

**Inter-American Development Bank
Technical Cooperation Program (Trust Funds)**

T/C BRIEF

TC NO: TC-0304014-RS

I. GENERAL INFORMATION:

<i>Name of the T.C. Project:</i>	Caribbean Education Sector HIV/AIDS Response Capacity Building Program
<i>Name of the Fund</i>	Israeli Consultant Trust Fund
<i>Beneficiary Country</i>	English-Speaking Caribbean Region
<i>Beneficiary Agency</i>	Ministries of Education and Teacher Training Institutions
<i>Estimated Total Amount to be Financed:</i>	US\$27,500
<i>Disbursement Deadline</i>	February 28, 2004

II. OBJECTIVES:

The overarching goal is to improve the response of the education sector in the English-Speaking Caribbean region to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as a partner in a multi-sectoral strategy of prevention and mitigation. The specific objective is to collaborate with teacher training institutions as well as publishers of educational materials, in the development of advocacy and instructional materials.

III. DESCRIPTION:

- 1. Background:** The adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for the Caribbean region is 2%, second globally only to sub-Saharan Africa. There is no indication that the epidemic has reached its plateau in the region, and current expectations are that prevalence rates will continue to rise. Foremost among the goals established at the United Nations General Assembly Session (UNGASS) in July 2001, is the 25% reduction in HIV infection rates among 15- to 24-year-olds, in the worst affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010. AIDS is already the leading cause of death in the Caribbean region for the 15-44 age group. Since the most economically active population groups are the most heavily affected by HIV/AIDS, social and economic repercussions are inevitable. While the disease affects persons from every socio-economic background, the deleterious impact on poor families is much greater as they have less capacity to cover the significant medical costs and also to adequately cope when an income-earner of the family is affected. Regional studies estimate that the direct medical costs of the epidemic and the indirect costs of lost productivity could have amounted to more than 6% of the regions' GDP by the end of 2000.
- 2.** After 10 to 20 years of effort by national health sectors in the Caribbean, the epidemic continues to spread. Most countries are only starting to engage in a more multi-sectoral approach, involving several ministries as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations in a structured way. The education sector has a key role to play in preventing HIV/AIDS and in mitigating the effects on individuals and communities, as it can reduce risk and vulnerability by providing appropriate information and skills to children and youth both before and after they have become

sexually-active. Traditionally, the education sector has seen its role as that of educating students in academic skills. Now, however, it is facing the challenge of supporting children and youth to develop life skills that boost their self-esteem and reduce their propensity to engage in risky-behavior, in turn reducing their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS infection and other risks to their full development. To meet this challenge, there is a lack of expertise among educationalists, instructional materials designers, teacher trainers and classroom teachers on how HIV/AIDS mitigation and prevention messages can be delivered to primary, secondary and out-of-school populations, in a systematic and coordinated way.

3. The proposal for regional capacity-building in this area was discussed with the Caribbean Ministers of Education in November 2002, and the majority of the twenty Governments of the English, French and Dutch-speaking Caribbean have signed a letter of commitment supporting the establishment of a regional forum on HIV/AIDS and Education. Discussions were also held with Ministers of Education and Chief Education Officers, in March 2003, at a CARICOM Council of Human and Social Development (COHSOD) meeting in Trinidad. The Plan of Operations for a regional Technical Cooperation (TC-0301035-RS) to be funded by the Japanese Special Fund is currently being finalized, based on the work of three international consultants (including Dr. Inon Schenker of Israel) and a regional policy group. That TC will develop and support the implementation of intervention models for use by the education sector to reach in and out of school youth at the school and community-level. The outputs of this TC will be complementary to those of the above mentioned operation, in that it will pilot interventions with the teacher training institutions and the network of publishers in the Caribbean and provide crucially important advocacy and instructional material that will be disseminated through TC-0301035-RS.
4. Two major regional events will take place at the end of October 2003. On October 28th in Curacao the 2003 conference of the Caribbean Publisher's Network will be held with commercial publishers, editors and textbook authors to discuss issues of publishing educational materials on HIV/AIDS. In Trinidad and Tobago, from October 29-31, the University of the West Indies, in conjunction with other international partners, is holding the First Caribbean Conference on Education & HIV/AIDS with key educators and administrators from the region's tertiary education institutions. This TC is strategically timed in order to build on contacts and recommendations from those two events.
5. **Consulting Services Required:** An individual consultant is required to prepare advocacy and instructional materials for the teacher training institutions, as well as to provide technical assistance to the network of Caribbean publishers, so that additional materials may be developed by the private sector for use by teachers, parents and the general public.
6. The consultant will: (i) meet with officials of teacher training institutions, universities and Ministries of Education in Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, to discuss their plans to strengthen HIV/AIDs prevention and mitigation activities within their institutions; (ii) develop a package of culturally appropriate advocacy and instructional materials for the teacher training institutions; (iii) provide training in the use of the materials in Jamaica, and possibly Suriname, and revise the materials based on feedback

received during the training; (iv) provide technical assistance to the network of Caribbean publishers, so that additional materials may be developed by the private sector; and (v) provide technical assistance in Suriname to pilot a mentoring project with university students acting as peer HIV/AIDS educators with youth, to serve as both an advocacy tool among tertiary level students, as well as an outreach program to other youth.

7. The consultant will travel to Jamaica, Suriname, Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago. The consultant will participate in regional HIV/AIDS and Education conferences with persons from tertiary education institutions and publishers, respectively, in the latter two countries.
8. The consultant must have experience working with education sectors of countries affected by the epidemic (particularly in sub-Saharan Africa) and considerable experience in the preparation of advocacy and instructional materials on HIV/AIDS for use by the education sector. Prior work experience in the Caribbean is an asset. A highly experienced Israeli consultant was hired by the Bank, through a competitive process, as part of the team that prepared the background study for TC-0301035-RS. As a continuation of his services in the preparation of the situational analysis, it is proposed that the same consultant, Dr. Inon Schenker, be hired to carry out this consultancy.
9. **Outputs required** See attached TORs.
10. **Duration**: 35 non-continuous working days, between October 20, 2003 and February 28, 2004.
11. **Organization of the TC**: COF/CJA will be responsible for the overall implementation of this TC, including the selection, hiring and supervision of the consultant as well as the disbursements.

IV. JUSTIFICATION:

The result of this TC will be advocacy and instructional materials for use in the region's teacher training institutions. The materials developed under this operation will be further disseminated under the regional dissemination component of TC-0301035-RS. Through their dissemination and use, teacher training institutions will be better positioned to strengthen their preparation of future teachers to address HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation through the school system. The TC will also strengthen the capacity of publishers in the region to produce quality materials on HIV/AIDS prevention for use by teachers, parents and the general public.

The Bank is well placed to provide technical assistance in the area of bolstering the education sector's critical response to HIV/AIDS prevention, as it has major education, as well as health-sector, loans in execution or preparation in nearly all of the Caribbean IDB-member countries. The Bank also has important dialogue mechanisms with the Ministries of Finance and Planning in all of the countries. These channels of dialogue and assistance create important opportunities for incorporating the results of this TC into existing operations or the incorporation of new operations into the Bank's pipeline. The Bank should support the critical issue

of HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation in the Caribbean, and the Education Sector urgently needs to come more fully on board to address HIV/AIDS prevention; this operation as well as the operation supported by the JSF represent a perfect niche for the Bank.