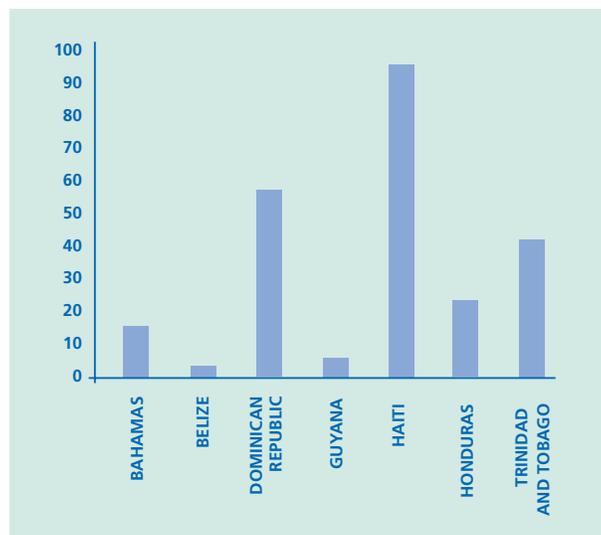


# HIV AND AIDS, EDUCATION AND THE ECONOMY

The HIV and AIDS epidemic has a major impact on the economy:

- ▶ Most individuals affected by HIV and AIDS are in their most economically productive years. In the Caribbean, HIV is the leading cause of death among young adults ages 15 to 24.<sup>1</sup>
  - ▶ The loss of productive adults has an extensive negative impact on all Caribbean economic sectors, including energy, tourism, agriculture, mining, timber, finance and trade.<sup>2</sup>
  - ▶ The education sector can preserve and protect human capital through prevention and early testing, contributing to a healthy workforce and economy.
- ▶ The loss of productive adults leads to a loss of social capital, eroding the social structure of communities, undermining the capacity of governments to provide basic services, and affecting frameworks necessary for a country's development.<sup>3</sup>
  - ▶ The epidemic could have a major effect on the tourist-dependent economies of many Caribbean countries in various ways, by deterring tourists, reducing the tourism industry's ability to offer services, and increasing vulnerability to infection.<sup>4</sup>

## ESTIMATED AVERAGE ANNUAL GDP LOSS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIV AND AIDS (IN US \$ MILLIONS), 1992–2002



Source: International Labour Organization (2004). HIV and AIDS and work: global estimates, impact and repose. Geneva: ILO.

<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS, 2004 *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* (Geneva: UNAIDS, 2004).

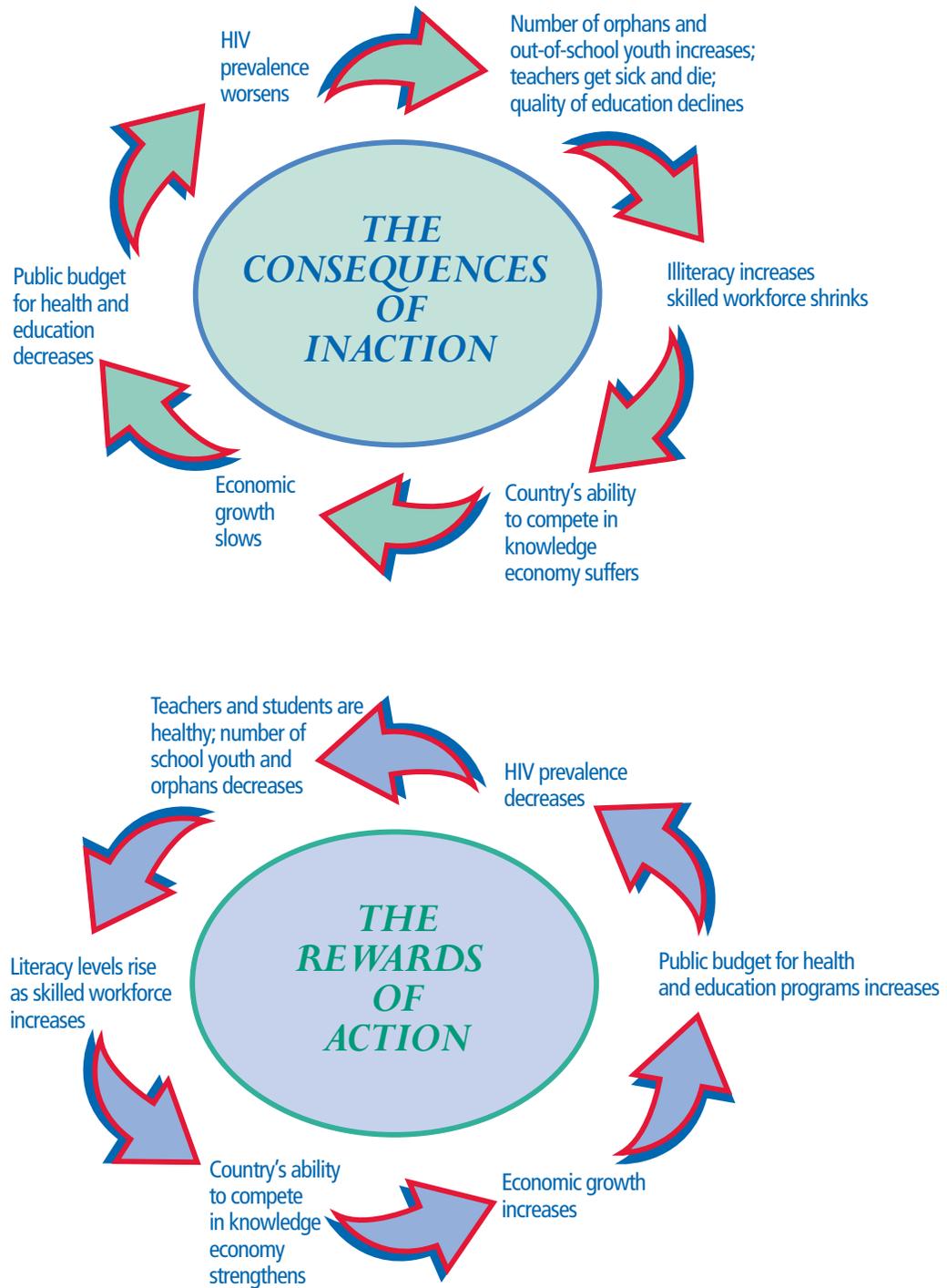
<sup>2</sup> M. Kelly and B. Bain, *Education and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean* (Paris: UNESCO, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.



## THE CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION VS. ACTION



Source: I. Schenker, "Education Sector and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Anti-Discrimination: A Fire Fighter Dilemma" (presentation at Inter-American Development Bank, January 25, 2005, Washington, D.C.).

