



# The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism – The Trinidad and Tobago Experience

Esther Best – Manager  
National Drug Council

# In the beginning



- ▶ “Picture it, Sicily, 1922”
- ▶ “ Picture it, Port of Spain, May 2001”
- ▶ National Drug Council established in 2000
- ▶ Named as National Coordinating Entity for the MEM in its mandate
- ▶ Secretariat established May 2001
- ▶ Silo culture in effect – Demand VS Supply

# The First Round



- ▶ The Chairman of the NDC was also chair of CICAD
- ▶ He had the opportunity to present the MEM at a series of forum
- ▶ He understood the MEM
- ▶ Was able to guide his new staff
- ▶ Staff of CICAD were responsive to requests for clarification
- ▶ The Round was already in progress
- ▶ Another agency had assumed responsibility
- ▶ Council was still new – No respect or support from that agency
- ▶ Reluctance to relinquish the process
- ▶ No systems to support the process at the NDC

The Solutions

The Challenges



# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Round – Picking up Speed



- ▶ Systems put in place – Started our National Drug Information System (NDIS – Later became the Drug Information Network (DIN)
- ▶ The NDC had full control of the data collection process
  - Still some resistance from the previous agency
- ▶ The CICAD Executive Secretariat undertook a capacity building exercise in T&T with stakeholders
- ▶ NDC staff more confident of their role
- ▶ Things are really looking up
- ▶ A MEM team is convened – Stakeholders understand –**No Punishment !!!**

# 3<sup>rd</sup>– 6<sup>th</sup> Round – Trinidad and Tobago's benefits



- ▶ Fully Operational Systems –
  - MEM Team – Engaged Stakeholders – Reduction of siloes
  - Drug Information Network (DIN)
  - Foundation offers support – Early Warning Systems –COPOLAD
- ▶ Received capacity building assistance for our National Plans
- ▶ Developed our last three National Plans on the foundation of the MEM
- ▶ Finalized a number of international instruments
- ▶ Development and passage of various pieces of legislation
- ▶ Consistent support from the Executive Secretariat of CICAD
- ▶ Full participation in all aspects of the MEM



# Ready for the 7<sup>th</sup> Round – Forward to the Sun Rise

