

Country: China

Programme Area (and timescale of plan): HIV & AIDS 2007 -2012

Aim of the Programme Area:

To mitigate the impact of HIV&AIDS on poor and disadvantaged people in China

Currently, the programme utilises a mix of specialised International volunteers supported by national Interns. Post 2012, and reflecting the breadth and pace of development within China, HIV prevention initiatives will be integrated within mainstream activities and be supported primarily by utilising skilled national volunteers building upon and expanding strategic national and provincial partnerships developed during the current phase.

Why is VSO working in that particular Programme Area and Region?

HIV & AIDS is an increasing threat to development in China and VSO recognises it has a unique role to play.

The HIV & AIDS epidemic is evolving and becoming increasingly severe. There are growing signs that it is spreading from clusters of high risk behaviour groups to the general population, often due to lack of education plus information and access to HIV & AIDS services. The HIV and AIDS policy (Four Frees and One Care) and its implementation have obvious gaps in poor areas. VSO's core competence of capacity building is complementary to improving the quality of service delivery and to enhance the implementation of government policies within the areas we operate.

National Statistics

Accepted world-wide statistics for China show that by the end of 2009:

- 740,000 (560,000 – 920,000) *estimated* number of alive people living with HIV (compared to 500,000 living with HIV in the USA)
- 326,000 *reported* cases of people living with HIV
- 107,000 were cases of AIDS
- 54,000 reported deaths of which 30.5% were women
- Prevalence among the population as a whole was 0.057% (0.042% - 0.071%);
- 48,000 people (41,000 – 55,000) were newly infected with HIV in 2009

A key note accompanying the statistics is the acknowledgement that *“the epidemic has already started to spread from high-risk populations to the general population”* and that *“sexual transmission continues to be the primary mode of transmission, and homosexual transmission is increasing rapidly”* with *“the number of people affected by AIDS increasing, and transmission modes diversifying.”*¹

Key Beneficiaries and Partners

Beneficiaries:

- Women, children
- People affected and infected by HIV and AIDS
- Young People
- Injecting Drug Users
- Sex Workers (both female and male)
- Gay men and males who have sex with males
- Local Health workers
- All programme partners (including government agencies, mass organisations, local NGOs and CBOs)

¹ UNGASS 2010 Country Progress Report (China)

Current Partners:

Strategic

1. Health Bureau at provincial, prefecture and county level
2. AIDS prevention and control office at provincial ,prefecture and county level
3. Centre of Disease Control at provincial ,prefecture and county level
4. The Youth League at provincial , prefecture and county level
5. Teacher Training Colleges
6. Provincial Education Commissions
7. China Family Planning Association

Key Objectives of the Current Programme and the “cross-cutting”/”mainstreaming” themes (up to 2012):

1. **Improve quality of HIV services in Yunnan.** The poor and or disadvantaged in Yunnan have improved quality of HIV and AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment services. This will be achieved by partnering with local government, NGOs and volunteering involving organisations and building their management and technical capacities to deliver quality HIV services to people affected by HIV and AIDS. It is expected to raise awareness of leaders and the general populace, reducing stigma and discrimination, building individual and institutional capacity in the coordination of HIV responses.
2. **Mainstreaming:** Continue to support partners to mainstream HIV and AIDS prevention activities throughout all VSO Basic Services operations as well as new initiatives from 2012 whilst encouraging increased involvement from people living with HIV and AIDS.

In accordance with VSO International objectives on gender as a cross-cutting theme, initiatives will continue to address the inequalities in power between men and women in China. Also, national volunteering will play a greater involvement in varied forms throughout the programme.

Current Programme (through to completion in 2012)

The skills type identified for successful programme delivery:

- Programme and organisational development specialists
- HIV & AIDS Professionals (mainly focused on a combination of skills in peer education and project management, GIPA, mainstreaming, VCT, treatment, home care, workplace policy)
- Youth volunteers with training skills in peer education (ideally with Chinese language skills)
- Development Researcher
- Communication Specialist
- Community mobilization
- Capacity Builders
- Entrepreneurs for small business

Other Current Programme Activities and Strategies (through to 2012):

- **Workshops, Training & Conferences**
 - HIV & AIDS Peer Education Workshops
 - Partnership Planning and Review Workshops
 - Project Management Training
 - Volunteer Management Training
 - Counselling Training for local health workers
 - Refresher Training for Peer Educators and health workers
 - Workshop for Mainstreaming HIV & AIDS leadership
 - Best Practice Sharing workshops
- **Research**
 - Assessment of role of National Volunteers or Interns in HIV & AIDS
 - Assessment of capacity of volunteering involving HIV and AIDS organisations
 - Volunteer Management Benchmarking for organisations in the area of HIV and AIDS
- **Advocacy and Global Education**
 - Advocate Corporate Social Responsibility
 - Advocate the commitment from community decision makers
 - Advocate Gender and GIPA
 - Volunteering on HIV and AIDS on (International) Volunteer Day
 - Education on Global and development issues
- **Partner Exchange Visits/Study Tours**
 - LINKS Visit: Best Practices Observation Tour outside China
 - Partner Organisations Study Tour in China
 - Best Practices Exchange visits for health workers and national volunteers
 - Best Practices Exchange visit for project managers and decision makers
 - Exchange visits for mainstreaming PO staff
- **Providing Grants and/or Equipment for Partners (e.g. small grants)**
 - Placement Support Fund to partners and volunteers
 - Grants for Resources Centre
 - Grants for Volunteer Centre
 - Grants for National Volunteer activities
- **Development of publications or Other Materials for Communication Training**
 - VSO produced Q and A booklets
 - Programme Brochures for communication
 - Support Electronic Newsletter among 5 volunteer groups
 - Posters and other training materials for WAD activities, HIV and AIDS peer education and management trainings
 - Developing a set of training manuals for doctors and trainers
- **Other Partnership Activities:**
 - World AIDS Day activities
 - Community based Life Skills Training
 - Public Health Trainings
 - Generate income for PLWHA
 - Networking and Alliance

What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?

- VSO enables National Volunteers or Interns to play a key role in programme management and delivery and provides key learning for VSO as it prepares to expand the National Volunteering programme post 2012.
- VSO operates via workshops, study tours and learning opportunities for partner organisations that allow good practice to be shared and improving cooperation among local partners.
- VSO International Volunteers have brought opportunities for partner organisations to learn and share together. A transitional period, as the current phase concludes, ensures this learning is transferred to the national volunteering programme for launch post 2012.
- Initiatives have demonstrated a successful model of community based comprehensive HIV & AIDS prevention, treatment and care interventions with multi-sectors in Yunnan (benefiting 1.2 million people).
- Mainstreaming work has enabled HIV awareness to be raised among a wider group of people: In 2001, VSO China introduced HIV & AIDS as a cross cutting theme within its education programme. By 2004, out of 45 teacher training colleges - 31 were integrating HIV & AIDS activities through their ELT. By 2007, 5 National Volunteer Groups for HIV & AIDS education was established in 5 teacher colleges in 4 provinces.

National Volunteering from 2012

National volunteering holds the key to future successes for VSO activities in China. After the current phase concludes in 2012, people from diverse communities within the country will be offered greater opportunities than ever before to participate in programmes. Programmes that seek to ensure positive change for the most poorest and disadvantaged communities.

The outcomes will not only seek to build upon the successes of the HIV prevention and Education programmes but will also aim to raise the profile of volunteering as a whole and as a force for good.

Photo Gallery

Below are a series of photographs highlighting achievements from the most current International volunteers working on the VSO HIV and AIDS Programme in China.

Kunming, Yunnan

All photographs courtesy of Rosemarie Nillasca, International Volunteer.



VSO International volunteer with student volunteers from Yunnan University.

Photograph taken at YNTV (Yunnan TV) for a project on HIV and AIDS awareness and anti-drug prevention. The students were interviewed as part of World AIDS Day activities to be broadcast in the week prior to December 1st 2010.



Peer Education / HIV and AIDS activities conducted for selected students at Yunnan University with the VSO International Volunteer.



Training for People Living with HIV or AIDS (PLWHA) at Gei Jiu prefecture, Yunnan Province. More than 50% of the participants were HIV Positive. Left: International volunteer.



Distribution of certificates after completion of Training of Trainers session with Yunnan University student volunteers.

Mouding, Yunnan

All photographs courtesy of MA.Carmencita Dirige-Ouano, International Volunteer.



Explaining the long term effects of untreated Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) to village Doctors.

(Right: VSO International Volunteer / Left: VSO Intern)



HIV Awareness Training with Village Doctors and Party Committee Leaders.



Condom demonstration training with county Doctors.



HIV awareness and prevention training with rural communities.

Nanhua, Yunnan

All photographs courtesy of Susie Virginia Hendricks-Lopez, International Volunteer.



Agricultural Technical School students receive HIV awareness and Peer Education training.

After studying, it is noted that most students will go on to become migrant workers. It is hoped that educating these students in Peer Education techniques will empower them to educate their peers about HIV.

Photograph top right: International volunteer - right / Intern - left.

Changning County, Yunnan

All photographs courtesy of Graham Taylor, International Volunteer.





Photographs previous page and left:

VSO International Volunteer and Intern instruct female sex workers plus employees from the various entertainment venues (KTVs or Karaoke Bars) in HIV awareness and prevention techniques.

The session was also used to identify potential Peer Educators with further sessions delivered to them.



All 160 village Doctors in the county attend a refresher Peer Education session to re-launch activities.



Peer group activities continue with the development of a steering group to design new HIV awareness resources targeting those deemed most at risk of infection.

Importantly, the peer group are able to decide on the imagery, content and language.



The new resources aimed specifically at female sex workers and employees of entertainment venues (KTVs) are launched World AIDS Day 2010. The leaflets have all been devised by local people training to become Peer Educators.

Photographs from previous International Volunteers.



Local communities support World AIDS Day activities.



A mesh exercise to show the strength of people living with HIV.



International volunteer and national volunteer visit their local CDC department.



World AIDS Day celebrated at a local teachers college.