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Supporting community action on AIDS in developing countries

Reaching Most-at-Risk Populations for Prevention

The experience of the Caribbean
HIV/AIDS Alliance

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Presentation overview

- Context
- History of the Alliance in Caribbean
- Difficulties experienced in programme implementation and programme re-focus
- Legacy of USAID investment

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Context

- HIV prevalence in Caribbean only second to that of sub-Saharan Africa
- Limited epidemiological data to guide interventions
- HIV transmission driven by a number of complex factors
 - Socio-cultural and religious norms
 - Complexity of sexual norms – formal and informal sex work, MSM (men on the down low), multiple partners, gender inequities
 - Stigma and discrimination

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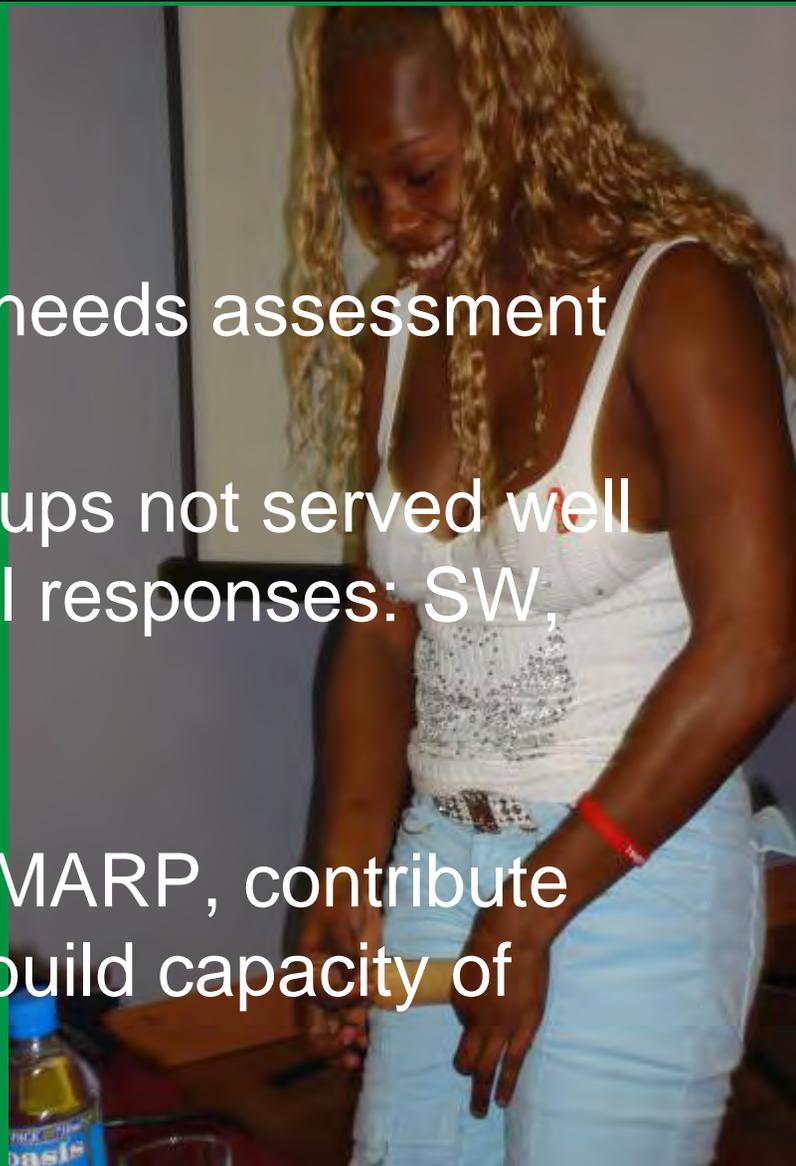
National and Regional Response

- 2000 - major shift in regional response → establishment of PANCAP in 2001
- Significant increase in resources at both regional and national levels → Establishment of NAPs
- Moved away from narrow focus on health to a multi-sectoral approach
- However, little focus on community engagement or marginalized populations

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Alliance in the Caribbean

- August 2002 – conducted needs assessment
- Identified marginalized groups not served well in the regional and national responses: SW, MSM, PLHIV (MARP)
- Promoted need to involve MARP, contribute to national response, and build capacity of civil society



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Office Start-up

- Alliance unable to find suitable national NGO to become an LO
- Established Country Office in Port of Spain with goal of it becoming an LO
- Programme start-up supported by USAID regional funding through central Grant mechanism

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Programme start-up

- 2004: USAID-Barbados support 5-year CHAA strategy to work with MARP
- Strategy seen as effective way for USAID funding to help national governments and the region achieve greater results
- USAID funding supports CHAA to reach MARP and increase their participation in the response

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Alliance CHAA objectives

1. Improving coverage of effective community focused HIV prevention efforts
2. Strengthening leadership and capacity of civil society to respond to HIV
3. Improving institutional, organizational and policy environment for community HIV responses

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Programme implementation

- Building capacity of CBOs with hope that they would improve prevention and care support to MARP--Included small grants
- Policy: Aimed at increasing the participation of MARP in decision making bodies
- Scope: 9 islands in the EC with small team based in Trinidad

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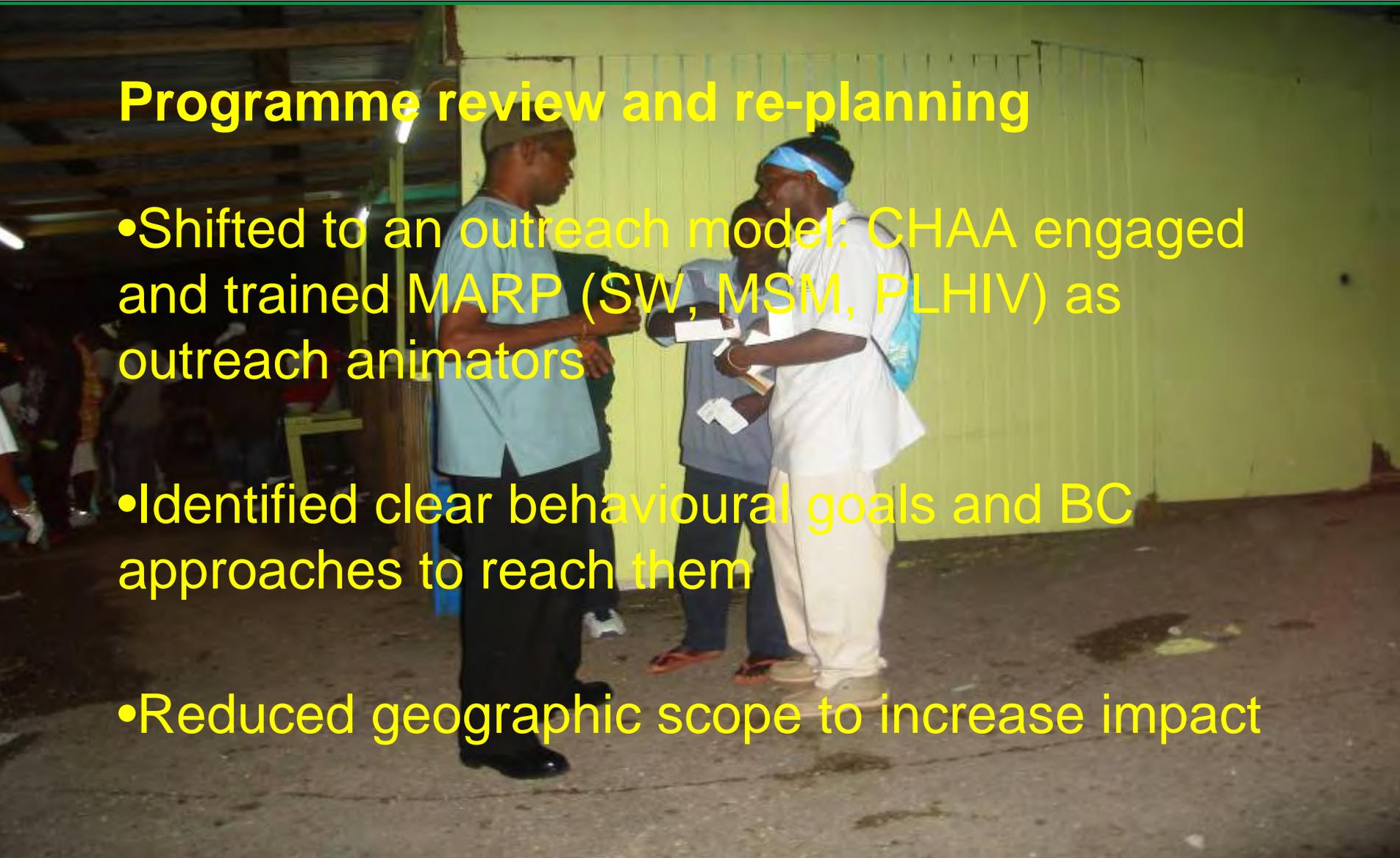
Crisis – non-performance

- USAID disappointed with numbers of MARP reached during first 18 months to 2 years of funding
- CBOs mostly embryonic and did not actively engage in prevention despite CB efforts
- Geographic scope too large to implement quality programme

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Programme review and re-planning

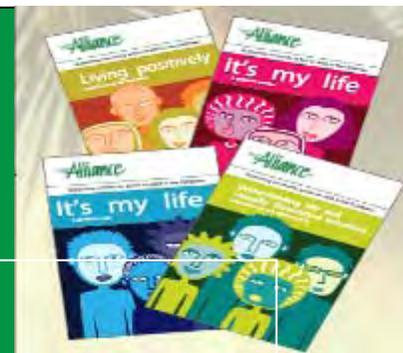
- Shifted to an outreach model: CHAA engaged and trained MARP (SW, MSM, PLHIV) as outreach animators
- Identified clear behavioural goals and BC approaches to reach them
- Reduced geographic scope to increase impact



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Results

- 11 animators employed for 3 islands
- Immediate increase in numbers of MARP reached for prevention – 11,000
- 1.1 million condoms distributed
- Outreach model helped identify most hidden MARP
- Increased confidence of NAPs and USAID
- Positive feedback from MARP in impact of programme



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Legacy of USAID investment I

- Policy

- Increased MARP representation at regional and national level
- MARP included in NAP strategic plans
- Less prejudice towards MARP by regional and national leaders



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Legacy of USAID investment II

- Leveraged other donor support and expanded areas of work as a result of USAID investment in CHAA
 - DFID – Private Sector Programme
 - GF – CRN+
 - CHART/I-TEC
 - PANCAP – Regional Stigma and Discrimination tool kit

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Legacy of USAID investment III

- **Eastern Caribbean –Community Action Programme:** Increasing access to HIV/AIDS services through evidenced-based programming
- **New 3 year programme – CHAA, IntraHealth and UCSF – CAPS**
 - SI
 - Prevention
 - Palliative
 - Community-based counseling and testing

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Legacy of USAID investment IV

- CHAA will become a Linking Organization in November 2008
- CHAA is now one of the leading HIV/AIDS NGOs in the region
- Champions role of civil society in HIV response and valued partner of PANCAP, CAREC and NAPs



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Thank You



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A stylized globe of the Earth with green continents and light blue oceans. Overlaid on the globe are three thick, interlocking rings in shades of green and red, symbolizing global unity and the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

10 years of support:

USAID and International HIV/AIDS Alliance