

# Thinking Upstream:

Preventing asthma-related illness and absenteeism  
by improving air quality in school zones

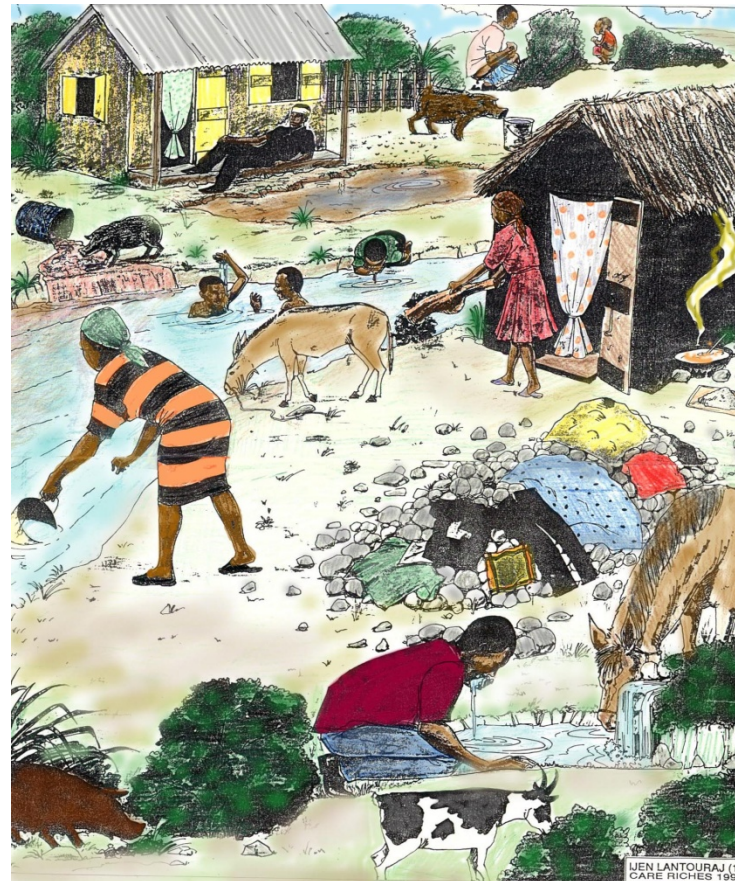


## Asthma Free School Zone

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APHA, November 7, 2007

# Haiti, 1997



# Upstream Asthma

- 1<sup>o</sup> Prevention > management, control, clean-up
- Precautionary approach policies
- Education = key to behavioral change
- Understanding = key to long-range change



Goal: reduction (**prevention**) of asthma-related illness & absenteeism through environmental improvement (**precaution**) achieved through local action (**advocacy**) and increased EH awareness (**education**)

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# AFSZ - History

- AFSZ / Real World Foundation (NYS 501c3)
  - 2002: 1 school/1 Boro / 1 FT; 1 intern
  - 2007: 65 schools/3 Boros / 4 FT; 3 PT; 3 interns
- Legislation & Policy
  - NYC Council - Intro 0083-2004
  - NYS AG - Fleet agreements 2004/05
  - NYS Ed. Law 3637 (2007)
  - NYC Intro 24-163 (2007)
- Awards & Recognition
  - EPA National & Region 2 (2005)
  - Bloomberg Press Conference (9/05)



# AFSZ - Today

- Multi-year air sampling (NYC DOT CMAQ)
  - 3 sites, 1 mo. pre-/post-intervention
  - Quantitative: PM2.5, EC, idling / traffic observations
  - Qualitative: Case studies
- Core program (NYC DOHMH etc.)
  - 3-yr. expansion to 100 schools
- Unique AQ projects (NYSHF, etc)
  - Site-specific efforts
  - Advocacy & Outreach





# AFSZ Core Program

- Sign posting in school zones
- School & community trainings
- Environmental assessment (2)
- Stop-idling campaigns
- Support materials & activities
- Advocacy



# Upstream - Core Program

- Advocacy / legislator education / propose laws
  - NYS AG, NYS Ed Law Sec 3637, **NYC Intro 24-163**
    - Recognizes & protects the “school zone”
    - Includes all vehicles
    - Adds idling to NYC TLC driver test
    - Asks for NYPD accountability
- Education of school and community



# AFSZ Site-specific Projects

- Unique strategies for reducing environmental burden/improving quality of life

E. 12th, 2003



# Upstream - Site Program



119th  
& FDR



120th  
& FDR



2006-07



# Upstream Clean Air Measures

- Preventing/controlling mobile source pollution
  - A.G. bus fleet agreement (2004)
  - NYS legislation, 3-part (2006-07)
  - NYS crossing guard pilot (2007)
- Reducing/limiting point source pollution
  - Ice cream truck diesel generators (2007)
  - Barrier planting & walls (2007)



# Community Buy-in

Compelling problem  
Convincing solution  
+ Informed citizens \*

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Mobilized public



→ Social Capital

\* *How to shape the message?*

*How to get the message out?*

*How to make the message winnable/doable?*

# Closing Thoughts

“Just as clean air doesn’t happen overnight ...”

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## Handouts:

Read about AFSZ  
(New Yorker 10/15/07)

Read about the Precautionary Approach  
(Ted Schettler; Carolyn Raffensperger)

