

Executive Summary of PPE 675PM - 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 different people in Correctional Institutes of Correctional Service Department (CSD), and the residential service of HK government;
2. To enhance the awareness among the inmates and people in residential service under HK government on AIDS/HIV prevention; and
3. To create an enabling living environment for HIV/AIDS prevention and education 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.

Project design:

According to 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.

Health education programmes were extended to Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home under Social Welfare Department, so that at-risk youth can be reached.

“Health Ambassador Program” and “Peer Educator” intervention scheme were deepened to strengthen HIV prevention and education in the community.

On the other hand, fostering “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

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. Their awareness in safe sex practice and condom use increased after the programme;
5. Part-time Peer Educators acted as positive roles to reach the risky population and promote HIV prevention;
6. To foster acceptance atmosphere of STIs and PLHIV among staffs in Correctional Institution. Knowledge on HIV/AIDS and interactive training was established.

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 safe sex and PLHIV.

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

Aims

A service model was built up on the harm reduction approach through specific and graduated interventions, to enhance the health awareness of HIV/AIDS and blood-borne disease to the local drug abusers community. The projects aimed to build up a safety and non-risky behavioural pattern in the community, and empower the community to make changes in the society, so as to promote a safety and low risk living environment.

Objectives

1. To support and encourage PWID (People Who Inject Drug) community to maintain a safer behaviour practice, in order to prevent HIV and other blood-borne disease transmission in the community.
2. Enhance the social hygiene awareness as well as the personal hygiene awareness of the PWID community by practicing safety syringe disposal method and wound care method, so as to reduce the risk of general public on needlestick injuries.
3. Provide graduate training to rehabilitated drug users, train them up as peer volunteer or peer educators; and make use of the positive peer influence to promote harm reduction education in the whole community.
4. To expand the geographical coverage of Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service and to increase motivation of the clients by providing convenient VCTs venue and mobilize service.

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 “Old Needle Collection” program - 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 – to reach service target from methadone clinics in Hong Kong and provide preventive education.

- 3) Distribution of wound/blood management education and publicity package - to the needy to prevent any kind of blood diseases infection.
- 4) Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service (VCT) and mobile-VCT
- 5) Hepatitis C Support Group – to provide support and follow up service for Hep C clients.
- 6) Health Education Groups/Talks on Harm Reduction Practice
- 7) Peer Volunteer Training – to recruit and train up ex-drug users as peer volunteers and provide modelling effect to the community.

Main achievements

All the service output and outcomes were recorded in PPE 675 (Project 3) final report, below were some substantial achievements:

- 1) We collected altogether 4026 pieces of old needles/ syringes through 161 times of “Old Needle Collection” programs. We distributed 132 sharp boxes in different sizes and 60 stainless steel tongs for the public toilet workmen to handle the sharps.
- 2) The Hepatitis C support group strengthened the positive attitude on drug abstinence (relapse prevention) and motivate them to continue the medical treatment. Group members self-motivated to reward the society by organizing street sleeper visiting volunteer works.
- 3) We distributed 7202 packs of blood and wound care kits to the public to promote blood and wound care. Clients appreciated our wound sanitizer and alcohol wipes inside the kit, which provided them quality materials to take care of their bleeding wound as well as to prevent blood related infection.

Conclusions:

The project targeted on local PWID, based on harm reduction approaches, collecting the most updated changes and needs of the PWID community, in order to provide the best fit quality service to the PWID community, e.g. the Blood and Wound Care Kit distribution program, Old Needles Collections program, Hepatitis C intervention strategies, and mobile VCT services to response the needs of the community. In the future, we wish our services could lead the positive changes to the PWID community, to create a more safe and healthy society for all the citizens, and to promote a higher acceptance society for the rehabilitation of drug users.

Project 4: Project PEER – Prevention Education through Ethnicity Rapport

Aim and Objectives

1. To extend the coverage of Voluntary Counselling and Testing Service (VCT) targeting non-Chinese ethnic key population, including Injecting Drug Users, Drug Abusers, MSM, Female Sex Workers and their clients;
2. To scale up the coverage of HIV prevention in non-Chinese ethnic community;
3. To strengthen the linkage to the treatment and care service targeting non-Chinese ethnic PLHIV, and to enhance their wellbeing;
4. To foster a discrimination-free atmosphere in the non-Chinese ethnic community.

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, Men who have sex with men, Sex Worker Clients, domestic helpers, youths and asylum seekers/refugees.

Main achievements

The Project had lots of development throughout the project year in terms of the coverage and intensity of the service. The Project further extended the service coverage to more non-Chinese ethnic female, including the migrant workers and Female Sex Workers. Through strengthening the linkage to the community by cooperating with other organizations, the project gain more number of female service users. The Project was able to motivate them to get test, and obtained our VCT service. Overall, the VCT recipients increased significantly.

Besides, the Project deepens the service intensity for Non-Chinese ethnic high-risk population- asylum seekers/refugees. We successfully reached them and provided intensive education to them by VCT service as well as educational groups. This group of targets contributed higher than 80% of our PLHIV cases. To help PLHIVs link to the treatment, the Project also provided comprehensive follow-up and support service to lessen their obstacles on obtaining the medical service.

Conclusions

The demand of Non-Chinese ethnic population is emerging in HIV prevention filed due to an increase in numbers of asylum seekers. There are still hidden at-risk groups that we need to reach. 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.

行政報告摘要

PPE 675 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. 擴闊服務覆蓋面至懲教院所及政府院舍的不同人士；
2. 提升在囚及政府院舍人士對預防愛滋病的意識；
3. 締造有利推行愛滋病預防教育服務的住宿環境。

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高危社群，包括針筒注射人士、性工作者及性工作者顧客，推行健康教育；
2. 服務拓展至社會福利署屯門兒童及青少年院所，接觸高危青少年；
3. 深化「健康大使小組」朋輩教育及「兼職朋輩教育員」介入，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，有效接觸高危社群；
2. 本服務向青少年所員提供「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；
3. 透過「兼職朋輩教育員」接觸高危社群，發揮正面影響；
4. 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。

計劃三：熱點追蹤— 高危吸毒社群外展工作計劃

目的:

以緩減傷害的理念建立服務階梯，提升濫藥人士和戒毒人士對愛滋病及血液傳染病的預防意識；及為社區人士提供一個安全和低風險的環境。

目標:

1. 支援針筒注射藥物濫用者社群持續採用較低風險的行為，並建立成習慣，以預防愛滋病及其他血液傳染病於社群內傳播。
2. 提升針筒注射藥物濫用者社群對個人衛生及社區衛生的意識，並從行為上實踐傷口護理和安全棄置舊針，以預防傷口感染及降低公眾人士發生針刺意外的風險。
3. 為過來人提供不同深度的培訓，栽培他們成為朋輩義工或朋輩支援員；並以朋輩的力量向社會不同人士推動緩減傷害教育，以擴闊朋輩對社會的正面影響。
4. 擴大大自願測試輔導服務(VCT)的地區覆蓋率，藉方便的地理位置提升社群進行自願測試輔導服務的動機。

目標社群: 本地注射毒品人士

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. 「舊針回收」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. 朋輩義工培訓計劃

服務成效:

詳細的服務成效請閱 PPE 675 (計劃 3)服務報告書,以下只紀錄部份重點成效:

- 1) 2017-2018 計劃年度，我們共收集4026支舊針筒／針咀。透過161次的舊針回收外展服務，我們派發及使用了132個棄針箱及60支執針用不銹鋼夾。本年度我們沒有再接獲任何針刺意外報告。相反，我們持續接獲工友的電話，要求我們前往替換他們的棄針箱。
- 2) 丙型肝炎互助小組成功強化患者脫毒的意志，並協助他們維持長達 6-9 個月

的丙型肝炎治療過程。

- 3) 我們向全港和各區的賽馬會診所推行一般性的健康教育外展，並派發傷口及向血液護理安全包予診所的病人。共派發 7202 個安全包並向 3601 名診所病人進行簡單的傷口護理教育。

總結:

本計劃針對本土的針筒注射藥物濫用人士，透過緩減傷害的策略，收集最新最貼近社群的資訊，以提供最到位和優質的愛滋病預防服務，例如：派發傷口及血液護理安全包，舊針回收計劃，丙型肝炎互助小組，流動快速測試服務等以回應社群和社會的需要。將來，我們希望以服務帶動社群的正面變化，志力消除對濫藥人士的歧視，建立一個對具包容性，安全和健康的社會為目標。

計劃四：少數族裔愛滋病預防教育計劃

目標及目的：

1. 增加對非華裔服務對象的自願輔導及測試服務覆蓋面，包括針筒注射人士，濫藥人士，男同性戀者，女性性工作者及其顧客。
2. 擴闊對非華裔服務對象的預防教育的覆蓋面。
3. 加強非華裔的愛滋病毒感染者與治療及跟進服務的連繫，從而提升其生活滿意度。
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、男同性戀者、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：

本計劃在過去一年有重大的發展，更在服務覆蓋面及深度上取得顯著的成果。本計劃進一步擴展服務至更多的非華裔女性，包括外傭及女性性工作者。透過與不同機構合作並加強與社群的連繫，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。整體而言，測試服務的使用者人數有明顯增加。另外，本計劃亦繼續深化對尋求庇護者/難民的服務。我們成功接觸他們，並透過測試服務及小組活動，為他們提供深入教育。他們佔了感染者的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：

由於尋求庇護者的人數不斷上升，非華裔人士的愛滋病預防教育需求有所增加。

同時，我們仍然需要繼續接觸隱蔽的高危群組。再加上文化障礙，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。