

# “Positive Talks”

## The Challenge

Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV (PLHIV) remain enormous barriers to an effective response to HIV/AIDS epidemic in China. Because fear of discrimination, PLHIV are less willing to disclose their HIV positive status, and seek voluntary counseling or anti- HIV treatment. Due to stigma, people are reluctant to discuss and learn about HIV and too few people take HIV tests. This means that HIV awareness remains low and those people who are positive are identified late, which has obvious serious consequences for prevention as well as treatment.

Although China has issued a national regulation on HIV and AIDS prohibiting discrimination against PLHIV at the institutional level, there is still a clear need to increase the meaningful involvement of PLHIV as partners to reduce stigma among China's population.

## The Response

The project “Positive Talks” is expected to contribute to the prevention and control of the HIV epidemic in China by supporting PLHIV to be substantially and actively involved in HIV/AIDS responses.

The project aims at raising awareness among the general public and reducing discrimination at community levels by training and supporting a group of PLHIV to serve as effective policy advocates, educators and to give positive talks to organizations (including educational institutions) which initiate HIV and AIDS prevention and awareness activities.

The project is a key activity of Marie Stopes International China (MSIC), jointly supported by UNDP and UNAIDS and implemented by China International Center for Economics and Technology Exchange (CICETE). The Project is integrated into GIPA and anti stigma initiatives currently being conducted by UNDP in the UN Joint Programme on AIDS in China (2007-2010).

## Achievements

Some 35 PLHIV were recruited in May and June 2007 and are now being trained to be Positive Trainers.

The project's expected results for the next months are:

- Positive Trainers and Positive Talks Group established and promoted
- 200 trainings and positive talks in HIV/AIDS advocacy, prevention, care and support programs in companies, schools, NGOs, etc...
- The website of the Positive Trainers and Positive Talks Group developed and maintained.

## At A Glance

Start Date: 1 April 2007  
End Date: 31 March 2009  
UN JP Partners: UNAIDS

Implementing Partner(s): China International Center for Economics and Technology Exchange (CICETE) and Marie Stopes International China (MSIC)

Project ID: 00058943

MDG Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

UNDAF Outcome 4: HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria infection and disease rates are reduced, care and support for those infected improved and the right of PLHIV protected.

CPD Outcome 3: Enabling environment for civil society participation and its effective engagement in Xiaokang priority issues.

UN JP Outcome 3.5: Increased support for and reduced discrimination against people affected by AIDS

<u>Total Budget:</u>	US\$	312,000
UNDP:	US\$	50,000
Donors: DFID	US\$	80,000
Stora Enso:	US\$	50,000
TOTAL:	US\$	36,000
UNAIDS (parallel):	US\$	96,000

Project location(s): Nation-wide

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 [edmund.settle@undp.org](mailto:edmund.settle@undp.org)

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