facilitators in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for the introduction of the Diploma in SRH for Nurses



Lara Smith and Planning and Evaluation Officer Shivonne Dubarry dicusses partnership plans with the Eastern Regional Health Authority



Dona Da Costa Martinez and SHIP coordinator Rhonda Leach prepare the deyas for the Divali celebration



Dona Da Costa Martinez and Executive Secretary Roxanne Layne celebrate the festival of lights



Angelie Chotalal serves breakfast to her staff during FPATT's Divali celebration



Youth Officer Melissa Gabriel in an educational session with youth at the ERHA/ FPATT collaboration launch at Mayaro



YAM Members welcome visitors to their booth in Mayaro



Prospective clients queue to access services on the Mobile Clinic



Nursing Assistants Sherry Paul and Ann Marie Jogie give a demonstration



Youth Board Member Marc Clarke presents Desi Ann Charles with a Certificate of Appreciation at the FPATT Staff Awards in December



Staff participate in a two day retreat in December at the Crowne Plaza Hotel



Staff participate in a team building exercise at the staff retreat



Teamwork at the staff retreat

FPATT HAS CHOSEN TO FOCUS ON FIVE PRIORITY AREAS ADOPTED FROM IPPF

WE CALL THESE OUR ...

FIVF A's

Adolescents/ young people

ensuring that the largest generation in history have access to the information and services

HIV and AIDS

one of the greatest public health challenges confronting the world, and increasingly affecting women and young people

Abortion

a major killer of many thousands of women round the world when carried out unsafely or illegally

Access

to services and information – the 'unfinished business of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)'

Advocacy

a major responsibility for FPATT at every level

GOING BEYOND



Dedicated Outreach Staff: Driver Arthur Esdell

In simple terms the word 'Outreach' means 'to go beyond.' The Community Outreach Programme at The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) truly performed this past year, exceeding requirements and producing the highest numbers of Pap Smears and Breast Examinations of all FPATT's clinics. Outreach activities facilitate service provision through the FPATT Mobile Clinic and Healthlink for corporations. It also manages Family Life and Health Education through training and lectures, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) advocacy, via the Community Based Health Workers (CBHWs). This programme actively caters for underserved communities.

The Programme's main achievements for 2007 included the recruitment and training of CBHWs, the creation of training tools and monitoring mechanisms for these volunteers, and the development of new partnerships with local Regional Health Authorities and grass roots community groups.

The Outreach Programme doubled the number of communities served in 2006, moving from 19 to 38 communities. Over 1000 return clients and 113 new clients utilized SRH services on the Community Outreach Programme, highlighting the programme's success in retaining clients and the importance of a programme that encourages new clients, who may otherwise have little access or interest in visiting the static FPATT clinics.

The CBHWs were also instrumental in promoting FPATT's services. CBHWs are FPATT's advocates and they are our social soldiers. Gerard Boatswain is a CBHW from Maloney who has been involved

in community work for a number of years. After retiring he felt a need to remain active and his genuine love for helping people motivated him to join the Outreach programme. With a gentle heart and the vigor of an activist, Gerard has actively encouraged men in his community to access prostate examinations and literature regarding their overall sexual and reproductive health (SRH). These men have formed groups, they come to his home, and they discuss and learn from each other through Gerard's advocacy. Gerard is one of 44 CBHWs.

Public address systems were utilized, a male flyer created for male-specific programmes, and training updates provided for the CBHWs to improve their advocacy skills. Two programme locations within their respective communities were changed in 2007, based on recommendations from clients and CBHWs. These programmes' statistics have now steadily increased. Our volunteers do not only participate in our initiatives, they themselves actively contribute to our vision. They combine foresight with their knowledge and experience of our target locations to help us adapt to changing circumstances.

In 2007, 31 CBHWs received training. Six nurses and three nursing assistants were also recruited and trained. The recruitment of three new drivers and the acquisition of four new vehicles also had a great impact on the programme, allowing for more flexibility and service provision capacity. With the demands placed on the service that our volunteers and staff on this programme provide, the acquisition of new facilities and members is fundamental to its success and it is surely reflected in the following figures:

Pap Smears: 24% increase, 2669 female health packages

Prostate examinations: 445% increase, 276 male health packages

The Healthlink Programme targets large corporate companies by offering them services on site for their members of staff. In this way their employees are not obliged to leave the building or lose time from the office to access these critical services. Of the 15 companies approached,12 additional corporate organizations joined the Healthlink Programme, accounting for a 70% response rate. There were 6 educational lectures for corporate clients and 479 clients accessed services under this programme this past year.

FPATT also formed a partnership with the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) to expand SRH services within the region, focusing on youth and including a population-based cervical screening programme, and HIV testing. An Outreach Hub in the Eastern Region also materialized, with the aim of improving service to the most marginalized communities within that region. In addition, FPATT conducted sensitization sessions with service providers from the ERHA on SRH. A total of 4 hubs were established as administrative centres specifically for this programme.

The Outreach Programme is capable of meeting the needs of the general public, of specific and localized communities, corporate entities, and persons in rural areas. Meetings were conducted with the Village and Community



Council Executive Board, the Peytonville Village Council, and the St. George East Branch of Trinidad & Tobago Association of Village & Community Councils, with 17 Village councils in attendance. These meetings established relationships with groups and individuals who are genuinely interested in the wellbeing of their communities and who make inroads at the ground level. Community Outreach also worked with local government corporations in distributing information and services to communities, specifically at community day events and celebrations.

Health education was also high on the agenda for outreach, and there were 32 educational lectures presented to 1142 persons. At these lectures, clients and members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss various SRH concerns with the Association's nurses. FPATT also utilized its present pool of voluntary counselling testers and was able to conduct 122 sessions.

A comprehensive maintenance schedule for medical instruments based on the Quality of Care standards was put into action and completed in 2007 - ensuring that all the equipment continued to operate at an optimum level. An exit interview exercise also aided the quality of care and service provided through the FPATT clinics.

De Rovin Living Room was introduced in 2007, with De Living Room and the Outreach Programme combining resources to target youth in Trinidad and Tobago. A youth public awareness campaign was also initiated, collaborating with the YAM, Population Services International (PSI) and the YMCA on the Safe Sex Caravan initiative for Carnival 2007.

Following the success of this youth partnership, the 3 organizations teamed up once more for the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup Cricket event to raise awareness of SRH

issues among youth and the general public. 2 activities were conducted after World Cup Cricket matches, where YAM members and other volunteers distributed condoms, promotional and educational items to cricket fans after the games. Thousands of condoms were distributed.

Of all the major work conducted by the Outreach Programme, only the most significant could be highlighted, attesting to the unrelenting dedication of its facilitators and the efficiency with which they have been operating. Mr Boatswain was adamant and boisterous with his praise, reflecting on the importance of reaching out to people, and of going the extra mile, "I see people in pain, suffering from the prostate and it is not a nice thing. When you go out there and talk to people, when you educate them, and convince them to see about themselves you save a life, you prevent them from getting to that stage, of seeing them suffer like that. They need to know".

The Graduation Awards Ceremony for Community Based Health Workers (CBHWs) training

- The Capildeo Learning Resource Center in Couva - May 2007

FOCUS ON YOUTH



Research Assistant Alicia Martin encourages a father to take literature at the YAM booth at Trinicity Mall

With youth comes enthusiasm, potential, and hope towards a positive future for the next generation of leaders, decision makers, and caregivers. As young people move through adolescence and embrace adulthood, their awareness of their bodies and sexuality heightens. The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) defends and promotes the right of all young people to safeguard their sexual and reproductive health. One of the Association's core objectives is to expand young people's access to sexual and reproductive health care in Trinidad and Tobago.

FPATT's youth clinic, De Living Room, is supported by a network of young people who comprise the Youth Advocacy Movement (YAM), a group of spirited volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to the organization's vision. The organization understands that youth are a marginalized and underserved community in society, that they face social and economic barriers, as well as limited access to stigma-free information and services regarding their sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The ingenuity and fervour of our YAMs provided the spark for the youth clinic and the efforts of their staff, and together they implemented strategies for the further improvement of their services through youthful eyes. As YAM president, Joel Jordan rightfully remarks, 'programmes that are targeted at changing the behaviour of youth should be youth-centred and youth driven.'

With a mission to effectively bridge the communication gap between youth and adults in society, FPATT started with its internal resources. De Living Room hosted focus groups with YAMs to strategically gather empirical

research for productive and relevant, planning and development. Jordan also noted that 'getting the YAMs to discuss sex and sexuality without hang-ups was one of the major breakthroughs to date, since it encouraged group problem-solving on issues that directly affect young people.'

These very young people are not only discussing and problem-solving; they are also actively contributing towards progressive leadership. 2007 was the inaugural year for YAM leader Marc Clarke who was elected to represent the YAMs at all Board meetings. This youth presence at board meetings will ensure that the organization continues to be well- equipped to make informed decisions and develop appropriate youth policies and programmes. FPATT is proud and adamant that we not only pursue change for our youth, but with our youth.

De Living Room increased access to clients in 2007, mainly through three specific initiatives: extended hours at the clinic, service provision through the mobile clinic, and the integration of voluntary counseling and testing for HIV (HIV VCT).

De Living Room launched Saturday as an official clinic day and they also collaborated with the Community Outreach programme to introduce De Rovin' Living Room, utilizing the mobile clinic in conjunction with fun and interactive activities by YAMs to provide services and educational forums in public locations. A gap was successfully filled, both for clients who could not access the clinic during the week, and for at-risk youth in rural and underserved areas of Trinidad. The number of youths that accessed the mobile clinic in 2007 exceeded projected expectations by 100%.

De Rovin' Living Room hosted 6 events conducted in 4 locations: Port of Spain, Arima, Cumana, and Mayaro. The YAMs were integral in promoting FPATT's services, as they advocated at 13 outreach events for the year. They divided themselves into teams at these locations, sharing information with young people and pointing them towards the main event areas. Aside from condom demonstrations and the distribution of giveaways and information booklets, they orchestrated skits and distributed discount service cards to increase awareness and encourage visits to the youth centre. If people were shy to approach the health booth, the YAMs walked the area disseminating information material to passers by, inviting them to visit the mobile clinic. They formed a network among themselves, their friends, their peers, with other young people – to share what they've learnt, and to encourage discussion on issues that for many adults are still taboo.

Further integration of youth projects by FPATT was evident when a YAM editorial committee was established to produce a youth-focused newsletter, which is currently in its pre-production stages. 'Yammer' will be a full colour quarterly publication designed, written and distributed by YAMs. YAM members also conceptualized an advocacy initiative called 'Reality Is...' and meetings were held with a web designer to formulate a youth page on the FPATT Website. To improve their advocacy skills YAMs received SRHR training in abortion rights, and media and communication skills concerning women's rights. More and more we see initiative and leadership from our young people whose energy and commitment successfully promote positive change.

YAM members participate at the International HIV/AIDS Candlelight Memorial

De Living Room conducted research for the expansion of the portfolio of products and services, which is currently under consideration. Products that appeal to sexually active youth encourage them to lead a responsible sexual lifestyle by adopting measures that protect them. The promotion of responsible sexual practices is necessary in a region that is so widely affected by HIV and AIDS. With AIDS as the leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the Caribbean, it is clear that our young people are more vulnerable to HIV. De Living Room not only trained its nurses in counselling skills, but has also formulated a curriculum to train them in HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing. Infrastructural changes have also been implemented to accommodate HIV and STI testing at De Living Room which will commence in 2008.

President Joel Jordan sees YAM as 'being in the forefront of advocacy against practices that discriminate against access to sexual and reproductive health services by youth.' He views YAM as 'a leader in educational techniques in SRHR, and as a new generation of pioneers.' Jordan laments that 'globalization and the corresponding availability of information poses many challenges to a society that has a number of sexual norms built on the withholding of information.' He offers the positive view that society 'will adjust to a world that is more open about sexual matters and youth who are, and should be aware of sex.' He is confident that De Living Room and the community of YAMs are ready and equipped to face any obstacles, and he has faith in their proactive efforts to detect and counter any that may arise.



"Without input from sex workers, staff could only presume to know what initiatives would work best."

SPECIAL PROJECT



Sex Worker Consultation

In an ideal society, every individual regardless of age, gender, beliefs or practices, would have equal access to quality health care services, delivered free of prejudice. In August 2007, FPATT made a bold step in SRHR with the incorporation of the Sexual Health Integrated Programme for sex workers(SHIP). Rhonda Leach, a Child and Youth Care Counsellor, was appointed as Project Coordinator to oversee and help implement this new project. According to her, "Undertaking such a groundbreaking initiative as integrating a sexual and reproductive health program for sex workers is no small feat. Much planning and consideration went into every aspect of the project."

the conviction that marginalized communities deserve priority and special attention, the project seeks to enhance the quality of life for Sex Workers (SWs), through improved access to information and sexual and reproductive health care. It is vital that Sex Workers make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health, to lower their risks of contracting and transmitting sexually transmitted

infections (STIs) including HIV, and to avoid unintended pregnancy among females. We are interested in the reduction of socio-economic, cultural, religious, political, and legal barriers to the access of SRH information and services by Sex Workers in Trinidad and Tobago. We are also concerned with the sensitization of the general public, politicians, religious leaders, and

members of the police force. Sex Workers are human beings with the same rights as any other individual in society, however they represent a sector of our national community that are oftentimes misunderstood, and it is the lack of information surrounding their real situation that contributes to the persistent violence and stigma they continue to experience.

In the last quarter of 2007, some key components of the project were completed. Staff members were introduced to SHIP and given the opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and address concerns. These meetings were very productive as the resulting information was incorporated as data for sensitivity training. Next on the agenda is the recruitment and training of knowledgeable and sensitive persons to work as outreach staff alongside those involved in the sex trade. The obstacles and circumstances specific to sex workers are multifaceted and outreach staff will need to possess a variety of appropriate skills, and in some cases they will need to be bilingual. FPATT recently co-opted the assistance of a member of the sex work community who would provide valuable feedback and assistance during the roll-out of the project, a principal step towards building a strong team for this project.

In October 2007, a formal meeting was conducted with a number of partners whose work focused either directly or indirectly on Sex Workers, in which they were given a formal introduction to the Association's plan of action for this vulnerable group. Organizations and individuals conducting research and working actively in this field discussed opportunities for collaboration and shared their findings with us, which will also contribute to the development of a clear and comprehensive policy that will help direct FPATT and other interested persons who seek information and guidance regarding sex work.

Without input from sex workers, staff could only presume to know what initiatives would work best. A small group of sex workers provided insight and feedback about the most effective ways to meet their needs. A wealth of information was obtained to make the programme as accessible as possible. Due to the nature of sex work, privacy and confidentiality are of utmost importance and FPATT will continue to maintain the confidentiality of persons sharing their stories.

While embarking on this new project, FPATT also recognizes the need to remain flexible. This project is groundbreaking and with new territory comes a responsibility to truly engage situations that may require us to adapt readily to change. The success of our activities depends on careful planning and teamwork, and community partnerships with individuals and organizations. The well-known and respected Juanita Dest-

Altenberg has committed to facilitating a sensitization workshop in January 2008. She is the Executive Director of the Stichting Maxi Linder Association, an organization committed to removing the barriers to access of SRH services by sex workers in Suriname, and has had a long standing relationship with FPATT.

SHIP is a testament of the steadfast breakthroughs FPATT has achieved as a rights-based organization.

In 2004, UNAIDS funded a study by the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action Trinidad and Tobago (CAFRA T&T), which emphasized the multifaceted scope of sex work encompassing male and female sex workers, transsexuals, street workers, and escort girls to name a few. Sex workers can be parents and they can be children. They walk among us every day, some working as teachers, as bankers, and in offices. It is our hope that these steps will be the beginning of a continued venture that will assist sex workers in meeting their SRHR needs. We also hope to contribute from a wider perspective to the reduction of HIV and STI transmission, the incidence of unplanned pregnancy, and informative efforts at removing stigma towards sex workers on a national level.

Project Coordinator Rhonda Leach is hopeful that we can make a difference as she comments that sex workers 'have no collective voice and almost no recourse, leaving them at a disadvantage and at risk to harm and hardship.'

"Finding ways to reduce the harm that many women cause themselves, within the constraint s of the law, is imperative. "

TO ADDRESS UNWANTED PREGNANCIES AND UNSAFE ABORTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Today's woman faces opportunities like never before in history. With increased access to education and employment she is theoretically in an improved position to steer the course of her future. Despite extraordinary breakthroughs in these key areas however, there are still women who have limited or no access to at least one of their fundamental human rights. FPATT believes that it is a woman's sexual and reproductive human right to decide on the timing and spacing of her children. It follows therefore that she is the one to determine whether or not she is prepared to continue with an unplanned pregnancy.

In Trinidad and Tobago the criminalization of abortion creates a hierarchal structure of access that is directly related to economic factors. There are unreported abortion procedures for women who can afford this costly service. For the women who cannot, the criminalization of abortion neither stops nor hinders the frequency of abortions actually performed, but rather increases the occurrences of unsafe abortion. Despite the current law and our own personal, moral or political convictions, terminating a pregnancy is, and will continue to be, a viable option for many women. Unsafe abortion however, must never be the only option available to a woman faced with an unwanted pregnancy. Every woman deserves the right to access services that do not jeopardize her physical or mental health.

The World Health Organization defines unsafe abortion as 'a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy, either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal standards, or both.' We support the conviction of our parent body International

Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), that 'the mortality and morbidity associated with unsafe abortion are so easily preventable.' According to IPPF reports, 'evidence from many countries - from the United States to Nepal - clearly demonstrates that the legalization of abortion and the provision of family planning services dramatically cut abortion-related deaths.'

FPATT over the years has provided family planning services including information and education to thousands of local women. More recently, the Association has lent public support to the call for the decriminalization of abortion. FPATT is also participating in a multi-country project to address unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions in Latin America and the Caribbean. This project seeks to find ways in each country to assist women in making the best possible choice to deal with an unplanned pregnancy, within the context of the law. Project Coordinator, Maureen Searles, strongly advises that 'for many women in T&T unsafe abortion is their only option when faced with an unwanted pregnancy. Finding ways to reduce the harm that many women cause themselves, within the constraints of the law, is imperative.'

The most significant achievement to date of this project has been the acquisition of a Draft Legal Opinion by constitutional lawyer, Douglas Mendes. Maureen Searles theorizes that, 'the legal opinion can be used as the basis for judicial review in the future as it supports the implication that terminations may, under certain circumstances, be accessed lawfully in T&T.' The opinion examines how judgements and developments have informed the application of this 1861 law inherited from the United Kingdom, in other Commonwealth territories. FPATT will later this year make available to the public both the Legal Opinion as well as a layman's version of the document.

The first steps towards positive change are through education and sensitization, and it is FPATT's hope that individuals and organizations at every level of society will use this document to better inform themselves of their rights as citizens of a developing country, which along with many other nations of the world has committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They provide us with a set of clear goals to be reached by 2015, and cover a wide range of issues that the international community has agreed to meet. The MDGs are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives that world leaders agreed to at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. Goal five speaks of improving maternal health which includes achieving universal access to reproductive health including safe abortions.

Through this project, FPATT has also partnered with a team of professionals consisting of individuals and organizations with an interest in this aspect of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights to produce a situational analysis of unsafe abortion in T&T. This is part of an initiative of the International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) to collate data from around the world and produce an international situational analysis of unsafe abortion. This exercise is also crucial in assessing the local context of this global dilemma. It is necessary for the construction of

SPECIAL PROJECT

education material, for the effective planning of related activities, and for a realistic understanding of the current local problem.

Over the years FPATT has had to deal with many women who experience confusion and uncertainty when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. Our staff has also had to treat with women suffering both physical and emotional trauma of having made an ill-informed, impulsive decision. Again as part of this project, FPATT has extended its counselling service to include pre and post-decision counselling. Women, and their partners if they choose to attend, are allowed to explore all their options in a non-directive, client-focused, confidential setting so that they are better able to cope with whatever decision they finally make. These sessions always include contraceptive counselling to minimise the risk of another unplanned pregnancy.

The Project Coordinator identifies a major challenge to this project as 'getting people and institutions to support their oral endorsement of our work with appropriate action. Research shows that as many as 1 in every 4 women is faced with an unplanned pregnancy in her reproductive years. When faced with this situation for themselves or their loved ones, abortion as an option is often considered.' 'Many of these individuals however,' she adds, 'refuse to publicly support FPATT's position, further entrenching the notion that only in their particular circumstance, and only for them, is abortion a justifiable choice'.

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Safe Abortion Project

Sexual Health Integrated Project

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Desi-Anne Charles Library Clerk

Kim Bernard Communications Assistant Mark Shaun Charles Information Systems Officer Rhonda Cardinez Information Systems Assistant Shivonne Du Barry Programme and Evaluation Officer

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Messenger/Janitor John Polite Messenger/Driver Marlon Elcid Primus Store Keeper Ricardo Cayones Clerk Typist Shantel Grant

Manager of Finance Steve Mulrain Jaceson Rai Accounting Officer Trezdivaughn Nedd Senior Accounts Clerk

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Sessional Nursing Assistant Bernadette Mc Leod Kim Chadband Sessional Nursing Assistant Yvonne Paul Sessional Nursing Assistant Clinic Administrator Angelie Chotalal Marcia Dennis Senior Clinic Clerk

Pamela Ramsay Clinic Clerk Shanelle Felix Clinic Clerk Pam Thomas Clinic Aide Sessional Doctor David Josa Dorothy Williams Chandler Sessional Doctor Francis Saa Gandi Sessional Doctor Sessional Doctor Robert Ugbekele Sagubadi Sreekanth Sessional Doctor Shiv Mehrotha Sessional Doctor

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TOBAGO CLINIC

Sessional Cleaner Aveanne Charleen Dempster Sonia Telfer Sessional Doctor Clinic Aide Adama Tejansie

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Gloria Granderson

Shaheeba Barrow

Lab Technician Mona Lisa Ali Maria Pereira Lab Assistant Mark Hypolite Lab Assistant Alicia Simmons Senior Clerk Nakisha John Senior Clerk Khamiya Henry Data Clerk Kevon Finch Data Entry Clerk Data Entry Clerk Diane St. Hillaire Sheldy Mc Gail Oscar Data Entry Clerk Jacette Taylor Cytoscreener Sueann Sai Ling Cytoscreener David Ho Sessional Cytoscreener

Sessional Cytoscreener

Sessional Cytoscreener

Consulting Pathologist

OUTREACH

Outreach Coordinator Lara Smith Natalie Chance Registered Nurse Nursing Assistant Asha Boodooram Nursing Assistant / Driver Benedict Rousseau Marceline Jones Nursing Assistant Kevin Munroe Sessional Driver Elijah Fagorala Sessional Doctor Zelda Muller Sessional Midwife Gracelyn Peters Sessional Nurse Lena Pegus Sessional Nurse Theresa Francis Sessional Nurse Ann Marie Jogie Sessional Nursing Assistant Anna Persad Sessional Nursing Assistant Sessional Nursing Assistant

Daniel Ojatele Sessional Doctor

Sessional Driver (Mobile Clinic) Arthur Esdell Sessional Family Life Educator Evette Chang

Sessional Cleaner Avalyn Lewis

DE LIVING ROOM

Sherry Paul

Melissa Gabriel Youth Officer Clinic Clerk Ayana Brewster Jacette Taylor Clinic Clerk Merle St. George-Paul Sessional Nurse Debra De Leon Sessional Nurse Frances Lopez Nursing Assistant Allison Reveillac Sessional Counsellor Derryck Holder Sessional Doctor Kerlene Kennedy Sessional Doctor Oseye Andrews Sessional Doctor Renee Curtis Sessional Doctor Claret Whiteman Office Attendant Marlene Russell Part-time Cleaner

PROIECTS

Maureen Searles Priya Ganness-Nanton Rhonda Leach

Project Coordinator Project Assistant Project Coordinator - SHIP

Community Based Health Workers

Name Area Natasha Harding Arima O'Leo LoKai Arima Annette London Arima Tahasha Farnum Barataria Rosalyn Indarsingh Barrackpore Kaysee Boodoo Barrackpore Josephine Cummings Basse Terre Nina Fortune Basse Terre Satie Chadee Enterprise Cheryl Douglas Enterprise Alana Mohan Enterprise Taramatie Persad Chaguanas Hemma Rampaul Felicity Marixa Mahabir Enterprise Alicia Halls Claxton Bay Adanna Martin Cuffy Cocorite Bernadette Charles Cocorite Candis John D'Abadie Karen Felix-James Enterprise

Community Based Health Workers

Name	Area
Deborah McBurnie	Arouca
Maria Hamilton	India Walk
Christine Hills	India Walk
Joseann Modeste	Morvant
Aruraa Cabarr	Laventille
Poorandaye Garcia	Longdenville
Sandra Augustus	Maloney
Ellica Hamlet	Maloney
Gerard Boatswain	Maloney
Edicta Belle	Peytonville
Lynette Khan	Princes Town
Yvette Neebar	San Francique
Ann Marie Parmanand	San Francique
Candice Allen	St Augustine
Ann Marie Paul-Reyes	Talparo
Suzie Mohammed	Talparo
Janice George	Westmoorings
Savitri Cindy Khan	Felicity
Mahadeye Sookoo	Boodoo Trace
•	

Youth Advocacy Movement

April Adams	Avalon La Guerre
Rachel Andrews	Brian McCarter
Raquel Ashton	Sarah-Lee McKnight
Candis Benjamin	Denzil McMillan
Gerard Brathwaite	Taranah Mohammed
Sade Chadee	Marisha Morris
Amos Charles	Brent Pereira
Marc Clarke	Debbie Pereira
Angel Cox-Alexander	Renee Pereira
Corintha Elliot	Sarah Ramcharan
Avionne Francis	Alisha Renaud
Anna Fraser	Leighenne Rivero
Shawn Freeman	Kendra Samuel
Keisha Garcia	Maurisa Sebro
Alicia Glanville	Kameise Shaw
CY Goodridge	Ife Smith
Sian Rose Granger	Jacette Taylor
Shantel Grant	Steffi Torres
Rachael Harry	Mattew Vernette
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Heidi Jones	Samantha Xavier
Joel Jordan	SabrinaYatali
Rayhaan Joseph	Bascombe Janine

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Kiss Baking Co Ltd

Top Imports Ltd

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Marlon Griffith

PROJECTS

JB Fernandes Trust 1

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago

University of Ilinois at Chicago

International Planned Parenthood Federation

International Planned Parenthood Federation/

Western Hemisphere Region

International Planned Parenthood Federation/

Innovation Fund

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	QOC	Quality of Care
CAREC	Caribbean Epidemiology Centre	SHIP	Sexual Health Integrated Programme
CBHW	Community Based Health Workers	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
CFPA	Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
FPATT	Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago	STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SW	Sex Workers
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation	UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
IPPF/WHR	International Planned Parenthood Fedeation/Western Hemishpere Region	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MDGs	Millenium Development Goals	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund For Women
MEXFAM	Fundacion Mexicana para la Planeacion Familiar	UWI	University of the West Indies
NACC	National AIDS Coordinating Committee	VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV
NGO	Non Governmental Organization	YAM	Youth Advocacy Movement
PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization	YMCA	Young Men Christian Association
PSI	Population Services International		

THE FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HEAD OFFICE AND PORT OF SPAIN CLINIC

79 Oxford Street, Port of Spain Tel: (868) 623-5169/4764, 627-6732 Fax: (868) 625-2256 Email: fpattrep@ttfpa.org

SOUTH CLINIC

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TOBAGO CLINIC

61 Bacolet Street, Scarborough Tel/Fax: (868) 639-6892

DE LIVING ROOM

(Youth Centre - 25 years and under) 141 Henry Street, Port of Spain Tel: (868) 623 4764 ext 212

OUTREACH (Mobile Clinic):

Tel: (868) 623-5169/4764, 627-6732 Ext. 163

SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Counselling

In-School Programme

Counselling on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues

Peer Services

No-permanent Contraceptives

Health Packages

Pregnancy Testing

Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV

SERVICES FOR MEN

Counselling

Male Health Package

Prostate Examination

Vasectomy

Infertility Investigation

Non-permanent Contraceptive

Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV

SERVICES FOR WOMEN

Counselling

Female Health Package

Pap Smear

Breast Examination

Laparoscopy

Non-permanent Contraceptives

Tubal Ligation

Infertility Investigation

Pharmaceutical Items

Pregnancy Testing

Voluntary Counselling and Testing for HIV