

Project Summary



Community Based Care, Support and Poverty Reduction in Shanxi

The Challenge

Shanxi province has experienced an upsurge of HIV cases since 1995 resulting from unsafe large-scale blood plasma selling practiced throughout the province as a popular means of income generation for poor rural households in the 1990s. While the real extent of the tragedy remains unknown, in some villages the HIV prevalence is reported to range between 20-40 % among community populations with insufficient care, treatment facilities and support structures available. Discrimination and stigmatization of individuals with HIV, and of HIV negative individuals from high prevalence communities is rampant. Heavily affected communities are no longer able to sell their agricultural products, even in neighbouring counties and migrant workers from these communities are no longer able to find jobs even in other provinces. Many young men were asked to leave from their workplaces and services.

The Response

The Project focuses on directly improving the quality of life, self-sufficiency and human dignity of communities, families and individuals concomitantly affected by poverty and high HIV/AIDS burdens through:

(a) effective utilization of existing resources, institutions and structures in a participatory and coordinated manner, through multi-sectoral capacity building, (b) information, education and communication (IEC) to combat discrimination and stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS and to bring about positive behavioral changes regarding healthy and positive lifestyles and lives, and the prevention of secondary and tertiary HIV transmission, (c) sustainable models of community and family counseling, care and support; and (d) improved self-sufficiency and human dignity of communities and families afflicted by poverty and HIV/AIDS through microfinance schemes.

Achievements

The project covers the prefecture of Wenxi and Xia counties in Yuncheng Prefecture. A strategic partnership on a microfinance initiative between the Government of China and the UNDP Country Office has empowered people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and their families, to gain respect, dignity and to restore hopes and dreams in their lives. It is a tangible example of building inclusive financial services, as well as harmonising the community through innovative microfinance services to those who previously had no access to them. To date, over 100 households affected by HIV/AIDS have benefited from the microfinance scheme. Beneficiaries have doubled or tripled their income through various economic activities, such as animal husbandry.

At A Glance

Start Date: March 2003

End Date: December 2006

Executing Agency: CICETE

Project ID: CPR/01/406 (00012149)

UNDAF: HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria infection and disease rates reduced, care and support for those infected improved and the rights of those living with HIV/AIDS protected.

MDG: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

UNDP: US\$ 50,000

UNTF: US\$ 800,000

Total Budget: US\$ 850,000

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Mr. Edmund Settle, Programme Manager at (86-10 8532 0775 or esmund.settle@undp.org)

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