‘Taking Action against HIV and AIDS in the UK Overseas Territories’ is a DFID-funded programme with the goal of contributing to low transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV sustained amongst at risk populations, and improved quality of life of people living with HIV in the UK Overseas Territories (OTs).

In the Caribbean, the programme is designed to enable OTs to provide universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, and care and to strengthen linkages and integration of HIV, sexual reproductive health and rights, and health programmes. The programme supports UK OT’s National AIDS Programmes to strengthen and implement country specific plans. Specific Technical Assistance (TA) is provided according to country needs, while close work with other regional organisations and projects – especially the EC-funded Overseas Countries and Territories project – ensures complementarity and maximises use of resources.

In the South Atlantic, the focus is on preventing HIV and sexually transmitted infections through enhancing access and quality of sexual and reproductive health and rights information, services and supplies.
## Programme Achievements
### (July – Sept 2010)

### Addressing HIV / SRHR related Policy and Legislation
- Phase II of the review and development of HIV/SRHR related policies and legislation in the Caribbean Overseas Territories (COTs) began with the scheduling of stakeholder meetings on Turks and Caicos Island (TCI) and Anguilla. It is anticipated that the same process will be repeated on the remaining three COTs during the next quarter.

### Strengthening of Health and Family Life Education (HFLE)
- Work to strengthen HFLE provision in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) kicked off in August with a 2-day training workshop on Sex & Sexuality. The workshop built on a prior UNICEF funded training session in the general HFLE curriculum.
- Discussions initiated with UNICEF around collaborative approach to gathering of HFLE baseline data to inform programme design. Target countries are: BVI, Montserrat & TCI.
- The HFLE programme continued in Anguilla in September with a 5-day teacher-training workshop on the revised and strengthened HFLE curriculum. The report of the training is currently under review.

### Information for Strategic Programming among Most At Risk Populations
- Terms of reference to design a programme promoting HIV prevention among the Haitian Creole Population in TCI was developed and is currently under review. Implementation of this activity is aimed for late 2010 early 2011.

### People living with HIV (PLHIV) Empowerment
- A poetry booklet called ‘A Silence is Broken’, written by and for PLHIV, was distributed at the International AIDS Conference 2010. The booklet will continue to be used as a support tool during upcoming PLHIV speaking engagements both regionally and within Anguilla.

### Harmonization with Regional Activities
- Partnership with EC/PAHO continues to strengthen through periodic meetings, and participation in project meetings. Situational Analysis Report country feedback visits took place in TCI and Cayman Island – with DFID participation in the TCI meeting.
- Partnership with UNICEF around a Situational Analysis of Sexuality Education in the OTs was initiated.

## Challenges
- **Scheduling** was a problem during the summer months and several pieces of TA (particularly in Anguilla) were postponed due to hurricane Earl, limited stakeholder availability and flight cancellations.
- **Project staff turnover.** Dr Adomarko left the programme after 2 years of involvement and was replaced Arlene Husbands (ahusbands@aidincorporated.org) and Dr Sonia Alexander (salexander@aidincorporated.org). Much of the quarter was devoted to handover activities.

## Activities on the horizon
### (Oct - Dec 2010)
- Ongoing work with Phase II of Policy and Legislation TA: Analysis Development of country specific position papers around HIV related policy and Legislation, focussing on stigma and discrimination in Montserrat, BVI & TCI.
- Ongoing implementation of the Strengthening of the HFLE TA in TCI, Montserrat and Anguilla.
- HFLE Situational Analysis with UNICEF in BVI, Montserrat & TCI.
- Design of programming targeting the Haitian Creole Population in TCI.
- Finalisation of in-depth report into most-at-risk groups in BVI and development of terms of reference for strategic programming for this target group.
- Development of terms of reference for programming among men who have sex with men in Montserrat.
- Anguilla Tourism Sector Start Up meeting confirmed for November in partnership with AHTA, NAP and other key local agencies.
- Planning around tourism based interventions in Cayman Island and TCI.
Programme Achievements (July – September)

- In St. Helena an island HIV testing campaign is being supported by the development of posters and a new leaflet, designed and tailored specifically to incorporate the services that St Helena has on offer. This includes STI testing using non-invasive techniques (urine testing), rapid 60 second HIV testing, emergency contraception, the contraceptive injection (Depo-Provera), the intrauterine device (IUD/IUS), the combined oral pill, progesterone only pill and condoms. All are freely available at Jamestown Hospital. Some contraceptive options are also available at community clinics around the island. Free condom distribution points are located in many public places around the island, including bars, toilets and workplaces. The campaign to increase HIV test take-up on island follows a visit to St. Helena by a 21 year old HIV positive woman (MK) in July.

- Teaching and healthcare staff on the Falkland Islands identified a need for more comprehensive Sex & Relationship Education (SRE) training in order for them to deliver more consistent and improved SRE for students at the Falklands Island Community School.

Activities on the horizon (Oct - Dec)

- SRE Training: In November, two consultants from the Christopher Winter Project will conduct a week of intensive training on the Falkland Islands to support teachers in the planning, delivery and assessment of SRE, through an innovative process of in-class training and support.

- The formal adoption of HIV in the Workplace Policies in all the islands is still outstanding and during the coming quarter, the long term technical assistant will continue to support and encourage ratification of these policies.

- The project’s long term technical assistant will seek to forge connections with several new key staff appointed and in-post in Ascension Island and Tristan de Cunha.
**Log Frame Revision:** As part of a wider programme review, the design of the Taking Action against HIV in the UKOTs project has been revised and the logframe amended accordingly. The time frame for the project has been extended (it will now run to 31st January 2011), and work in the Caribbean will move away from a research intensive model to an operational research model - using evidence from other work in the region to inform strategies and accelerate implementation. The Caribbean project will specifically focus on health and family life education (HFLE); Sexual and Reproductive Health policy and legislation; HIV programming within the tourism sector, and targeted interventions among most at risk groups.

The **goal** of the revised ‘Taking Action Against HIV & AIDS in the UK Overseas Territories’ Programme is to ensure **low transmission of STIs and HIV sustained amongst at risk populations and improved quality of life of people living with HIV in UK Overseas Territories.**

Progress towards this goal will be measured by monitoring 3 key indicators:

- % of young women and men aged 15-24 who are HIV infected.
- % of women and men diagnosed with STIs during the last year.
- % of HIV positive adults/children still alive 12 months after initiation of antiretroviral therapy.

The **purpose** of the programme is to **strengthen the capacity of UKOT to lead an integrated national HIV/SRHR response.** This will be measured through:

- % of targeted tourism establishments in Anguilla, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Island that have adopted and successfully implemented HIV/AIDS policies and programmes in the workplace.
- % of secondary school youth (13-15 yrs) in all OTs (excluding Bermuda) who ever had sex who used a condom on last sexual intercourse.
- % of OTs in which new supportive legislation/policy addressing HIV related Stigma & Discrimination is adopted and implemented.
- % of OTs with operational strategic health plans in which HIV and SRHR are integrated.

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### Programme Goal, Purpose and Outputs

**Output 1:** Increased capacity of UKOTs to access resources to implement annual HIV/SRHR plans

- % of planned Technical Assistance and capacity building activities delivered in proposed year of the work-plan
- No. of OTs that take full responsibility for TA. procurement and management during the preceding year (COTs only).
- No. of COTs accessing HIV mapping database and number of SAOTs who have access to SRHR/HIV database of resources.

**Output 2:** An effective and efficient multisectoral mechanism in place to coordinate HIV/SRHR programmes

- % of UKOTs with established multi-sectoral HIV/SRHR committee.
- % of UKOTs with committees which regularly meet and review SRHR/HIV-AIDS action plans/programmes.

**Output 3:** Most at-risk populations in UKOTs successfully identified and reached through targeted interventions

- No. of targeted OTs with evidence informed community based programmes reaching priority most-at-risk populations.
- % of OTs with evidence-informed guidelines/protocols/strategies for SRHR/HIV prevention, care and support services targeted at vulnerable groups.
- % of targeted tourism workers with improved HIV knowledge (relevant for Anguilla, CI, TCI).
- % of targeted Secondary school youth with improved HIV knowledge.

**Output 4:** Number of adopted HIV/SRHR related policies and legislations increased in UKOTs

- No. of new/amended policies/legislations adopted per UKOT.
- No. of OTs with MARPS /civil society empowered and actively involved in the development of policy and legislation that reduces stigma and discrimination.
- % of UKOTs with active programmes/policies addressing HIV/STI/SRHR related stigma and discrimination.

**Output 5:** DFID/PANCAP, EC/PAHO and other regional resources aligned and harmonised in support of OTs national Health and HIV/AIDS strategies

- No. of COTs with integrated work-plans/budgets, reflecting plans and budgets from all partners.
- % of UKOTs in which, DFID, PANCAP, EU/PAHO and other relevant institutions undertake joint planning and reviews.

For further information about the programme, please contact Kate Gray at k.gray@options.co.uk