

BACKGROUND

Accurate identification and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a **Critical Public Health Challenge** even in well-resourced communities.

In a **DEVELOPING COUNTRY**, actualising better services is limited by resource challenges regarding-

- Funding,
- Management support,
- Political support,
- Infrastructure constraints,
- And the limits of Human resources.

Recommendations for **Identification/Diagnosis of ASD** support the use of **Structured/Standardized tools**;

These tools and training opportunities for use are often **lacking due to-**

Limited financial support available across **Resource strained public health systems.**

The current project utilized –

- External Funding Support from a NGO
- To Train Professionals within the Public Health System to utilize standard tools for screening and diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder.

METHOD: Public/NGO Partnership**PARTNERS:**

1. Rotary Club of Port of Spain West, Trinidad
2. University of the West Indies Child Health Department, St Augustine, Trinidad
3. Community Paediatrics South West Regional Health Authority, Trinidad
4. Training Department South West Regional Health Authority, Trinidad
5. Vanderbilt University, Treatment and Research Institute for Autism (TRIAD), TN, USA.

FUNDING: NGO, Rotary Club POS West, Trinidad

TRAINING: Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) and Screening Test for Autism in Toddlers (STAT) by TRIAD Vanderbilt University

VENUE: San Fernando Teaching Hospital, Trinidad (Public Teaching Hospital)

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED: Doctors, Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Therapists representing all the Regional Health Authorities of the country

RESULTS**ADOS TRAINING**

23 Professionals trained within
 •2 Child Psychiatry Departments
 •2 Child Development Services

42 ADOS-2 were carried out in the year following training

STAT TRAINING

42 Professionals trained representing all five Regional Health Authorities.

75 STAT were carried out in the year following training within 3 out of 5 health regions represented

SUBSEQUENT PROJECTS

Caregiver Outreach Program of Education (COPE) 2016

Training in Evidence Based Parent Training Modules for Families with Children on the Autism Spectrum in March and December 2016.
Further training was done in Sept 2017.

Training done by team from TRIAD, Vanderbilt University

STAT TRAINING APRIL 2017

Partnership between
 •Vanderbilt University
 •University of the West Indies (UWI).

Professionals trained: Post Graduate Paediatric DM trainees UWI, Psychology MSc students UWI and Psychologists and Paediatric doctors in the public service

CONCLUSION

In keeping with the United Nations mandate for upgrading services for Autism Spectrum Disorder **this Public/NGO Partnership has served to Bolster our Capacity in a Developing Country.**

Given the constraints, financial and otherwise-

THIS TYPE OF PARTNERSHIP MAY BE THE WAY FORWARD IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

While the partnership has **Bolstered Capacity and Spurred Additional Collaborations-**

Further supports and strategies beyond just provision of training and instruments is necessary

To achieve wide-scale systems change and improvements in care within developing countries.