



SUCCESS STORY

HIV Prevention in the Workplace

A USAID project supports work site initiatives for HIV/AIDS prevention

Guyana has one of the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rates in the Pan Caribbean region. Out of a population of about 750,000, approximately 18,000 people in this country live with HIV/AIDS. To help Guyana mitigate the effects of its HIV/AIDS epidemic, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), supported the establishment of the Guyana HIV/AIDS Reduction and Prevention (GHARP) Project, a four-year collaboration between the governments of Guyana and the United States.



FHI/Guyana

Volunteers participated in a Workplace Focal-Persons Training, hosted by GHARP, to become supporters and implementers of HIV/AIDS workplace policies.

In Guyana, a USAID-funded workplace program educated loggers and miners about HIV prevention.

Targeting the logging and mining industries, the program utilized on-the-job education and training, promoting HIV counseling and testing, faithfulness, partner reduction, and consistent use of condoms. As a result, 102 workers were reached with prevention messages, and 54 chose to take advantage of mobile counseling and testing services. Indicating further success, some workers have expressed a desire to be trained as peer educators.

The rapid expansion of private sector and workplace programs in Guyana earned USAID's GHARP program its position as a national leader in HIV/AIDS workplace program development, implementation, and private sector engagement. Significant work was accomplished with private sector partners. For example, they helped to develop workplace policies and a workplace education program. What's more, this expansion has resulted in a region-wide demand from Caribbean countries for collaboration and support in the development of their own private sector/workplace programs. It is estimated that private sector partners reached well over 20,000 employees and an additional 60,000 families and members of local communities. In addition, the Guyana Business Coalition (GBC) on HIV/AIDS was developed from the USAID/GHARP Private Sector Advisory Board. The GBC, which is the largest coalition of its kind in the region, comprises CEOs and human resource managers of partner organizations.