

Template for progress report

Country	People's Republic of China
Reporting date:	June 25, 2007
Project title and duration:	Reinforcing the treatment component of “China Cares” and improving networking through greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)
Funding amount approved:	USD \$70,000
Amount spent to date:	USD \$70,000
UN Executing Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Implementing partner(s)	1. China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges 2. Chinese Association of STD & AIDS Prevention and Control 3. AIDS Care China (Guangdong)
Project outcome(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ To build capacity of PLWHAs in providing peer counseling, to reinforce treatment component in China Care ◆ To improve networking among PLWHA in China 	
Project activities	
<p>I. GIPA Advocacy Conference:</p> <p>The GIPA advocacy Conference was conducted in Zhuhai City of Guangdong Province from November 11 to 13, 2005. A questionnaire survey was conducted among the PLWHAs to gain understand of their needs. Following the conference, a "My Positive Living" Evening Party was organized. A total of 76 persons participated in the conference including 71 persons (93.4%) PLWHA from 19 counties/cities of 5 prefectures in Guangdong Province (Guangzhou, Luoding, Chaozhou, Dianbai, Dongguan, Yangjiang, Zhaoqing and Qingyuan), 4 health care workers and 1 technical advisor.</p> <p>These PLWHAs felt strongly that they should be united in their response. They also felt inspired and encouraged to be the examples to play the leading roles in their various locations. The participants enhanced their understanding of the GIPA concept. The conference helped bridge the health care system with the positive community for counseling and treatment, and laid a foundation for further capacity building.</p>	
<p>II. Capacity Building of PLWHA</p> <p>1. The following objectives will be achieved through training:</p> <p>(1) Increase understanding of GIPA among PLWHA and inspire their enthusiasm for participation</p> <p>(2) Build capacity of PLWHA in participating in HIV/AIDS work</p>	

(3) Assist organizational development and work planning of two PLWHA groups

A capacity building training workshop was held in Qingyuan of Guangdong Province from February 23 to 26, 2006. Participants included 11 males and 17 females PLWHA who were identified as the core volunteers and backbones of the communities Henan, Hubei, Guangxi and Yunnan provinces, as well as five health care workers and one technical advisor.

PLWHAs in the training acted both as trainees and as trainers as well. They brought much of their first-hand experiences, and expanded their understanding and knowledge in the following areas:

- ✚ HIV/AIDS Policies and Regulations; HIV prevalence in Guangdong province
- ✚ Situation of community work in China, Introduction to AIDS Care China Project, role of community work in the overall HIV/AIDS response, Community-Based Care and Support
- ✚ Exchange of experiences in treatment education, Introduction to Diagnosis and Treatment of HIV/AIDS
- ✚ Situational analysis of PLWHA participation in community work, structure and significance of PLWHA network, Development of PLWHA Groups in China
- ✚ Definition of strategic plan, discussion and development of strategic plan of AIDS Care China, and discussion and development of project plan of demonstration sites (including Guangdong Province and Xiangfan of Hubei Province).

They also felt more confident to play a lead role in activity design and implementation. The experiences of AIDS Care China were deemed very much valuable to other community groups which joined the AIDS community response recently. All the groups also benefited from the discussion on strategic plan developments

III. Establishment and Activities of PLWHA Women's Groups

With the foundations laid in the previous activities, the project was able to help identify more than 20 women backbone PLWHAs and organize two women's groups in Guangzhou and Ruili respectively. Following their establishments, training programmes and project design activities were conducted. UNDP CO helped to mobilized resources to implement a micro-credit project which will help the Women's Groups make profit in undertaking small business.

IV. Dissemination Conference

The project noted with delight that AIDS Care China successfully completed its registration as a local NGO. Other notable results were their improved capacity and their increased geographic coverage with more projects to implement. With the assist from UNDP CO, a management structure was established and an Advisory Board was formed including members from the international community, business sector, community representative, etc. This set a perfect model on a broader partnership including PLWHA, health sector, private sector, and NGOs. New directions were provided that AIDS Care China should include both positive people and the

negative people, to reduce stigma and discrimination as well as to establish a more enabling environment to assist the PLWHAs face the real world.

A dissemination conference was held in Guangzhou from November 25 to 27, 2006. There were more than 60 participants, including staff of AIDS Care China (Guangdong), representatives from project sites of AIDS Care China in Guangxi, Yunnan and Hubei provinces and care workers from Beijing, Chongqing, Changsha, Nanning, Liuzhou and Kunming.

The conference provided a platform to exchange experience between staff of AIDS Care China and care workers from Beijing, Chongqing, Changsha, Nanning, Liuzhou and Kunming: Volunteers of Guangzhou No. 8 People's Hospital, Aixin Home of Beijing You'an Hospital, Home of Red Ribbon of Beijing Ditan Hospital and Beijing PLWHA Hotline

The AIDS Care China staff in the four provinces conducted the various sessions, and summarized the experiences from before and introduced their new management model. The conference provided opportunities for mutual learning among different care organizations

A Joint UN monitoring mission attended the dissemination conference and confirmed the achievements by AIDS Care China.

V. UN RC Advocacy and Terminal Tripartite Project Review

UN Resident Coordinator Office conducted a special mission in early June 2007 to Guangzhou where Resident Coordinator specifically focused on HIV/AIDS advocacy. The Resident Coordinator met with government officials and discussed about UN cooperation with the local government on development issues and brought to the attention of provincial leaders HIV/AIDS issues. The Resident Coordinator visited Guangzhou #8 Hospital to meet with doctors/nurses, as well as people living with AIDS who are currently hospitalized. The team also visited the Red Ribbon Center run by AIDS Care China in the hospital to meet with their volunteers and staff. Following the visit, the Resident Coordinator lectured at the Southern Medical University in Guangzhou. His speech was followed by complementing speeches on the same topic, Stigma and Discrimination, from Guangdong CDC and AIDS Care China. After the speeches, a Q/A session was held with the students. Students asked questions ranging from patient privacy, poverty and HIV, and issues relating to condom promotion vs. moral sexual behaviour. Over 300 future doctors and healthcare professionals attended the event and was seen as high successful.

As a continuing practice, UNDP was able to coordinate UN, Govt and Civil Society to speak on a specific topic from different view points.

A terminal TPR mission was conducted by the UNDP, CICETE, AIDS Care China in Guangzhou. The mission listened to the progress report by AIDS Care China, visited the #8 Hospital and interviewed with various PLWHA staff and volunteers. The mission was satisfied to see the concrete results achieved especially in the networking that AIDS Care China has been able to set

up in the four provinces, and also in the management structure of the implementer. The mission was very pleased at the improved capacity of AIDS Care China which is now capable to provide care, counseling services to more PLWHAs in the region. The activities provided good opportunities for CICETE staff to get more exposure to HIV/AIDS issues that they felt touched that the small project could actually do very much to the people in need.

V. Project Management and Technical Support

- AIDS Care China was responsible for project implementation.
- Guangzhou No. 8 People's Hospital was responsible for supervision, guidance and technical support for daily project activities, counseling and technical support for clinical care.
- China STD/AIDS Association provided project monitoring and technical support. They provided recommendations to the overall project design, oversee the project financial management, and conducted monitoring trips, collecting information from the ground and provide feedbacks and report to UNDP.
- UNAIDS has approved a no cost extension for the UNDP component of the PAF III funded Capacity Building, Care and Support for PLWHA until 31 May 2007, per email sent on 16 January 2007.

Project outputs

1. The project exceeded its original targets: There were altogether 93 backbone PLWHAs trained and their capacity enhancement was confirmed by the different activities and the results of the project.
2. Networking among the PLWHA was improved with various training and project activities, as well as AIDS Care China's expansion into four provinces (Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and Hubei) and the formulation of the two women's groups.
3. Partnerships between PLWHA, CBOs and health sector, NGOs and care organizations in other cities, and private sector were established. Linkages between health care workers and PLWHAs were strengthened.
4. The issue of stigma and discrimination on HIV/AIDS was clearly and effectively discussed by the advocacy activities especially when a unified voice of different partners including UN, the government and the civil society was raised.

Conclusions

1. The project was successful in achieving the intended results in numbers of backbone PLWHA trained and numbers of setting up PLWHAS groups. There were meaningful involvement of PLWHAs in the project and their capacity was greatly enhanced in the project implementations. GIPA concept was further promoted in China's community response to HIV/AIDS.
2. The project also focused on gender and the establishment of the two women's groups will further provide opportunities to engage and empower women.
3. The successful transition of AIDS Care China from a community based organization to a registered NGO with established management committee and board set up a model for other

PLWHA groups to follow. Besides, the broader partnership in the process would help scale up community response in China and was a model to be further replicated.

Recommendations and follow-up

1. Efforts should be made to promote cooperation between AIDS Care China and other PLWHA groups and NGOs in China.
2. China STD/AIDS Association has plans to replicate the model of AIDS Care China in Hunan and Chongqing by preparing project proposals for funding.

Signature of Theme Group Chair

Theme Group Chair Name and Contact Information

Chinese Association of STD & AIDS Prevention and Control (27 Nanwei Lu, Xuanwu District, Beijing 100050)

Contact: Luo Mei

Tel/Fax: 010-83158317, 13910881951

E-Mail: luomei999@yahoo.com.cn