

Newsletter
Issue 11, July 2007

Project News

100% (5.16 million Australian Dollars) of the ASF Fund Now Committed Into the Multi-sectoral Response in Xinjiang

The ASF fund is now fully committed into projects supporting multi-sectoral responses to HIV and AIDS in Xinjiang. Reflecting on the impact of this fund, there is now wide coverage of interventions and these are having an effect in delivering a much wider range of services. In addition to wide ranging capacity development and multi-sectoral engagement there has been expansion of services in the community and in closed settings. From eight small pilots that started in 2003 the coverage has increased significantly. The services being provided are now reaching the most vulnerable and there is every indication that many of them will be continued.

4 June Meeting of the PWG.



The Project Working Group Meeting 4 June. Meeting chaired by Dr Zhang Yong Zhong Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau of Health (center), Dr Ma Minghui Director of the HIV and AIDS Working Office of the Regional Bureau of Health (right), Mr Yang Jingsong (left).

Also present at the meeting were representatives from DOFTEC, Regional Finance Bureau Regional PSB, Regional FPC, Regional Women's Federation, HIV and AIDS Association and Xinjiang Regional Red Cross.

On 4 June the Project Working Group met to review a final set of proposals that are cornerstones in the contribution to the comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS in Xinjiang. Three of these projects will be led by Regional agencies and two will further develop the response in Kashgar.

The proposals endorsed at the meeting were projects to be managed by:

- ◆ *The Regional Justice Bureau.* The beneficiaries of this project will be leaders in the Justice Bureau who will learn about HIV and the impact that it has on the inmates in prisons and re-education through labour camps. It will provide leaders with the necessary information in relation to services needed in these closed settings. Legal aid advisors will also be able to develop their understanding of legal needs of people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA). Also, clinical staff working in the Justice system will be specifically targeted to gain further skills in identification and provision of care needs to inmates.

Police and inmates in re-education through labour camps across Xinjiang have received, and continue to receive, HIV related education (this system was established through a previous project implemented through the **Regional Bureau of Re-education through Labour**).

In Prisons police and inmates will received education through a new program being implemented in prisons across Xinjiang



through the **Regional Prison Bureau** (please refer to the April edition of the XJHAPAC newsletter for further information about this project.

- ◆ *The Regional Religious Affairs Bureau.* This project represents a major expansion of several pilot projects working with religious leaders in Xinjiang. The first was a small project in Tian Shan District of Urumqi working with 35 Imams. This project demonstrated how religious leaders were able to incorporate messages about HIV and AIDS in the religious teachings to their followers.

The success of this project and the lessons learned from it were used to expand this project in Yining City and Urumqi City (the key areas for HIV in Xinjiang). Through these projects Imams are working closely with their communities to reach the most vulnerable but also to endorse self protection messages.

The **Regional Religious Affairs Bureau** project will work across Xinjiang to further expand these activities and develop materials and systems to develop on-going support from Imams and the religious community.



Representatives of the Regional Religious Affairs Bureau Presenting their proposal to the Project Working Group. L Ms Ma Sukun; R Ms Mu Nila also in the picture are Ms Chen Hua from the Regional Women's Federation (far left) and Mr Yasen from the Regional Red Cross (far right).

- ◆ *The Regional Family Planning Commission:* This project will support and expand the significant work being done to support condom promotion across the Region being facilitated through the CDC. The **Regional Family Planning Commission** will work to continue and develop the work being done in Tian Shan District, Siebage District of Urumqi Kashgar and Hetian Cities will also be included. The result of this work will be establishment of a network of shops selling low cost good quality condoms and also promotion of condoms to medium and low income sex workers who are particularly mobile.
- ◆ *The Xinjiang Regional Red Cross:* In Kashgar the Xinjiang Regional Red Cross will work with the Kashgar Prefecture Red Cross to develop a Red Ribbon Centre. This centre will be modelled on the Yining City Activity Centre which has been extremely successful in providing care and support to people living with HIV and information in the general community. The Kashgar Prefecture Red Cross will be able to further develop their capacity through managing this service. The service will link to the community care interventions being provided in Kashgar City by the CDC.
- ◆ *Kashgar Prefecture Youth League:* United Nations Economic and Social Commission for the Asia Pacific (UNESCAP) undertook a pilot training program for unemployed youth in Yining and Kashgar Cities. This had the aim of developing peer networks for young people that had left school and were unemployed. This target group was found to have relatively low levels of life skills. The Kashgar Prefecture Youth League will advance this base and develop a wider group of peer educators who will work with young people to promote healthy lifestyles and provide them with support in gaining employment.



ASF Project Updates

Essential ASF Facts and Figures

The participating multi-sectoral agencies include educational organisations, justice and police system agencies, religious agencies, labour, youth and women's organisations and health sector agencies.

Currently XJHAPAC has 49 ASF projects in different stages of implementation. Of these 18 are completed or nearing completion (many are entering a second scaled up phase); 17 are developing project implementation plans (PIPs) and 14 are still running.

The ASF team with assistance from the rest of the PMO (where we can) is working tirelessly to ensure that the results of the existing projects are documented to demonstrate successes and lessons learned (you can see summary reports on www.xjhac.com) and that the new projects benefit from the experiences and lessons learned.

Projects Launched in Hetian

In the middle of June two projects, to be supported by the Regional Bureau Health and CDC, were launched in Hetian. Project inception meetings were held for the multi-sectoral leadership development project managed by the Hetian Prefecture BoH and CDC (modeled on projects implemented in Kashgar, Yili and Urumqi) and community social mobilization and condom promotion managed by the Hetian City CDC (modeled on the project implemented by the Kashgar City CDC).

Harm Reduction News

Comprehensive Harm Reduction Meeting Held in Aksu

In late June the first comprehensive harm reduction meeting for Xinjiang was held in Aksu. This meeting brought together implementers of NSPs (needle and syringe programs), MMT (methadone maintenance

therapy) clinics and condom promoters. Participants included Regional, Prefecture and City leaders, service implementers and outreach workers (ORW). The meeting was very successful enabling the sharing of experiences between sites.



The Opening Morning of the Meeting

There was a great deal of leadership support demonstrated at this meeting. Representatives from the Regional Bureau of Health, CDC, DOFTEC and PSB attended the meeting.

ORW Workshops in Aksu

There were also activities for different groups. Jimmy Dorabjee the XJHAPAC harm reduction specialist from the Center for Harm Reduction in Melbourne undertook a workshop for ORW from Yining, Urumqi, Aksu and Kucha County.



Jimmy Dorabjee (Center) with outreach workers from Aksu

During the workshop Jimmy covered topics such as the meaning of outreach work, overdose management and working with female drug users.



Jimmy utilized experienced ORW to discuss issues and management.



Outreach workers from Yining City demonstrating the process of resuscitation for outreach workers attending Jimmy's training.

Please note: This was a demonstration for teaching purposes only. Participants were fully aware that it is not appropriate to practice these techniques on someone not needing resuscitation.

Special note: XJHAPAC funded first aid training for all of the outreach workers ORW in Yining and Urumqi. During the course they learnt basic first aid which has helped them to do their work better. The training also included basic management of wounds and also on-the-spot resuscitation techniques (this was practiced on demonstration models). All the ORW have certificates from the Red Cross indicating that they are competent to provide basic resuscitation and first aid.

Condom Promotion and Social Marketing

Technical support for condom promotion and social marketing was provided during a visit from Dr Yang Jie from Constella Futures Beijing. Yang Jie worked with the Regional Family Planning Commission to support the development of their project implementation plan (PIP) for the second phase project. He also evaluated the capacity development needs of projects working in the community to promote condoms in Urumqi and Kashgar. Yang Jie provided training to workers from the Kashgar City CDC and Kashgar Family Planning Commission to assist them in developing strategies for promoting condoms. He also met with the Regional Women's Federation to discuss the next phase of their project that will include condom

negotiation skills development in their women's networks.

Care News

Projects Developing Skills for Healthcare Workers Meet To Discuss their Projects

XJHAPAC's new HIV and AIDS Care Advisor, Joanne Robinson, facilitated a meeting between three ASF projects developing skills of healthcare workers. These projects are providing for the expansion of in-service and pre-service training for nurses, public health practitioners and infection control teams. They are also working together to establish systems in hospitals to improve nursing care and infection control.

During the meeting there was vigorous discussion of training methodologies and training content. There was also discussion of the findings of the first infection control audit carried out in 21 hospitals in Urumqi, Yining and Kashgar. Links between clinical practice and infection control are essential in improving care and support in hospitals.

The three projects are being implemented by the Xinjiang Medical University Departments of Nursing and Public Health (pre-service training for Public Health and nursing students), the Regional People's (in-service training for nurses) and the First Affiliated Hospital of the Xinjiang Medical University (infection control systems development).

These three projects combined will provide support to 40 infection control workers, develop training skills for 250 university and in-service clinical teachers and around 22,000 pre-service and practicing healthcare workers in the next year. They will also continue their work in the future through the integration of components into pre-service and in-service curricular and infection control systems.



Expansion of Community Care Activities through creating links to social support services

Community care activities are expanding. The second phase of the social mobilization project in Kashgar covering the whole of Kashgar City also includes a significant care component. It is anticipated that community care support will be delivered to 210 people living with HIV. In Urumqi negotiations are underway with the Urumqi City CDC to expand their care project to reach at least 250 people.

There is a significant need for this expansion. Shuimogou CDC has identified another 60 PLWHA (they are already providing care to 50 PLWHA through the existing care project). In both of these sites recruitment into the care projects will also be facilitated by the development of community based support services such as the red ribbon/support centers in Urumqi and Kashgar.

Other Activities

New Staff

The PMO now has two "new" staff. Joanne Robinson is our new HIV and AIDS advisor for the Project. Joanne has extensive experience in HIV and AIDS community based care. She also has experience in working in many parts of the world including Africa, southeast Asia and the Pacific. Joanne's focus will be on the further development of the care component of the Project. As discussed above the care area of the Project is expanding rapidly and there are many new and exciting initiatives arising.

Dilbar Yasin is back!!!! Many of you will know Dilbar so she isn't officially new. Dilbar returns to us with a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Melbourne. Dilbar is leading the health promotion component of the project.

XJHAPAC Televised

As reported in our last newsletter journalists from the ABC Australia Network came to Xinjiang to develop a program about the HIV interventions in Xinjiang. This program was shown on the Asia Pacific Network and was also shown in Australia in May.

The Story of Guangming Street

The "Story of Guangming Street", a DVD developed by the Regional CDC and Yining City CDC, about ORW working in Yining was shown at the International Harm Reduction Conference in Warsaw in May. The film will also be shown in a film festival in Ontario, Canada to promote thinking on the participation of ex drug users in community based programs.

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.

