

Executive Summary of PPE 637PM - Mercury III – Intensive Support and Preventive Programme for AIDS and Blood Borne Disease

Project 1: Project Together We Care for Hearts Behind Bars

Aim:

1. To scale up the coverage to more Correctional Institutes of Correctional Service Department (CSD), and extend the service to the detention centres of Immigration Department;
2. To provide specific and targeted interventions to inmates with different backgrounds so as to enhance and deepen intensive education, and strengthen the preventive effect; and
3. To create an enabling environment for HIV/AIDS services.

Objectives:

1. To educate prison inmates (different age, gender and nationality) the knowledge on HIV/AIDS and blood-borne disease prevention;
2. To facilitate those with history of drug abuse and sex work to learn and adopt preventive practices to HIV/AIDS through intensive education;
3. To foster the young predominating a healthy life style through life skills-based HIV/AIDS education and prevention; and
4. To promote “zero discrimination” in seizure environment through staff training and promotional activities.

Project design:

Referred to the recommendation from WHO and our experience, prison is a suitable platform in providing HIV/AIDS prevention and education to prisoners who are found with high-risk behaviors such as IDU, sex worker and their client.

Knowledge based education as foundation to all inmates in the induction course of the prison and pre-released program so as to maximize the coverage of HIV education;

“Health Ambassador Program” and “Peer Educator” intervention scheme were implemented with KABP model (knowledge, Attitude, Belief, and Practice) and “Life-skills based” training to strengthen their capacity and participation in HIV prevention and community education.

On the other hand, fostering an acceptance atmosphere and “zero discrimination” for PLHIV and high-risk population in prison is also essential; therefore, education to correctional department staffs is one of the core elements of the project.

Target population:

Inmates of Hong Kong Correctional Services in all ages, genders and ethnicities including injecting drug users, sex workers and their clients and MSM.

Main achievements:

1. The education program has been continuously recognized as regular program in prison by Correctional Services Department;
2. To maximize the coverage of HIV prevention, Castle Peak Bay Immigration Centre and Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home were established as new platform to promote HIV prevention;
3. People with high risk behavior, such as injecting drugs using, commercial sex and unprotected sex under drug influence, were reached by the education program;
4. Young inmates who joined "Health Ambassador" Intensive Education Programme were found with experience in unprotected sex and/or compensated dating. Their awareness in safe sex practice and willingness to condom use are increased after the programme;
5. To enhance the community participation, 27 ex-offenders had transformed their knowledge into action as Part-time Peer Educators to reach the risky population and promote HIV prevention;
6. To respond the theme "Zero Discrimination" and to reduce stigma in prison, we organized the Multi-media broadcasting program in female prison on World AIDS Day, it was beneficial to around 2,000 inmates from different nations;
7. To foster acceptance atmosphere of STIs and PLHIV, 1,956 staffs of CSD have received our education from training school in 2014-2017. They acquired accurate knowledge on HIV/AIDS as well as raised their acceptance towards people influenced by HIV/AIDS;

Conclusions:

With the support of CSD, Social Welfare Department and Immigration Centre, HIV/AIDS education has been rendered in wide coverage. The program not only delivered the knowledge of prevention, but also provides the platform to change their attitude towards chance of infection and HIV/AIDS positive.

Referred to Recommendation for HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016, Life-skills based intensive education was applied as intervention strategy to enhance the capacity to the youth-at-risk in HIV/AIDS prevention.

In the end, HIV/ AIDS prevention and education are necessary to render in prison and seizure environment so as to sustain the education and prevention in the high risk population.

Project 2: Care Mobile Net – Outreach Education and Voluntary Counselling Test

Aim

1. To enhance the knowledge about HIV and blood-borne disease of sex workers, sex worker clients and sex service agent
2. To increase the motivation of HIV and blood-borne disease prevention for the above clients to by Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service
3. To increase the adoption of safer sex practices among the above clients so as to maintain low HIV prevalence in Hong Kong through professional interventions by registered social workers

Objectives

1. To enlarge the coverage of accessing condoms for sex industry workers, female sex workers and their clients
2. To scale up the coverage of HIV antibody test
3. To encourage sustainable safe sex behavior among target community
4. To encourage participation in HIV prevention among the community

Project Design

The project focuses on people involved in mobile and hidden sex industry, including male sex workers, female sex workers and their clients who have high risk sexual behavior. By Harm Reduction approach, the project promotes prevention work through comprehensive intervention, such as on-site outreach, online outreach, educational programs and groups.

For the purpose of spotting hidden risky target community and promoting the HIV prevention work, the project conducts outreach in hotels and hostels where male sex workers stay for business. Hotline and online social apps are used for easier communication and follow-up engagement. Online outreach in specific internet platforms which are most popular among sex worker clients is one of strategies to spot out hidden targets and to encourage safe sex and regular HIV test (VCT).

Community members were recruited as peer educators whose experiences and cultural sensitivity are important for our engagement to target community. Peer educators mainly involve in our regular on-site outreach and online outreach, distributing condoms and publicity items to target community, as well as delivering message of safe sex and promoting Voluntary Counseling and Testing service (VCT).

Voluntary Counseling and Testing service (VCT) were provided by professional social worker, not only providing result to the clients, but also creating a platform for the client to review their risky behavior and develop safer practice in the future.

Target Population

1. Male Sex worker
2. Female Sex worker
3. Female Sex worker clients

Main Achievements

1. More than 105000 sex worker clients were reached through online platforms. Our VCT service has been developed a good reputation in popular online forums.
2. Young and hidden community has been spotted out. 48% of sex worker clients receiving VCT service were reached by online while 71% of them were below 30 years old.
3. Sustainable number of new male sex workers, female sex workers and their clients were reached: 258, 661 and 2207 respectively. 90% of them would be willing to accept HIV antibody test after our education.
4. 15 community members were recruited as Part time Peer Educators

Conclusions

To maintain low HIV prevalence among target community, comprehensive and continuous intervention is important. As a trend of sex industry is getting young and hidden, spotting out the young risky populations will be crucial to HIV prevention in the future. Regular on-site outreach is still an essential way to reach male sex workers and female sex workers. Moreover, further developing online service is a method to fit in the culture of our young target community as well as to reach those mobile and hidden targets.

Project 3: Hotspot Tracking: An Outreaching Community Initiative for High-risk Populations

Aims

Through specific and targeted interventions and outreaching community works, to promote prevention education of HIV/AIDS and blood-borne disease and harm reduction education to the Chinese drug abusers community; to reduce the behaviours that exposing them to the risks of contracting HIV/AIDS, and to provide Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis C to those in need.

Objectives

- To provide intensive education to specific high-risk behaviours and hard-to-reach IDUs;
- To sustain and consolidate the HIV/AIDS and blood-borne diseases prevention education to drug abusers to strengthen the community's resilience;
- To sustain and extend Voluntary counseling and Testing (VCT) of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis C to drug abusers to receive VCT so as to enhance HIV prevention and control;
- To mobilize the IDU community to participate in community prevention education.

Target population

Injecting Drug Users in Hong Kong

Project design

The project was designed to follow harm reduction principles on drug rehabilitation, health education was the mean and HIV prevention was the outcome. There were 7 programs composed in the project:

- 1) The "No Old Needle" healthy community program: The program was to collect used and improperly disposed syringes in the community to prevent needlesticks injuries and the risk of HIV and blood-borne diseases infection.
- 2) Methadone Clinic Outreach: We provided outreach service outside all the methadone clinics in Hong Kong. Through the outreach, we educated the community to apply harm reduction strategies on their daily life and we distributed Health Care Kit to reduce their risk of infection on taking drug. For example, we provided condoms and razer for their personal use.
- 3) Distribution of wound/blood management education and publicity package:

The package was a part of Health Care Kit, which is specific for community members who injecting drugs and created wounds on their body. This package provided basic blood and wound care materials for infection control.

- 4) Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service (VCT) and mobile-VCT: We provided centre based VCT service as well as outgoing on-site VCT service to the distance district in Hong Kong to whom required.
- 5) Hepatitis C Support Group: Through the VCT service, we discovered a pool of hepatitis C patients in the IDU community, we provided treatment referral service and created a support network for them to support their drug rehabilitation and different stages on Hep. C treatment.
- 6) Health Education Groups/Talks on Harm Reduction Practice: We provided free groups and talks to all the drug rehabilitation centres and hostels in Hong Kong, we also provided on-site VCT service after the groups/talks.
- 7) Harm Reduction Manual: We collected practice wisdom in the community and published a harm reduction manual to re-educate the community on HIV prevention.

Main achievements

All the service output and outcomes were recorded in PPE 637 (Project 3) final report, below were some substantial achievements:

- 1) During all 3 years project, we collected altogether 7558 pieces of old needles with syringes through 320 times of “No Old Needle” programs. We distributed 157 sharp boxes in different sizes and 98 stainless steel tongs for the public toilet workmen to handle the sharps.

The number of needlestick injury we recorded from the workman in the 1st project year (2014-2015) is 6, in the 2nd project year (2015-2016) is 5, and in the last project year (2016-2017) is Zero. We have developed good working relationship with the public toilet workmen, which they would take the initiative to request a new sharp box for needle collection.

- 2) Through Methadone Clinic Outreach, we distributed new syringes in the Health Care Kit, which effectively changed the sharing needle practice in the community. We recorded a drop form 12% (2014-2015) to 3.8% (2015-2016) of sharing needle practice; and remained low in 2016-2017 project year (3.2%). Providing new syringes to the IDU community greatly change the practice of sharing needles and as a result of reducing the risk of HIV infection.
- 3) New discovery though our on-site VCT service: We provided health groups/talks in different drug rehabilitation centres, hostels, and half-way

houses, we served 435 clients. 78 out of 435 clients (18%) received our on-site VCT services. 44 out of 78 (56.4%) of the on-site VCT clients were ex-drug user or ex-IDU. More than 50% of them would visit sex-worker regularly, and the rate of using condom were low. Their previous drug background and unsafe sex attitude created a potential high-risk community in Hong Kong.

Conclusions:

Needle and syringe programs were proven to be the most effective harm reduction strategy on HIV prevention. But Hong Kong with its specific cultural and legal consideration could not keep the pace with the world trend. Depends on the needs and risks of IDU community, Project Hotspot would continue to provide quality services and explore the chance to fill the service gap in the up-coming future.

Project 4: Project PEER- Prevention Education through Ethnicity Rapport

Aim and Objectives

- 1.1 to extend the coverage of prevention education service among the targeted Non-Chinese ethnic population;
- 1.2 to scale up the coverage of Voluntary Counseling and Testing Service (VCT) targeting Injecting Drug Users, Drug Abusers, Non-Chinese ethnic female sex workers and their clients;
- 1.3 to extend capacity development of the community members to be Peer Educators to provide prevention and harm reduction education to Non-Chinese ethnic community; and
- 1.4 to foster a supportive environment through promotion and community education

Project design

To conduct the service with high cultural sensitivity, the Project recruited a group of Non-Chinese ethnic Peer Educators to assist and support the service through various means, from community-based preventive education to intensive individual counseling and testing service.

To promote the service, and enhance the awareness of HIV/AIDS among the Non-Chinese ethnic community with a wider coverage, from the level of the community, the Project did regular community-based outreach to reach potential target population, and provided group education, to provide more interactive and comprehensive education in groups. The Project also could reach the mass through hosting community educational programs and operating the website. Targeting the risky individuals, the Project provided intensive education, VCT and primary health check-up, to bridge them to the counseling and testing service. Through our VCT, referral and care service were available to the PLHIV and/or other infected service users. Also, to adopt Harm Reduction Approach, the Project distributed Health Care Kit, and published and distributed Harm Reduction Practice Manual to Non-Chinese ethnic Injecting Drug Users and Drug Abusers.

Target population

The Project targeted Non-Chinese ethnic population, especially the high-risk population, including Injecting Drug Users, Drug Abusers, Female sex workers, Sex Worker Clients, domestic helpers, youths and asylum seekers/refugees.

Main achievements

Not just reaching all the output of the performance indicators, the Project had lots of development throughout the project years, in terms of the coverage and intensity of the service.

Service coverage is the key of prevention education service; the Project had successfully extended the service coverage to non-Chinese ethnic female, including the migrant workers and Female Sex Workers. Gaining more number of female service users through various service means, the Project was able to motivate them to get test, and obtained our VCT service. Therefore, the gender ratio of the VCT service users was 1:1 in the last project year. In general, the number of VCT was highly scaled up; the composition of the ethnicity of VCT service users was diverse.

The Project expanded the service to a new segment of Non-Chinese ethnic high-risk population- asylum seekers/refugees, and they occupied 70% of our VCT service users, also contributed 80% of our PLHIV cases. To help PLHIVs link to the treatment, the Project provided comprehensive follow-up and support service to lessen their obstacles on obtaining the medical service.

Conclusions

With cultural barriers, Non-Chinese ethnic population was more vulnerable to the infection; also increasing number of Non-Chinese ethnic population in Hong Kong caused greater demand on the service, thereby sustainable and sufficient resources are necessary to maintain and even expand the service in this community. (END)

行政報告摘要

PPE 637 水銀星三號 – 深入愛滋病及血液傳染疾病預防教育及支援計劃 計劃一：關心共同睇 – 在囚人士預防愛滋病及血液傳染疾病小組教育計劃

目的：

1. 覆蓋更多懲教院所及擴展服務至入境處扣押中心。
2. 針對不同高危背景人士度身訂造具文化敏銳度、並深化及延伸教育，以強化預防效果。
3. 締造有利愛滋病服務的環境

目標：

1. 教育不同年齡、性別及國籍的曾經濫用藥物人士、曾經從事或參與性工作的在囚人士有關愛滋病及血液傳染病的預防知識及技巧；
2. 透過深入教育促進濫用藥物人士及性工作者認識及採取預防措施。
3. 透過生活技能為本的愛滋病及血液傳染病的預防教育，培育青少年掌握健康生活模式。
4. 透過職員訓練及宣傳推廣活動促進「零歧視」扣押環境。

項目設計：

1. 本計劃能在懲教院所內接觸大量高危社群，包括針筒注射人士、性工作者及性工作者顧客；
2. 在新人啟導課程及釋前準備中提供預防及教育的工作；
3. 引用 KABP 模式提供「健康大使小組」及「兼職朋輩教育員」培訓中，加強社區預防及教育工作；
4. 透過職員訓練促進「零歧視」扣押環境。

目標社群：

在囚人士

主要成就：

1. 本會是唯一社會福利機構獲批准在懲教院所及職員訓練學院內推行愛滋病及血液傳染預防教育；
2. 在服務中接觸到高危社群；
3. 本服務向女青少年所員提供「健康大使小組」訓練，提昇她們對安全性行為的意識及使用安全套的意願；
4. 本會將部份所員以「支持感染者」為主題的設計品製成服務宣傳品，提昇社群人士的參與度；
5. 於女懲教院所舉辦「週日彩虹」多媒體廣播，宣傳世界愛滋病日和「向零出

- 發」的訊息，鼓勵社區人士接納愛滋病感染者；
6. 本服務向懲教職員提供訓練，增加他們對愛滋病的認識和提昇對愛滋病感染者的接納度，培養「零歧視」的扣押環境。

總結：

懲教院所實是一個向高危社群人士推行愛滋病預防及教育的有效平台。藉著過去與懲教署的緊密合作，本會能持續而有效地在懲教院所推行愛滋病預防教育的工作。

計劃二：關懷移動網 – 外展教育及自願測試輔導服務計劃

目的

1. 加強性工作者、性服務中介人及光顧性服務人士對愛滋病及血液傳染病知識。
2. 透過自願愛滋病毒抗體測試及輔導服務增強其預防動機。
3. 透過社工專業介入，為上述社群採取較安全性行為持續性，並維持整體低感染率

目標

1. 擴展目標社群獲取安全套的範圍
2. 擴大愛滋病毒抗體測試的覆蓋面
3. 促進目標社群採取持續安全性行為
4. 促進社群參與預防愛滋病項目

項目設計

此計劃針對流動性及隱閉性的性行業社群，包括男性/女性性工作者及其顧客，配合緩減傷害(Harm Reduction)的策略，使用教育宣傳、外展、網上外展、活動及小組的介入手法，令預防果效更加全面。計劃會聘請社群人士為兼職朋輩輔導員，讓其在地區外展及網上外展工作上，發揮其社群影響力。專業社工會提供自願測試輔導服務，助目標社群重新檢視其高風險行為，及建立安全性行為的習慣。

目標對象

1. 男性性工作者
2. 女性性工作者
3. 女性性工作者顧客

主要成就

1. 透過網上平台接觸了超過 105,000 名女性性工作者顧客，為自願測試輔導服務建立良好口碑。
2. 接觸到隱蔽的年輕組群。網上服務吸引了 48%的性工作者顧客接受自願測試輔導服務，當中有 71%年齡低於 30 歲。
3. 持續接觸到新的男性性工作者、女性性工作者及其顧客，分別為 258 名，661 名及 2207 名。當中 90%表示接受計劃的教育後，願意接受愛滋病毒抗體測試。
4. 聘請了 15 名社群人士成為兼職朋輩輔導員。

總結

全面和持續的介入，對控制目標社群的愛滋病感染率很重要。由於性行業有年輕化和隱蔽的趨勢，及早接觸高風險的年輕組群，對愛滋病預防工作非常關鍵。除了恆常的地區外展，有需要進一步發展網上服務，以接觸流動性高和隱蔽的年輕組群。

計劃三：熱點追蹤— 高危吸毒社群外展工作計劃

目的:

1. 讓針筒注射毒品人士及濫藥人士有能力減少風險行為及預防愛滋病感染。
2. 培養社群成為朋輩教育員，提供優質及沒有歧視成份的服務。
3. 落實以結果為依歸及具有策略性訊息依據的愛滋病預防服務。
4. 擴大愛滋病、梅毒、乙及丙型肝炎自願測試輔導服務之社群覆蓋率。

目標:

1. 增加社群人士之愛滋病及血液傳染病預防教育服務覆蓋率。
2. 強化訓練朋輩教育員，提供具社群敏感度之優質服務。
3. 完善服務檢討及社群資料採集機制，整合來自社群之緩減傷害概念。
4. 增加測試覆蓋率，建立全天候社區為本流動測試服務及感染支援。

目標社群: 注射毒品人士

項目設計:

本計劃以「緩減傷害」理念為本，以「健康教育」為方式，以達致預防愛滋病的目的。本計劃共有大活動內容:

1. 「無舊針」衛生社區計劃
2. 美沙酮診展服務
3. 派發「關注傷口/血液處理教育宣傳包」
4. 「自願性快速試及輔導服務」及「流動快速測試及輔導服務」
5. 丙型肝炎感染者互助小組
6. 「緩減傷害」概念為本教育小組
7. 印刷來自社群「緩減傷害」手冊

服務成效:

詳細的服務成效請閱 PPE 637 (計劃 3)服務報告書,以下只紀錄部份重點成效:

- 1) 於2014-2017服務年間,本計劃共收集7558支舊針,「無舊針」外展320次,及派了157個棄針箱予油麻地及旺角區的公廁清潔員。針刺意外由首年6宗,減到第二年度5宗,最後年度更沒有再收到針刺意外報告。
- 2) 美沙酮外展服務中,我們向群人士派發全新潔淨針筒,有效減低社群人士共用針筒的比例。共用針筒比率由首年12%下降至第二年度的3.8%,並在最後服務年度維持在3.2%的低水平。針筒及針咀計劃為世界衛生組織認可最具成效的愛滋病預防計劃。
- 3) 透過流動快速測試及輔導服務我們了解到宿舍及中途宿舍中隱藏了很多曾經吸毒人士。他們現在沒有吸食毒品但超過一半(56%)會與性工作者發

生不安全的性行為。他們過往的用毒經歷及現在的不安全性態度使他們成為潛在的高峰險社群。

總結:

香港因其獨特的社會文化和傳統的法律條文限制,暫時未能與全球的緩減傷害毒品政策接軌,以致派發新針筒或針筒交換計劃未能在港推行。但隨著毒品形勢轉變,本計劃將會繼續配合社群需要而調整服委策略,使社群在這獨特的社會氣氛底下仍能獲得有質素的愛滋病預防服務。

計劃四: Project PEER

目標及目的：

1. 擴闊對非華裔服務對象的預防教育的覆蓋面
2. 增加對目標服務對象的自願輔導及測試服務覆蓋面
3. 為社群人士充權，訓練他們成為朋輩教育員，在社群中提供預防及緩害服務
4. 透過宣傳及公眾教育，促進建立一個對愛滋病感染者更友善的環境

計劃設計：

為提供更具文化敏銳度的服務，本計劃招募了一班非華裔朋輩教育員，參與各項的服務。

在社群教育層面上，為推廣服務及提升非華裔社群對愛滋病的認知，本計劃進行了定期的外展服務，及各項的小組教育。透過舉辦各項大型社區活動及運作網站，本服務有機會接觸更多非華裔的大眾人士。

在高危社群深入教育層面上，本計劃提供免費的自願輔導及測試服務並基本身體檢查，並因此提供所需的跟進及支援服務予感染者。

本計劃採納了緩減傷害手法，透過派發安全健康包，及印製緩害手冊予非華裔針筒注射人士及吸毒人士，以提升他們對愛滋病預防的意識，鼓勵他們採用更安全的方式。

目標服務對象：

非華裔高危社群，包括針筒注射人士、吸毒者、女性性工作者及其顧客、外傭、青少年及尋求庇護者/難民。

成就：

本計劃在過去三年有重大的發展，更在服務覆蓋面及深度上取得顯著的成果。預防教育服務着重覆蓋面，本計劃成功擴展服務至更多的非華裔女性，包括外傭及女性性工作者。透過不同服務內容，本計劃成功接觸到更多女性服務使用者，更能推動他們接受測試服務，因此最近一年的測試服務的性別比例是1:1。整體而言，測試服務的使用者人數大大提升，族裔的分布也非常多元化。

本計劃亦成功將服務擴展至尋求庇護者/難民，他們佔了自願輔導及測試服務使用者的70%，並感染者的80%。為幫助感染者有效連接至治療，本計劃提供綜合跟進及支援服務，以減少他們在接觸醫療服務期間的障礙。

總結：

由於文化障礙，非華裔人士特別容易處於高危狀況，加上其人口在港不斷增加，因此他們在服務上有更大的需求，要維持並發展服務必須有持續及穩定的資源。

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