
THE BATTLE CONTINUES

The Global Fund to fight HIV and AIDS , Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) will provide US\$34.5 million to the Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) to support the HIV response in the Caribbean.

The approval was made during the board meeting of the Global Fund that ended here on Thursday. Director of the PANCAP Coordinating Unit (PCU), Carl Browne, who attended the meeting, said he was thankful to the entire PANCAP fraternity, including the UNAIDS Caribbean Regional Support Team, for its hard work which "has borne wonderful fruit for the people of the Caribbean whom we serve. “…I have no doubt that the same spirit of collaboration that brought us this far will see us through to the end,” he added. Browne also praised UNAIDS and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for providing much of the funding to allow PANCAP to submit “a top notch” proposal to the meeting. Officials said the proposal received a Category 2 rating, which means that PANCAP can begin making arrangements to access the funds almost immediately after the completion of certain procedural requirements and the signing of the grant. PANCAP, established in 2001, is a regional umbrella organisation which brings together national HIV programmes partnering with regional and international organisations involved in the Caribbean's response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic. The Global Fund was created in 2002 with a mandate to dramatically increase resources to fight three of the world's most devastating diseases - HIV, TB and Malaria, and to direct resources to areas of greatest need. It has since approved funding totaling US\$18.4 billion for 144 countries.