

**SCALING-UP *TOGETHER WE CAN*:**  
**A Proven Peer Education Program and**  
**Community Mobilization Strategy**  
**for Youth HIV Prevention**

(GPO-A-00-04-00005-00)

Award dates: 2/20/04 – 2/19/09

Guyana, Haiti, and Tanzania

**Semi-Annual Report**  
**October 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008**

Submitted on April 30, 2008



*In collaboration with*  
**The Tanzania, Haitian, and Guyana Red Cross Societies**  
**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Adult Child Communication
ARC	The American Red Cross
CME	Community Mobilization Event (also referred to as edutainment events)
Federation	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
FM	Field Manager
GRCS	Guyana Red Cross Society
HRCS	Haitian Red Cross Society
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
TRCS	Tanzania Red Cross Society
TWC	“Together We Can”
TWC Workshops	PE led workshops based on the 12 hour TWC curriculum

## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. INTRODUCTION

The Scaling-Up Together We Can (TWC) project (GPO-A-00-04-00005-00) is a 5 year, \$7 million abstinence and be faithful program that will reach 766,000 in and out-of-school youth ages 10-24 with curriculum, peer to peer, edutainment and mass media based HIV prevention messages in the countries of Guyana, Haiti and Tanzania. The program's primary recipient, the American Red Cross, is responsible for providing funding and technical assistance to the project's implementers--the Guyana, Haitian and Tanzania Red Cross Societies.

Peer education, community and social mobilization, and capacity building for the three national Red Cross societies are the primary TWC project strategies used to promote positive behavior change among youth. The peer education component of the project is based on the 12 hour, 17 activity *Together We Can* curriculum that has been used by the American Red Cross, the Federation and nearly 40 Red Cross Societies in the Caribbean, Central America and Africa since 1993. The curriculum uses dynamic, participatory techniques to improve youth's knowledge, attitudes and skills relating to HIV/AIDS. The prevention messaging emphasizes abstinence (including secondary abstinence), being faithful to one's partner, and other healthy behaviors including condom use for at-risk youth. Abstinence is the key message for all age groups.

In addition to working directly with youth, TWC creates an enabling environment for youth behavior change by actively seeking the participation of parents, teachers, religious leaders, host-country government officials, NGO staff and other community leaders. In this manner, the American Red Cross and its sister Red Cross societies in Guyana, Haiti and Tanzania capitalize on the synergy of working at both the individual and community level, assuring a holistic, grassroots response to the HIV pandemic.

Another critical strategy--improving the national Red Cross Societies' ability to manage and expand youth HIV prevention projects--is accomplished through formal trainings, individual coaching, systems development, and the dissemination of best practices. Focus areas include: curriculum adaptation, volunteer management, community mobilization techniques, and establishing accurate and agile management information systems.

This report was prepared by the American Red Cross in tandem with its sister Red Cross Societies in Guyana, Haiti and Tanzania. These National Red Cross Societies are run and staffed by citizens of these three respective countries. They are sovereign, nationally recognized entities with extensive grassroots volunteer bases and possess intimate knowledge and longstanding experience in responding to public health emergencies in their local communities.

**B. Emergency Plan Indicators Table: TWC FY08 Semi-Annual Results  
(October 2007 – March 2008)**

Indicator	Guyana			Haiti			Tanzania			Project Total		
	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met
<b>Prevention/Abstinence and Be Faithful</b>												
<b>Community Outreach</b>												
<i>Total number of individuals trained</i>	15	17	113%	0	0	-	0	0	-	15	17	113%
Number of female youth (10-24) reached	2,375	3,674	155%	9,500	13,701	144%	23,750	21,550	91%	35,625	38,925	109%
Number of male youth (10-24) reached	2,375	3,670	155%	9,500	12,043	127%	23,750	23,539	99%	35,625	39,252	110%
<i>Total number of youth (10-24) reached</i>	<i>4,750</i>	<i>7,344</i>	<i>155%</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>25,744</i>	<i>135%</i>	<i>47,500</i>	<i>45,089</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>71,250</i>	<i>78,177</i>	<i>110%</i>

**C. Emergency Plan Indicators Table: TWC Life of Agreement Results  
(February 2004 - March 2008)**

Indicator	Guyana			Haiti			Tanzania			Project Total		
	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met	Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met
<b>Prevention/Abstinence and Be Faithful</b>												
<b>Community Outreach</b>												
<i>Total number of individuals trained</i>	562	263	47%	1,295	212	16%	1,885	722	38%	3,742	1,197	32%
Number of female youth (10-24) reached	33,000	37,114	112%	125,000	158,284	127%	225,000	200,221	89%	383,000	395,619	103%
Number of male youth (10-24) reached	33,000	31,839	96%	125,000	158,585	127%	225,000	207,415	92%	383,000	397,839	104%
<i>Total number of youth (10-24) reached</i>	<i>66,000</i>	<i>68,953</i>	<i>104%</i>	<i>250,000</i>	<i>316,869</i>	<i>127%</i>	<i>450,000</i>	<i>407,636</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>766,000</i>	<i>793,458</i>	<i>104%</i>

## **D. PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS TO DATE**

### **Strategic Objectives, Key Approaches and Activities**

In order to achieve its goal of **reducing the incidence of HIV among youth**, the TWC project has three primary strategic objectives:

#### **Strategic Objective 1**

The first objective is to **strengthen HIV related life skills for 10-24 year old youth**. This is accomplished through setting up viable and well managed peer education structures through the recruitment and training of field managers (instructor and master trainers) who in turn train and supervise peer educators. Youth reached by the project benefit from the following outreach methods:

**Curriculum based interventions** via 12 hour, 17 activity (14 hour, 20 activities in the case of the adapted Haitian Red Cross curriculum) peer educator- led **TWC workshops**

The highly participatory workshops are designed to help youth avoid HIV infection by providing the opportunity to build knowledge and skills so they are empowered to make informed and healthy choices concerning their sexual behavior. Each workshop is facilitated by a pair of peer educators for approximately 20 youth and generally takes one month to complete.

#### **Peer to peer outreach**

Peer educators ask each participant in TWC workshops to share HIV prevention messages with ten of their peers as “take-home assignments.” This outreach strategy is referred to as the ‘multiplier effect’ due to the vast networking power of using youth as a vehicle for transmitting key behavior change messages to their siblings, neighbors, schoolmates and friends. In this manner, youth attending TWC workshops are not passive learners, but are directly implicated in HIV prevention in their communities.

In the adapted TWC curriculum in Haiti, new features to the take home assignments improve the knowledge and skills-building value-added for both participants and the peers they reach. Participants deliver four complementary and reinforcing knowledge and self-efficacy building messages and activities to the same ten peers at four different junctures during the course of the TWC workshop - a more focused and systematic method that should increase the likelihood of skills and knowledge acquisition per youth reached.

A brochure (displaying the image of the popular Haitian musician *Beló*) is used as a guide during one of the take-home assignments in Haiti. This brochure addresses personal risk perception linked to the most common sexual relationships Haitian youth encounter including transactional sex and trans-generational sex - all expressed in local contexts and terms. Since typical sexual relationships vary by gender, one side of the brochure addresses boys and the other girls. The brochure was successfully pretested in both urban and rural Haiti with both in and out-of-school. These brochures are also distributed at select edutainment events. In addition to developing their own project materials, each Red Cross Society uses IEC materials from other organizations, harmonizing messaging across partners and lowering production costs.

### **Edutainment events**

Edutainment events (also referred to as CMEs or community mobilization events) include concerts, street theater, film viewings, and sports events. They are designed to disseminate vital prevention and solidarity messages to larger groups of youth ranging from several dozen to several thousand per event. Whether it's a rodeo show in Guyana, a movie night in Haiti, or a theater group in Tanzania, edutainment events reach approximately 30% of TWC beneficiaries. With new clarifications on how large scale public events can be counted towards the Emergency Plan individuals reached indicator, only events with 500 participants or under will be counted, and referred to as "small-scale community mobilization events." "Large-scale community mobilization events" will be tracked separately and calculated outside of the standard indicator. In addition, in order to reduce double counting, peer to peer and CME figures are revised downwards by 20% to 50% primarily in rural areas such as Tanzania.

### **Follow-up interventions**

Since they were introduced in 2007, follow-up interventions have been an outreach method used to specifically target youth 'graduates' of TWC workshops 3-6 months and 9-12 months after they have completed their last TWC curriculum-based session. Follow-up interventions are intended to provide a 'booster effect' to increase the likelihood of long term message retention. Project staff and volunteers tailor messages based on results of pre and post tests administered during TWC workshops, population level and national youth behavioral studies, and the expressed needs of youth beneficiaries. In order to maximize the quality of these interventions, participant numbers are limited to fewer than 500 with multiple activities scheduled during each event including small group breakout sessions. In the adapted TWC curriculum in Haiti, follow-up activities lure TWC session graduates back with the added incentive of receiving certification.

### **Youth clubs**

Existing youth clubs, often school based, are targeted for specific interventions such as role plays and film viewings. Since many of the club members have already benefited from TWC workshops, this method allows for continued post-curriculum follow-up and message reinforcement.

### **Mass Media**

The project primarily uses radio shows and public service announcements to share TWC messages with the majority of youth living in target areas. With primary emphasis placed on interpersonal communication (curriculum based interventions and peer to peer outreach), less than 1% of project funds are spent on mass media programming and diffusion. In Tanzania, the project receives donated air time, lowering costs even further.

## **Strategic Objective 2**

Strategic objective 2 focuses on **strengthening each National Red Cross Society's capacity to manage and expand youth HIV prevention projects**. This is accomplished internally through organizational development trainings offered by American Red Cross staff and other NGO partners. Training topics include volunteer supervision, project planning, finance and compliance, monitoring and evaluation and curriculum adaptation. Externally, capacity is built by encouraging partnership building with other NGOs and national youth HIV prevention taskforces. These partnerships allow the National Red Cross Societies to learn from and leverage each partner's

expertise in the domain of HIV prevention, care and treatment. Common goals, strategies and messages are established and duplication of efforts is reduced, leading to a more efficient and rational use of project resources. Lastly, in attempts to identify and disseminate best practices, exchange workshops are held between Red Cross branches within the same country and between Red Cross societies and Red Cross Movement partners at the regional level.

### **Strategic Objective 3**

TWC's third strategic objective is to **enhance the community environment for the adoption of safer sexual practices**. Community is defined here as adult stakeholders who influence directly or indirectly the environment in which youth make safe or unsafe sexual decisions. These adult stakeholders include parents and teachers as well as religious and secular community leaders from the public, non-governmental, informal and private sectors. The TWC project informs, seeks permission to operate, and solicits direct involvement of adult community members in the fight against HIV/AIDS and in the safer reproductive lives of youth through the organization of **town hall meetings**. These meetings are held in schools, churches and town centers. TWC National Red Cross Society staff invite core groups of adults attending town hall meetings who are already members of existing **community councils** (such as parent teacher associations and local AIDS taskforces) to become involved in day to day project implementation. Examples of direct community council engagement include help in planning TWC workshops in schools, consensus building on appropriate messaging for younger youth ages 10-14, in-kind contributions to project activities, promoting TWC sessions via letters to parents, and offering feedback after observing project activities. **Adult-child communication** workshops are a new initiative designed to improve youth-adult communication around prevention of HIV, other STIs and unintended pregnancy and parenthood.

## **Key Accomplishments**

As the Semi-Annual Emergency Plan Indicators Table demonstrates, the Together We Can project has exceeded its six month objective of youth trained and youth reached. With over 793,000 youth having benefited from TWC outreach interventions representing 104% of TWC's life of the project target goal, the project has surpassed the five year goal by nearly 12 months. In order to minimize double counting issues, these figures include a 50% reduction in youth reached by edutainment and peer to peer outreach in Tanzania. Double counting among TWC's three main outreach interventions is most pronounced in rural areas where high numbers of youth are being reached. Currently these factors most apply to the Tanzania portion of the program.

Over the life of the award, the program has trained only 32% of anticipated peer educators and field managers, representing half of the number expected at this juncture in the project. These lower numbers of individuals trained reflect a deliberate strategy since mid 2004 to achieve high retention rates for volunteers and field staff prizing quality over quantity. Evidence from our pre/post test database demonstrates a positive correlation between the experience of peer educators and the impact of TWC sessions on youth multipliers.

The majority of youth reached through TWC sessions were in-school youth. While Tanzania has the largest proportion of out-of-school youth completing TWC sessions with nearly 32% of their youth multipliers in this category, the percentages in both Haiti and Guyana have risen significantly and both now exceed 15%. Beneficiaries are split evenly by gender with a slightly great proportion of females in Haiti and Guyana, and males in Tanzania reached.

There were several important project developments during the semi-annual reporting period. First, the adapted curriculum underwent rigorous evaluation through the feedback of critical readers spanning the public and private sectors in and beyond Haiti, as well as field testing in both in and out of school settings. Now complete, the curriculum is currently being rolled out to peer educators by program managers together with field managers who were recently trained in the content and delivery of the adapted curriculum. Second, with follow-up activities underway in all three countries, the Together We Can teams are working on improving their relevance and responsiveness to local needs as observed and as interpreted from results of the pre/post-test database. Further, analysis of pre/post tests delivered during the follow-up interventions will shed light on the retention of messages and skills after a time lapse, as well as measure the efficacy of the follow-up activity itself. Third, in order to better address parent and adult-child communication and promote healthy norms, the American Red Cross developed and implemented multi-day, intergenerational workshops in Tanzania. Fourth, all three societies continue to strengthen referrals systems, and benefit from learning from one another. The TRCS has presented its referral manual that offers a comprehensive listing of youth friendly reproductive health services and commodities. The HRCS has shared its referral posters to increase the visibility of information about sites during TWC sessions and other outreach. The GRCS has demonstrated a mechanism for facilitating the availability of certain commodities at local referrals sites, and

Another success of TWC is the knowledge and resources generated whose benefits extend

beyond the three societies to other partners in the Red Cross movement as well as other ABY partners and NGOs. TWC will continue to share monitoring and evaluation resources such as participant tracking sheets, an activity database, and pre/post test database, and will soon be adding curriculum adaptation tools to the mix. TWC had the opportunity to present on the curriculum adaptation process to USAID headquarters in January, and will get to do so again with a larger audience through HRCS Project Manager's presentation during the HIV Implementers meeting next reporting period and possibly to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies thereafter.

### **Major Issues/Constraints**

The prolonging of the time-consuming curriculum adaptation process in Haiti reduced the project managers' ability to support field managers in addressing certain weaknesses in outreach to adults through Town Hall meetings and supporting the creation of operational community councils. Project managers will turn their attention to supporting FMs in this arena

A data-entry glitch in the TRCS' database likely caused a dilution effect on gains attained by TWC sessions, reducing the value of the data. This will be addressed in the near term so that data can be instructive in shaping follow-up interventions as well as the forthcoming curriculum adaptation process. Although the curriculum adaptation process comes at a late stage, the time estimated for the process is significantly less than in Haiti due to economies from leveraging the Haiti team's tools and lessons learned.

Significant variation in pre/post test results between GRCS branches calls for a tightening of project management's supervision and support of FMs. A forthcoming organizational development workshop will provide an opportunity to discuss pre/post database results and the significant differences across regions.

### **Planned Activities**

During the next six months, the Haitian and American Red Cross societies will distribute and share resources developed during the curriculum adaptation process for the benefit of other Red Cross Societies and the larger Red Cross Movement as well as NGO partners. Use of these tools and the adapted curriculum should expedite and streamline the adaptation process in Tanzania as the TRCS gets set to engage its own curriculum adaptation consultant to further modify the curriculum to Tanzanian cultural contexts.

Red Cross Societies will improve their classroom and display materials of referrals, including a dry erase-friendly poster boards for all branches. Further, pending approval from local USAID missions and intervention sites, Red Cross Societies will make condoms available during TWC sessions and edutainment events where appropriate and feasible.

The TRCS will continue to roll out the parent-child communication initiative, and will advise other Societies as they consider piloting the program. The Haitian Red Cross will roll out the new TWC curriculum, enabling a comparison between new and old curricula from pre/post data.

The Guyana and Haitian Red Cross will continue to strengthen partnerships with organizations that serve non-traditional or out-of-school youth, particularly given that analysis from 2006 pre/post test in Tanzania demonstrate an even greater impact on out-of-school youth than in-school youth.

With less than a year left in the existing project, the three Societies are also reaching out to local Missions and other donors in the hopes of securing further support to ensure the program's continuation.

### **Budget**

Funding requested under the FY08 Workplan totaled \$1,748,506 including ARC and sub recipient projected expenditures. Actual project expenditures for the first six months of the year totaled \$757,074. During FY07, the TWC project received an obligation amount totaling \$618,590.

## II. GUYANA PROGRESS REPORT

### FY08 Semi-Annual Results for Guyana

SO	Key Country Level Workplan FY08 Indicators	October 07 - March 08		
		Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met
SO1	Number of age, gender and culturally appropriate adaptations to TWC curriculum	0	1	∞
	<b>Number of Field Managers (MT/IT) and Peer Educators trained</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>113%</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum	750	1,158	154%
	Number of youth reached by peer to peer outreach	2,500	3,541	142%
	Number of youth reached by community mobilization events	1,500	2,645	176%
	<b>Total youth reached with community outreach programs</b>	<b>4,750</b>	<b>7,344</b>	<b>155%</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum reached through follow-up interventions	100	20	<b>20%</b>
	Number of youth reached by large-scale community mobilization events	1,500	0	<b>0%</b>
	Number of youth reached by mass media programs	0	0	-
SO2	Number of operational partnerships	15	5	33%
	Number of operational national project task forces	5	1	20%
	Number of staff trained in organizational development	6	2	33%
SO3	Number of adults attending Town Hall meetings	400	675	169%
	Number of operational community councils	2	3	150%

### Key Accomplishments

The Guyana Red Cross exceeded its objectives for youth reached with community outreach programs by 155%; this includes goals exceeded for youth reached through completing the TWC curriculum, peer to peer outreach, and community mobilization events. Slightly more than half of youth reached were female. In order to better reflect local community gender sensitivities, field managers working in hinterland communities continued to modify the curriculum slightly by separating males and females during condom use and negotiation activities. Over 15% of youth completing the curriculum were out of school, a category that included a group of vocational students from the Agricultural School of Guyana, the Sophia Special school targeting youth without high school completion, and the Dorothy Bailey health center for at risk youth. The project was active in all three program sites: Regions 1, 4 and 9. Despite higher rates of PE retention, project staff recruited and trained 17 new peer educators, and held refresher trainings for 9 current peer educators, and 8 National Trainers.

The Guyana Red Cross began piloting follow-up interventions drawing on lessons learned from Haiti and Tanzania. Thus far, follow-up interventions have been media-based, including the

viewing of films and listening sessions of the radio serial drama developed by CDC's MARCH (Modeling and Reinforcement to Combat HIV/ AIDS) program, the latter in remote areas of Guyana unable to benefit from live radio broadcasts.

Evidence of increased retention of active PEs translates into greater experience of the PE pool and subsequently smoother sessions. Greater facility with TWC sessions is also a result of decreasing resistance towards condom-related block 4 activities. This can be attributed to a greater awareness among adults in general, and parents and teacher in particular, of the need to discuss contraceptive issues, as well as a greater interest in and demand for this kind of education for themselves. One adaptation to the curriculum took effect this reporting period: the "Family Circle" activity designed to increase understanding on HIV within the larger social context was deemed to be too complicated and was removed.

Region 9's newsletter continues to make strides in engaging the community to spread empowering messages. The youth corner and advice column continue to be popular, and a new section has been added to spotlight a contributing community member, which thus far has included a hairdresser and volunteer. The newsletter with a circulation of 100 per month continues to be both distributed freely to libraries and schools, and sold to individuals. Region 9 youth hope to increase circulation with the extra resources generated through increased advertisements which can cover greater printing costs. Inspired by Region 9, the Region 1 TWC team began their first quarterly newsletter in January.

The GRCS collaborated with one national project task force (National Blood Transfusion Service) to ensure a secure and safe blood supply as well as three regional task forces during this reporting period including the Region 1 Regional AIDS and Region 9 Regional Multisectoral AIDS Committees to discuss the region's upcoming events for World Aids Day 2008, as well as Region 4's Regional Democratic Council Education Committee. [Please see story below about World Aids Day activities in Region 9.] The GRCS has maintained several operational partnerships. Existing partnerships with the Ministry of Education, Global Fund, World Bank, CDC and US Peace Corps remain strong. Three Peace Corps volunteers continued to provide extensive support to the GRCS in Regions 9 and 4 during the reporting period. One left in November and the other two in April, and due to recent shooting in January and subsequent security concerns in the Georgetown area, the GRCS has requested two replacement volunteers to help out in the hinterland, this time in Region 1.

TWC staff and volunteers in Region 9 participated in a workshop by partner organization GHARP (FHI). Also in Region 9, a partnership continues to thrive with the Remote Area Medical Wings of Hope whereby the GRCS coordinates TWC sessions in communities together with first aid and reproductive health outreach in advance of visits by doctors from Wings of Hope. The partnership also consists of Wings of Hope flying out (pro bono) supplies for TWC and condoms for the GRCS to distribute to health centers, thereby strengthening TWC's referral system. Similar arrangements have been made with a firm (Amazon Caribbean) in Region 1 to enhance and ensure the supply of condoms at local health centers and in so doing, strengthen TWC's referral system there. In Region 4, the GRCS developed a partnership with Operation Restoration, a local NGO that focuses on abstinence messages to collaborate and coordinate outreach. In addition, GRCS field managers there formed a new operational partnership with the

Dorothy Bailey youth center, a youth friendly health center for at-risk youth, many of whom are infected and/or affected by HIV. Eleven center youth were certified as peer educators and will work with other youth in the center and report to the local field manager.

Close to 700 adult stakeholders attended GRCS TWC town hall meetings and three community councils actively participated in TWC programming. The GRCS developed a partnership with a local indigenous NGO in Region 9, the South Central People's Development Association (SCPDA), to develop a community council to coordinate outreach together in communities. While the SCPDA funded and provided adult workshops, TWC sessions were delivered to youth. The lack of large-scale community mobilization events is due to the fact that the major event occurs in September during a 6 day commercial event that brings out businesses to showcase products (Guyana Expo 08).

Operationally, new cell phone coverage in Region 1 as of 2008 has facilitated communications, although internet access is still unavailable. Despite recent violence (a shooting massacre in January occurred in the Lusignen community) in an area of Region 4 where we operate, programming was not disrupted.

### **Major Issues/Constraints**

Programmatic challenges in Region 1 persist with community values (influenced by Roman Catholicism) in Moruca leading to resistance towards the condom content of TWC's block 4. This issue led the village council to encourage the resignation of one field manager from his other role as assistant village chief in early 2008 due to a perceived conflict of interest. The two parties are engaged in a continued dialogue. Meanwhile in neighboring Marumba, TWC is having difficulties working with the largest group of youth who are in a boarding school due to a rigorous school schedule which can only accommodate an hour or so a week of TWC programming, leading to the sessions being drawn out in some cases over three months.

Difficulties arise when administering the pre/post tests to predominately low literate groups. Such situations call for field manager support, which still doesn't always suffice for interviewing low literate participants individually.

Pre/post test data reveals significant variations between regions which project management will look into to identify if the issues lie with the delivery of the curriculum or the administering of the pre/post tests. The time allocated for TWC sessions has on occasion been cut short in schools due to scheduling conflicts.

To address these issues, the GRCS continues to explore ways of improving outreach to adults in the community, and school administrations, to secure their buy-in and an enabling environment for TWC outreach.

### **Planned Activities**

The targeted number of youth to be reached for the latter half of FY08 is the same as those for the first half of the fiscal year. With the entry of pre and post test results into the new database,

project staff and field managers will work on using data analysis to guide follow-up activities, supervision and programming. In addition, GRCS plans to scale up follow-up activities, and in addition to creating activities independently, they can draw from and tailor activities from the revised Haitian Red Cross curriculum where relevant.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

**Table 1: Guyana Red Cross Pre/Post-Test Results (October 2007 – January 2008)**

<i>Question/Indicator</i>	<i>Pre-test</i>	<i>Post-test</i>	<i>% Increase</i>
<b>Knowledge</b>			
Comprehensive correct knowledge (female)	15%	46%	207%
Comprehensive correct knowledge (male)	15%	44%	193%
<b>Attitudes</b>			
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (female)	48%	68%	42%
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (male)	42%	66%	57%
<b>Skills</b>			
Ability to negotiate abstinence (female)	53%	61%	15%
Ability to negotiate abstinence (male)	44%	40%	-9%
Ability to negotiate condom use (female)	67%	81%	21%
Ability to negotiate condom use (male)	69%	88%	28%

Table 1 above shows results for 415 pre-tests and 465 post-tests administered by peer educators to youth beneficiaries during the first and last days of TWC workshops during October 2007 through January 2008. The table shows consistent gains for most indicators examined with particularly pronounced results for comprehensive correct knowledge. Unfortunately, self-efficacy gains are not seen in male's skills around negotiating abstinence. Project staff feel that this finding is related to strong and entrenched gender norms, which permeate all levels of society. Efforts will be made to assess the content and activities that address skills acquisition (or self efficacy) related to the ability to negotiate abstinence to determine solutions for improvement.

## Program Management

A change in key personnel occurred during this reporting period. ARC Regional Field Representative David Hinch whose level of effort on TWC was 35% left Guyana in December and the American Red Cross in January. DC-based TWC Project Officer Lindsay Lincoln was selected and approved to support the GRCS as part of her job description.

## Budget

Guyana Red Cross project expenditures from October 2007 through March 2008 total \$94,080. This amount does not include American Red Cross field and headquarters expenses.

## Story from the Field

### **From deep in the Guyanese hinterland to downtown D.C., the TWC team from Region 9 takes World AIDS Day to new frontiers**

In the span of a few days and a few thousand miles, Guyanese Red Cross Society (GRCS) youth and volunteers from the Lethem Branch shared songs and poems, facilitated discussions and arts and craft activities, addressed an international audience, hosted a concert, and launched a Red Cross-affiliated billboard heralding HIV prevention messages.

Close to home in Lethem's Wadapa (Wapishana for 'the place where people meet') or community center, GRCS hosted a community concert where over 300 attendees were challenged by performers whether they had the courage to: stop violence and abuse; to stop the spread of HIV and other STIs; to get tested; to stop discrimination; to resist peer pressure; and to learn the facts. A peer educator sang a song she composed about a 15 year old girl becoming infected with HIV to a silent and awe-struck audience. After the song, the audience observed 20 seconds of silence in remembrance of those persons who died due to the infection. Throughout the ceremony, 14 lit candles served as a reminder of the estimated number of new HIV infections around the world per minute. This statistic when first announced brought a complete hush to the crowd. The concert also showcased the various ethnic groups of Guyana during which models spoke briefly about HIV in the homeland of their ancestors, and featured involvement from community members spanning teachers, soldiers, and police in addition to Red Cross volunteers and supporters.



*A performer sings during the "Have the courage" concert*



*Launching ceremony for the Faces Campaign*



In collaboration with community partners, the GRCS Lethem Branch launched the Faces campaign at Lethem's airstrip during a ceremony chaired by leaders from GRCS and the Multisectoral AIDS Committee. The Faces campaign, effectively implemented by the Red Cross in other parts of Latin America and the Caribbean, advertises the fact that: "Nobody has the truth written on their face. Protect yourself. Use a condom." This IFRC-sponsored campaign targets sexually active at-risk youth and adults. The brief program also featured peer educators performing a song and reciting a poem, four local HIV awareness champions delivering empowering messages, and the awarding of two young regional poetry competition winners with discmans (compliments of an authorized Digicel phone dealer).

A little outside Lethem, in the small neighboring community of Hiowa, peer educators facilitated an HIV awareness discussion at a community gathering at the request of the community health worker (CHW) who translated the entire presentation into the local Macushi dialect. Following a very interactive discussion around HIV and AIDS, transmission, prevention, treatment, testing and myths, villagers requested that the GRCS return to conduct a condom demonstration and to show a video on HIV. Meanwhile, a TWC trainer (also a Peace Corps volunteer) facilitated HIV sensitization sessions in the villages of Nappi and Parishara where youths were given prizes for participation and correct answers during a quiz on HIV.

South of Nappi, 6 youths and TWC Trainers (including another Peace Corps volunteer) cycled the long bumpy miles from Shulinab to Sand Creek to work with community youth on creating posters and poems. By the end of the session, youth displayed posters depicting transmission while sporting and passing out head bands with slogans like "think about the future" as they walked around Sand Creek trying to get people to fall in with walk. The posters were presented to the audience, and some health workers delivered a few short speeches.

Further afield, over 2500 miles away in Washington DC, the World Bank selected and sponsored peer educator Noel Prudencio to participate in discussions commemorating World AIDS Day. Alongside a youth leader from Mexico, Noel shared his experience in HIV/AIDS peer education and the benefits and problems related to youth participation in prevention. He also conducted outreach through TWC's condom demonstration and HIV true or false quiz to a group of over 30 school students (aged 14-16), community members and World Bank staff. Noel continues to keep in touch with World Bank staff and his counterpart from Mexico, whose use of radio has inspired him to explore similar programming in Guyana.

Noel, who was awarded best performer and most active volunteer in Region 9, was selected for this opportunity to honor his commitment and strong performance. Opportunities like these serve as an incentive to Peer Educators, and as in the case of Noel, have an energizing effect that extends beyond the person selected. Noel is clearly headed other places too. When asked by the head (Secretary General) of the Guyana Red Cross where he sees himself in ten years, he replied "in your position."



*Noel Prudencio addresses a group of youth, community members and staff at the World Bank*



*The Faces campaign billboard stands in Lethem's principal intersection*

### III. HAITI PROGRESS REPORT

#### FY08 Semi-Annual Results for Haiti

SO	Key Country Level Workplan FY08 Indicators	October 07 - March 08		
		Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met
SO1	Number of age, gender and culturally appropriate adaptations to TWC curriculum	1	>1	100%
	<b>Number of Field Managers (MT/IT) and Peer Educators trained</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum	3,000	2,567	86%
	Number of youth reached by peer to peer outreach	15,000	22,435	150%
	Number of youth reached by small-scale community mobilization events	1,000	742	74%
	<b>Total youth reached with community outreach programs</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>25,744</b>	<b>135%</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum reached through follow-up interventions	2,000	2,187	109%
	Number of youth reached by large-scale community mobilization events	2,500	18,826	753%
	Number of youth reached by mass media programs	0	0	-
SO2	Number of operational partnerships	5	0	0%
	Number of operational national project task forces	2	0	0%
	Number of staff trained in organizational development	10	0	0%
SO3	Number of adults attending Town Hall meetings	750	208	28%
	Number of operational community councils	5	4	80%

#### Key Accomplishments

All 7 project sites were active during the reporting period (Petionville, Cité Soleil, Petite Goâve, Anse-à-Pitres, Ouanamithe, Forte Liberté and Cap Haitian). Peer educators and field managers reached 25,744 youth through curriculum based, peer to peer and community mobilization outreach methods. Over half of youth reached were female and 19% were out-of-school youth – the largest proportion of out-of-school youth to date. This unprecedented figure reflects concerted efforts on the part of all branches to map and then target venues serving out-of-school youth. Urban sites, where such institutions are more plentiful, were particularly successful at raising their proportion of out-of-school youth reached. All 7 branches organized CMEs of a large or small scale by leveraging its extensive partnerships. World AIDS Day celebrations in all branches included the distribution of 1700 new Information Education Communication materials in the form of a brochure featuring local singer Belo. In Petionville, the brochure was launched with the participation of the artist, during which he signed shirts and brochures and delivered inspiring messages. The brochure is also an integral component of the adapted curriculum,

constituting one of four take home assignment whereby youth share the brochure and its messages with ten peers.

During this reporting period, the curriculum adaptation core group consisting of an in-country consultant, DC based consultant and local volunteers and staff completed the TWC curriculum adaptation. Between September and October, the curriculum underwent a critical analysis process whereby experts and stakeholders both domestically and internationally gave their feedback. Locally, critical readers included Haiti MOH representatives, local NGO staff, peer educators, and field managers. Internationally, staff from Red Cross Societies across two continents and from USAID, as well as lead researchers in the field of HIV prevention curricula including Dr. Kirby, offered constructive criticism. Recommendations helped inspire: more prescriptive guidance on the preferred behavior change that the curriculum addresses; detailed scripting of role plays and their use including modeling, practice and review; substantive improvements around multiple and concurrent partners, fidelity, contraceptives and family planning; and a sharpening in the curriculum's focus, including a reduction in the number of key messages.

Between November and December of 2007, a small group of peer educators and field managers were trained to deliver the adapted curriculum in preparation for field testing. Between January and March of 2008, the adapted TWC curriculum was field-tested with out of school and in-school youth in Cite Soleil and Petionville respectively. Both targeted groups were gender balanced and had an age average of 19. Cite Soleil field testing occurred over four consecutive days with a low literacy group from IDEJEN. In Petionville, field testing was conducted during 2 consecutive weekends with literate in-school youth from the Lycée of Petionville. Field testing had to be repeated in Petionville as the peer educators initially did not follow the curriculum sufficiently for observers to assess the content. Data collected from observation forms, focus group discussions, and pre/post tests demonstrated that youth were engaged and attentive, found the experience worthwhile and enjoyable, and improved knowledge, attitudes and skills around risk reducing behavior. Feedback also spurred improvements in timing, orthography and clarity (of instructions).

During the curriculum adaptation process, the team finalized the follow-up intervention (FUI) system. Upon completion of the curriculum, participants receive a FUI invitation card containing both a number linked to the program database and information of the next meeting time and place. During the FUI activity, the youth multiplier submits his/her card to the peer educator to be recorded, following the event, participants receive their certificate of completion of the TWC program. This ensures a higher rate of youth multiplier returns. Various follow-up activities continued successfully in all branches including Haitian films addressing problems of HIV and AIDS in Haiti, discrimination and stigmatization, and PLWHA.

In March of 2008, the Red Cross central staff trained all 14 project field managers on how to use the revised curriculum activities in preparation for the training of peer educators. HRCS field managers also received training on program aspects including monitoring and evaluation, supervision, planning and reporting. Field managers will roll out the new curriculum through trainings (with assistance of central staff) not only of existing peer educators but of the 70 new peer educators that will be recruited in April and May.

Having refined its comprehensive referral system, the project made further improvements by developing a home work assignment within the TWC curriculum to incite youth multipliers to acquire information and service not provided by the Red Cross. At the end of block 3, youth multipliers are asked to visit a reproductive health clinic and obtain desired information to share with fellow youth multipliers during the fourth and final block. [Please see story below about the referral system spurring a youth multiplier to seek testing services.]

The Haitian Red Cross continues its longstanding partnerships with FOSREF, VDH, PLAN and the Ministry of Health. In addition, HRCS has strengthened newer partnerships with the Scouts d’Haiti, PSI, MSH, FHI, POZ and IDEJEN. Typically these operational partnerships involve joint planning and implementation of community based activities including edutainment events. The strategic partnership with IDEJEN designed to expand the program’s reach with out-of-school youth led to collaboration around field testing the adapted curriculum with out-of-school youth from the program in Cite Soleil. Exposure to the program should facilitate the next stage of partnership whereby IDEJEN youth apply to be peer educators. HRCS project coordinators have also participated in numerous BCC cluster meetings composed of various PEPFAR partners including the MOH. These meetings proved to be useful in organizing different activities and created a strong partnership with institutions working in the same area (avoiding duplication of information to youth). It also helped standardize key messages in the youth prevention programs. Four community councils were active during the reporting period, comprising school officials in the city of Cap Haitian and city delegates of Cite Soleil. Each community council has worked closely with project field managers to plan TWC sessions, and to assist in informing parents and adults about TWC interventions in their schools.

### **Major Issues/Constraints**

Within the space of a year, 70 peer educators dropped out of the TWC program. This reduction in peer educators has accounted for the fact that only 86% of the planned target of youth multipliers were reached with the entire TWC curriculum. Though peer educator dropout is expected as PEs eventually fall outside of the desired profile with regards to age and availability, the project team continues to devise better incentives such as capacity building activities to assure optimal PE retention. Increased project management’s time and focus, thanks to the completion of the time-consuming adaptation process, as well as the forthcoming recruitment and training of 70 new PEs will yield significant increases in youth multipliers and participants reached.

The project has met only 28% of its target objective for adults reach through community town hall meetings. The program management team is looking at further supporting field managers to reach targets by conveying definitions and strategies for this kind of outreach.

The security situation over the reporting period seemed to improve with drops in kidnappings up until a few months ago, and an apparent increase in law and order due to a strengthened national police force and a prominent presence of the UN. Unfortunately the recent global increase in fuel and food prices provoked an outburst of protests and riots nation-wide towards the end of March, which became increasingly widespread and violent in April and spurred the Senate’s vote for the

dismissal of the Prime Minister. Natural disasters including flooding in Anse-à-Pitres and a small tornado in Ouanaminthe did not disrupt programming during the period.

## Planned Activities

The Haitian Red Cross will focus its efforts during the next six months on rolling out the new curriculum through training 76 existing peer educators and 70 new recruits in the new curriculum. Staff and volunteers will continue to improve upon developing meaningful follow-up intervention methodologies that respond to gaps demonstrated by pre/post tests and peer educator/field manager observations of the target messages in order to better reinforce knowledge and skills. Through solidifying a partnership with IDEJEN, the branches of Cite Soleil, Cap Haitien and Petit Goave will recruit, train and support youth from this organization as peer educators, following existing procedures. The TWC team is also in dialogue with the USAID Mission regarding the possibility of securing support for an expansion both in geographic scope (to two underserved regions), and in programmatic scope to incorporate condom distribution and youth adult communication components.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

**Table 2: Haitian Red Cross Pre/Post-Test Results (October 2007 – January 2008)**

<i>Question/Indicator</i>	<i>Pre-test</i>	<i>Post-test</i>	<i>% Increase</i>
<b>Knowledge</b>			
Comprehensive correct knowledge (female)	17%	54%	218%
Comprehensive correct knowledge (male)	17%	50%	194%
<b>Attitudes</b>			
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (female)	39%	70%	79%
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (male)	44%	66%	50%
<b>Skills</b>			
Ability to negotiate abstinence (female)	53%	67%	26%
Ability to negotiate abstinence (male)	44%	49%	11%
Ability to negotiate condom use (female)	67%	75%	12%
Ability to negotiate condom use (male)	73%	82%	12%

Table 2 above shows results for 711 pre-tests and 699 post-tests administered by peer educators to youth beneficiaries during the first and last days of TWC workshops during October 2007 through January 2008. The table shows consistent gains for all indicators examined with

particularly pronounced results for comprehensive correct knowledge and strong results also for attitudinal shifts. Only with skills acquisition (or self efficacy) do participants' gains fall below 50%. One of the most significant curriculum adaptations responds to the need to increase the emphasis and curriculum's impact on skills building, through extensive practice, both during and in between sessions on skills ranging from communication to decision-making.

## **Program Management**

A change in key personnel occurred during this reporting period. ARC Regional Field Representative David Hintch who supported the GRCS and HRCS left the program, and DC-based TWC Project Officer Lindsay Lincoln assumed that support role as part of her job description.

## **Budget**

Estimated sub-recipient (Haitian Red Cross) project expenditures from October 2006 through March 2007 total \$97,536. This amount does not include American Red Cross field and headquarters expenses.

## **Story from the Field**

### **Encouraging words from program beneficiaries and supporters**

Part of an HRCS field manager's responsibility is to meet with community leaders and other adult stakeholders to secure buy-in through discussing the project's objective and goals in relation to HIV and AIDS among youth. Gaining community support improves planning, coordination and follow-up of TWC sessions and related outreach.

Following an established relationship with Cap Haitian field managers and peer educators, the director of the Sacred Hearts Non-traditional Education Center had the following story to share.



“Before the Haitian Red Cross training sessions, I would register several cases of pregnancies within my establishment, at least 5 cases during the last 2 years, but today I have observed that the number of pregnancies is significantly reduced thanks to the principles established by the Peer educators during the training sessions which the youth from my school follow.”

*Mr. Percinthe Nesly, Director of the Educational Center of the Sacred Hearts for Non-traditional Youth, talks to HRCS field manager in Cap Haitien.*

Field managers and peer educators play an important supportive and empowering role to their peers, providing them with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills that support making decisions to reduce their risk, including through access to local services. A youth multiplier had the following story to share after completing a TWC youth multiplier session.

“My name is Marie-France Pierre and I’m 18 years old. I share this story thanks to the Haitian Red Cross which has informed me about HIV & AIDS. I did not know how HIV was contracted, how it was prevented, or how infection was tested. But after having received information given by the peer educators, I spoke to my friends and boyfriend about the modes of HIV transmission, the necessary factors which put you at risk, along with the different methods of transmission. One of my friends asked me if I knew my HIV status. Quite honestly, I was embarrassed to answer no. So I asked my boyfriend to accompany me to the Hospital Justinien to get tested and thus adopt a method of prevention. Thankfully our results were negative but have encouraged us to be mutually faithful and practice abstinence until we have completed our studies to avoid unintended pregnancy.”



*Cap Haitien field manager listens as Marie-France shares her story.*

#### IV. TANZANIA PROGRESS REPORT

##### FY08 Semi-Annual Results for Tanzania

SO	Key Country Level Work plan FY08 Indicators	October 07 - March 08		
		Planned Target	Actual	% of Target Met
SO1	Number of age, gender and culturally appropriate adaptations to TWC curriculum	1	1	100%
	<b>Number of Field Managers (MT/IT) and Peer Educators trained</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum	6,000	6,896	115%
	Number of youth reached by peer to peer outreach	40,000	37,266	93%
	Number of youth reached by small-scale community mobilization events	1,500	927	62%
	<b>Total youth reached with community outreach programs</b>	<b>47,500</b>	<b>45,089</b>	<b>95%</b>
	Number of youth completing entire TWC curriculum reached through follow-up interventions	0	1,442	∞
	Number of youth reached by large-scale community mobilization events	5,000	9,720	194%
SO2	Number of youth reached by mass media programs	0	250,000	∞
	Number of operational partnerships	10	11	110%
	Number of operational national project task forces	4	2	50%
SO3	Number of staff trained in organizational development	0	22	∞
	Number of adults attending Town Hall meetings	360	131	36%
	Number of operational community councils	9	9	100%

#### Key Accomplishments

Field managers and peer educators organized a comprehensive mix of outreach activities in all four project districts—Kigoma Urban, Kigoma Rural “B”, Kigoma Rural “A”, Kasulu and Kibondo, including TWC workshops and community mobilization events. With over 45,000 youth reached, TWC Tanzania attained 95% of its 6 month target for total youth reached through community outreach, and exceeded its 6 month goal for youth completing the TWC curriculum. Slightly less than half of these youth were female with a 68%/32% mix of in-school and out-of-school youth. In-school youth made up a higher percentage than out-of-school youth this period because the majority of youth in our target area are in school, and in-school youth are easier to reach. Efforts are being made to reach out to a greater number of higher risk and out-of-school youth in the next period through an increased focus on involving youth clubs, young adults who have finished school, OVCs, and street kids in TWC activities. About 45% of youth reached were 10-14, 40% of youth were aged 15-19 and 15% were aged 20-24. In order to avoid double counting beneficiaries, these figures reflect a 50% reduction in youth reached through peer-to-peer outreach and community mobilization events. Currently these reductions are only applied to

the Tanzania portion of the three-country project due to its extremely rural intervention sites, which tend to increase the potential for double counting.

No new peer educators or field managers were trained this quarter because the existing number was sufficient to continue to meet project objectives. Instead, focus was placed on improving the quality of messaging and increasing focus on small-scale community mobilization events. Refresher trainings were held for peer educators and field managers to introduce new activities to Youth Multiplier follow-up events, and to pilot the newly developed Adult Child Communication curriculum.

In order to promote long-term retention of TWC messages, the TRCS reached over 1400 TWC workshop ‘graduates’ with follow-up interventions at three, six, and nine-month intervals after completion of the curriculum. Activities are intended to highlight key points in the curriculum and include games, interactive activities, scenarios, and role plays, all of which reiterate TWC messages, counter myths and stigma, and spur dialogue among youth about issues surrounding adolescence, decision making, and skill building. Follow-up events also take the opportunity to refresh youth on the facts about HIV and STI prevention and transmission, and to familiarize them with services in their area using the newly developed referral manual.

Printing and mass distribution of the referral manuals was completed in January of 2008. Field managers are undergoing training on the rollout and use of these manuals, which will include the adaptation of the dry erase banners from the Haiti program to make locally relevant information more accessible to youth participating in events.

TWC continued to actively support over 100 members of four separate youth clubs in two of four districts in Kigoma. All clubs were formed on their own initiative by youth who had completed the TWC curriculum and continued to work with peer educators and youth multipliers to support TWC activities in their communities. An additional 250,000 Tanzanian youth benefited from multiple 15-minute public service spots organized by TWC youth, which aired on Radio Kigoma and Radio Kwizera. Programming revolved around HIV/AIDS prevention education and stigma reduction.

TRCS project coordinators continued their participation in both the Coordination Committee for Youth Programs (CCYP), and ABY partners task forces, including presenting on Adult Child Communication and on the TWC program. Participation also continues in USAID Prevention Partners meetings, and project staff maintained active partnerships with 11 different organizations. The TRCS and Ministry of Health once again carried out joint community mobilization events for World AIDS Day together with PSI, KIVEDEA and SHDEPHA+. Efforts to develop new partnerships continue, and will be enhanced with the addition of Kendall RePass to the field team in Tanzania.

Twenty-two staff received organizational development training in November through American Red Cross led finance and compliance training. In November, both the TRCS national and regional project coordinators attended a behavior change communication training facilitated by FHI. In January, twenty-four TRCS staff attended an ARC sponsored branch development

training. Activities included developing the TRCS strategic plan, annual work plans, and branch manuals.

With emphasis placed on entry into new communities, TRCS field managers held 8 town hall meetings for 131 government, village and religious leaders. Nine community councils including Tanzanian government district councils and village development committees collaborated with TWC on activity planning and implementation.

In an effort to improve the quality of TWC messaging, and to respond to community demand, TWC Tanzania developed a curriculum for an Adult Child Communication (ACC) workshop. Designed to promote positive parenting and effective adult-child communication about sexuality and sexual risk reduction for parents of 10-20 year old youth, the curriculum was developed using materials from several evidence-based, proven curricula and aims to encourage parents to become more active participants in guiding their children to make healthy life choices, including negotiating sexual situations.

The ACC workshop is a three-day program that addresses adults only on day one, youth only on day two, and combines adults and youth for day three. Ten workshops have been piloted with 98% attendance for all three days, and TRCS plans to respond to several requests for further workshops. While ACC workshops are a supplementary activity for TWC, they intend to affect an audience of adults not previously reached, and have the potential to have a great impact on enhancing community involvement in prevention education. These activities also have a reinforcing effect on youth's uptake of HIV/AIDS messaging.

In March of 2008, TWC Tanzania hosted a team from USAID Washington in the field. The trip was a success and resulted in many positive and helpful recommendations for the future of the project, including: greater focus on addressing higher risk youth, increased attention on pre and post tests, and adaptation of the "key messages" and the erasable message boards from TWC Haiti.

### **Major Issues/Constraints**

As the Tanzanian Red Cross expands to ever more remote districts in the Kigoma region, attendance at some field manager-peer educator planning meetings has suffered due to transportation issues linked to bad roads, heavy rains, and continued maintenance needs on project vehicles. In November, due to negligence of the project driver, the Kibondo project vehicle had vital parts stolen, rendering the vehicle inoperable. The loss of the use of this vehicle, and the resultant termination of the driver has caused significant strains on the running of the project in Kibondo. The vehicle has since been repaired and a new driver has been hired effective May 1st. There are also cases of several motorcycles that have broken down and await replacement parts. Additionally, continued struggles with financial reporting and clearing payments in the field have resulted in financial strains to the project, limiting some activities. Several meetings have taken place with the Finance Delegate and the field team to iron out reporting problems, and cash advances have been forwarded to clear outstanding debts incurred at the field level. The culmination of these problems has resulted in the limitation of some project activities, and a decrease in supervision visits.

A data entry error reduced the utility of the data in interpreting the impact of TWC sessions. Efforts will be made to correct this error, so that data drawn can instruct program activities and administration in more meaningful ways. [Please see monitoring and evaluation section below for clarification on this issue.]

### **Planned Activities**

Targets for youth reached over the next 6 months are the same as the targets for the first half of the fiscal year, with the addition of continuing focus on small scale activities in lieu of large scale mobilization events, complete rollout of referral manuals at the field level, continued utilization of pre/post test system for analysis of messaging, enhancing take home assignments, and capacity building of TRCS. Project staff will develop additional educational materials such as posters and brochures containing referral information and train the newly recruited peer educators on the new referral system.

TWC staff will focus on the curriculum adaptation process planned for May of 2008. The TRCS is expected to engage a short term local adaptation consultant to assist them in further adaptation of the TWC curriculum to better reflect unique Tanzanian cultural contexts. The adaptation process will take into consideration recent Peer Education standards released by the Ministry of Health, as well as the tools used and the content in the adapted TWC curriculum for Haiti. Certain modifications from the Haiti curriculum will also be rolled out in the more immediate term such as the take home assignments. Project staff will also continue to improve upon the format and messaging of follow-up interventions, making them more responsive to data generated from the pre/post database.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

**Table 3: Tanzanian Red Cross Society Pre Post Test Results (October 2007 – January 2008)**

<i>Question/Indicator</i>	<i>Pre-test</i>	<i>Post-test</i>	<i>% Increase</i>
<b>Knowledge</b>			
Comprehensive correct knowledge (female)	22%	35%	59%
Comprehensive correct knowledge (male)	27%	42%	56%
<b>Attitudes</b>			
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (female)	61%	64%	5%
HIV+ female teacher allowed to teach in school (male)	69%	79%	14%
<b>Skills</b>			
Ability to negotiate abstinence (female)	43%	46%	7%
Ability to negotiate abstinence (male)	54%	58%	7%
Ability to negotiate condom use (female)	71%	71%	0%
Ability to negotiate condom use (male)	78%	79%	1%

Table 3 above shows results for 716 pre and 866 post-tests administered to peer educators, and by peer educators to youth beneficiaries during the first and last days of TWC workshops and at the start and finish of follow-up events from October 2007 through March 2008. The data entry error of mixing pre and post tests administered to peer educators during trainings as well as to participants during follow-up interventions into the pool of youth multipliers has likely caused a dilution effect on gains attained. Nevertheless, gains were seen in all categories, with the exception of the ability to negotiate condom use, which is attributed to an overall reluctance to discuss condom use among staff due to confusion about USAID regulations. This has been identified as a priority for retraining in the first months of year five.

## Program Management

In January, Kendall RePass relocated from Washington DC to Dar Es Salaam to assume the post of ARC Senior Representative. He will devote 40% to overall management of the three-country TWC program, while focusing locally in Tanzania and East Africa on HIV prevention, care and support program development.

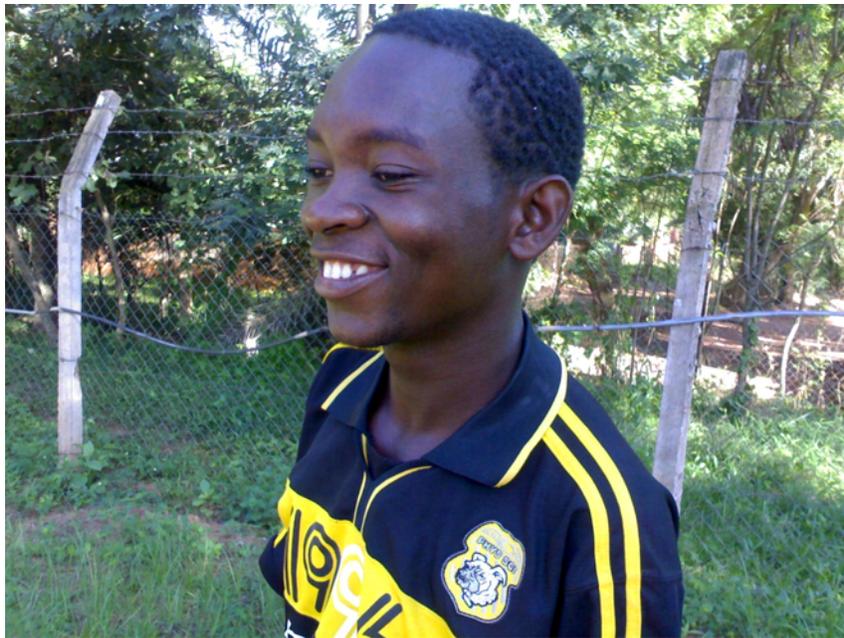
## Budget

Estimated sub-recipient (Tanzania Red Cross) project expenditures from October 2006 through March 2007 total \$234,425. This amount does not include American Red Cross field and headquarters expenses.

## Story from the Field

### Developing life skills and employability through HIV prevention program opportunities

Hamisi Pepe is an 18 year-old boy living in a rural village in the Kigoma Region of Tanzania. Hamisi's life is similar to that of other young men his age in rural areas of Tanzania. With primary education complete but financial constraints preventing secondary school, his reading, writing and numeracy skills are weak, his English skills non-existent and his prospects for employability low. With limited employment opportunities, young men Hamisi's age often end up with little or nothing to do. This puts them at a significantly higher risk for contracting HIV due to a higher likelihood of engaging in high risk behaviors such as alcohol and drug use, and participating in high risk sex.



*Hamisi Pepe: "There is not one person I know who has not been affected by HIV or AIDS in some way..."*

The 'Together We Can' (TWC) project, run by The American Red Cross together with the Tanzanian Red Cross Society, helps give youth in the Kigoma Region the skills they need to fight stigma associated with HIV, and to protect themselves and their peers from infection. This means giving youth like Hamisi opportunities to get involved in activities that increase his knowledge on the facts about HIV, and allow him the chance to spread that knowledge to his peers, through participation in youth clubs and peer education seminars with local youth.

This February, Hamisi, a member of one of the Kasulu youth clubs, and a trained youth multiplier, participated in the ‘Scenarios From Africa; Young People Against AIDS’ International Contest, coordinated internationally by Global Dialogues and facilitated by the Tanzanian Red Cross Society. This community mobilization and education project encourages youth all over Africa to come up with a creative idea for a film about AIDS. Winning participants have their story translated into six African languages (including French and Swahili), made into a film that is broadcast on national and international television, and added to a DVD, which is internationally distributed to programs like TWC for educational purposes.

Hamisi tells a story of a young girl who is orphaned when both of her parents die of AIDS and the struggles she faces in her life as a result, both from poverty and from stigma. Hamisi says he was inspired to write the story based on the experiences of a girl who he studied with in primary school. “There are many troubles that we face as a result of AIDS, not just those related to us becoming infected ourselves.” Hamisi said. “There is not one person I know who has not been affected by HIV or AIDS in some way, and yet we are afraid of anyone associated with the disease in any way. We need to teach people the truth about HIV and AIDS.” Hamisi is proud to have had an opportunity to share his ideas about how HIV and AIDS affect the lives of youth in rural settings in Tanzania, and he is pleased to be associated with the Together We Can program, educating youth and fighting stigma within the population as a club member and trained youth multiplier. What’s more, beyond the sense of empowerment, Hamisi and his peers are developing knowledge and skills that enhance their prospects of earning their own livelihood.