

Newsletter

Issue 14

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Project Events

Project Experience Sharing Meeting

XJAHAPAC is conducting the final large scale experience sharing meeting **29 May to 2 June in Urumqi.**

The purpose of the meeting is to share the wealth of experiences gained during the implementation of XJHAPAC with national and international organizations based in Beijing, other provinces and prefectures in Xinjiang all of which are involved in the implementation of HIV and AIDS related activities. The formal meeting will be held on 29 and 30 May and in addition to presentations from local ASF implementing agencies national and international organizations will present their approaches.

During the meeting XJHAPAC will launch six Resource Packages which combine a summary of experiences and case studies. The **Resource Packages** are designed to assist implementers in the process of developing a comprehensive response to HIV

Following the meeting visitors to Xinjiang will be able to visit ASF project implementers at their sites. Site visits will be arranged in Urumqi, Yili and Kashgar and participants in the meeting will be able to visit sites in Urumqi and either Kashgar or Yili.

On 26 to 28 May a series of workshops will be undertaken with participants from Activity Support Facility (ASF) implementing agencies

to understand their thinking on the contribution of XJHAPAC to the response to HIV and AIDS in Xinjiang. This is the first step of the evaluation of XJHAPAC. The evaluation will include key informant interviews at prefecture, regional and national levels and follow-up workshops in Urumqi, Yili and Kashgar to assess the nature of XJHAPACs contribution.

XJHAPAC Products

In addition to the Resource Packages being launched at the XJHAPAC Experience Sharing Meeting in May XJHAPAC has been able to utilize a range of information from ASF projects that have been completed and/or scaled up.

ASF implementing agencies submit project completion reports. These are then summarized and published on the Project's website. There are currently 11 reports available on the website in English and Chinese. The website address is www.xjhac.org.

Flipchart for Community Educators

A flipchart has been developed by XJHAPAC to support peer educators working in the

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community to conduct training



This unique product utilizes hand painted images of local Xinjiang people and clear concise messages written in a way that reflects local community language. The messages are about HIV and AIDS transmission and non-transmission routes and critically prevention messages. Peer educators, in using the material, will be able to interact with their peers to demonstrate prevention and self-protection strategies. Reducing stigma and discrimination in the community towards those that have high risk behaviors and/or HIV and AIDS and this is a central feature of flipchart. A training package will be developed and training undertaken to support the use of the flipchart. The flipchart will be distributed to Urumqi, Yili, Kashgar and Hetian and the Regional Bureau of Health (BoH) will ensure that copies of the flipchart are also used in other areas in Xinjiang.

Care for PLWHA

Increased access to community care for PLWHA in Urumqi and Kashgar City

The numbers of PLWHA who now have access to community based services is increasing. From a total of 80 PLWHA in Shuimogou and Totunhe in December 2007, the Urumqi City CDC have expanded their community care initiative into two new districts:

Shayibake and Tian Shan bringing the number of people receiving this service to 216. In Kashgar the number has reached 207. Care centres have been established and in some districts to the community care services is integrated with other services such as VCT, MMT, NSP and ART Volunteers who are associated with the various programs all now work from the same location and have increased opportunities for networking and information sharing. In Yining City the number of people receiving home base care funded through the Global Fund with home care kits provided through XJHAPAC has reached 288 people. This is a remarkable service with most beneficiaries having a high regard for the service and how it is delivered.

Community carers study tour

Community carers are also benefiting from professional development activities. Recently, ten community carers from Kashgar travelled to Urumqi to discuss their successes, challenges and issues in providing community based care for PLWHA. By learning from their more experienced colleagues in Urumqi, community carers from Kashgar will be able to further develop their own abilities to provide support to PLWHA and their families and will be able to adapt approaches, methods and practices which have proven to be very successful.

Positive Impact Facilitated through Training in Multi-sectoral Agencies

Multi-sectoral agencies implementing ASF projects are making progress to build capacity within their systems. Agencies such as DoFTEC, the Regional and Urumqi City Religious Affairs Bureau, the Family Planning

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Commission, the Prison Bureau and the Kashgar Youth League have recently conducted extensive training to mobilise HIV responses in their agencies and for their constituencies.

In the training workshops for imams and their spouses in Urumqi and Yining, in addition to learning basic HIV, participants discussed quotes from the Holy Quran to support messages related to HIV transmission prevention to reduce stigma and discrimination against PLWHA and harm reduction methods.

DoFTEC is implementing a program of training and peer education in workplaces. During this training a participant announced that it was really important to teach his fellow workers to use a condom and to avoid workplace occupational exposure. He said he was looking forward to advocating among his peers after this training.



Spouses of Imams in training

Greater involvement of PLWHA Women and Families affected by HIV and AIDS Celebrate International Women's Day

On 7 March 2008, organized by the Urumqi Red Ribbon Centre, a group of about 100 people celebrated International Women's Day

in a hotel in Urumqi. The majority of the people who came to this event were women affected by HIV and their family members including some men. There was much excitement about this activity and preparations were extensive. People living and affected by HIV and AIDS from different districts performed dances, sang and played music. The event was very successful in bringing together a large group of people to enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment.

The Urumqi Red Ribbon Centre has now expanded significantly with a central branch in Urumqi City and five drop-in centres in different districts of Urumqi.



Dancing for International Women's Day in Urumqi

Birthday Party at the Kashgar Red Ribbon Centre

On 20 February, at the Kashgar Red Ribbon Centre, a converted apartment on the sixth floor of a building in a busy street, a birthday party was going on for AA. This was the first birthday party she had ever had in her lifetime. On that day AA was celebrating her 36th birthday. She HIV positive, her husband died of AIDS a few years ago. Her 6 year old son was with her.

Both mother and son are on ARV treatment. Around 20 other HIV+ people and their family

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members came to the party. Some of them were cooking polo, a traditional nutritious Uyghur food, in the kitchen. A birthday cake was cut by AA while the others were singing "Happy Birthday." The atmosphere in the room was full of warmth and care.

On the white board the topic for the day was "Nutrition and HIV", which everyone discussed animatedly. Two staff from the community care centre were there and one of them was facilitating the days discussion.

The Kashgar Red Ribbon Centre is run by the Kashgar Red Cross. It provides a drop-in centre that is comfortable, confidential and non-discriminatory for HIV+ people and their family members. It also provides counseling and referral services.

Other News

Harm reduction model is presented at International conference

Harm reduction programs for IDUs started in 2003 supported by XJHAPAC. Harm Reduction Programs are now significantly expanded and a third phase is now well underway in major districts in Urumqi and the whole Yinning City.

The program has not only achieved great progress in reducing sharing of injecting equipment and providing related services to IDUs and their families, the model has also been recognized by local communities and government, national and international experts.

This experience was presented at a plenary session of the Response Beyond Borders - the First Asian Consultation on the Prevention of

HIV related to Drug Use held in Goa, India 28 January to 1 February 2008. The presentation was well received by the audience.



Dilbar Yasen presenting in Goa on behalf of XJHAPAC

Social support program acknowledged by the National Vice Minister of Justice

Recently, the Vice Minister of Justice and the Director of the National Re-education through Labour Bureau (RETL) from Beijing visited the social support services for people released from RETL camps run by the Xinjiang RETL ASF project. During the visit, they expressed their enthusiasm for the concept and the service. They especially noted how encouraging it was to see the RETL staff in Xinjiang getting involved in providing social support to people released from closed settings. They also said that they would widely recommend the approach in the Justice System all over China.

After the visit, the Xinjiang Regional Justice Bureau has decided to fund three additional social support stations for people who are released from the camps so that they may continue to avoid high risk behavior and improve the quality of their lives. The RETL staff reported that Provinces such as

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Guangdong, Anhui and Guangxi have now also started to set up similar social support sites.

Contact Details

If you want more information about XJHAPAC and what we are doing please don't hesitate to

contact us. You can call us in Urumqi at +86 991 3660044 or visit our website: www.xjhapac.org. You can also contact us in Australia through the Melbourne Development Institute, Lyn Harper at lynh@mdi-international.com.au

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