

AIDS Action - China Edition

Issue 2 (Spring 2007) English Synopsis

Combating stigma and discrimination

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Appearance:



Layout:

Title, slogan, logos, etc.

Combating stigma and discrimination

Photo: China HIV/AIDS ambassador Pu Cunxin and an HIV positive person making HIV positive person making jiaozi (Chinese dumplings) together.

efforts; “normalization” of HIV & AIDS as a key method of reducing stigma.

The difference between discrimination and stigma; the pervasiveness of these problems; their negative effects on both care and prevention

Contents

Introduction to AIDS Action - China Edition.

Subscription details
Conditions and how to subscribe.

Electronic version
Available from CHAIN's website.

Editors, editorial advisory group, funding support, project background, conditions on reproducing articles, etc.

Contact details.

English introduction and contents.

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Combating discrimination more effectively

Li Qi (ActionAid International, China)

Problems and suggestions, based on the author's experiences.

Show the ordinary face of PLHA

Use pictures, photos, etc. which reflect the genuine lives of PLHA, rather than images of illness alone.

Wider participation

Do not rely on only health workers to inform people about HIV & AIDS. With proper support, peer educators and other concerned individuals can communicate more effectively.

Comprehensive, ongoing information provision

A lot of people have some knowledge about HIV & AIDS, but still harbour misconceptions. Ongoing education is needed.

Artwork: *Painting by a person living with HIV, showing a simple scene of a person and a potplant.*

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Occupational exposure

HIV & AIDS education also needs to target health workers and law enforcement.

Project at a glance: "Fighting AIDS, We Are Together" photo exhibition

Image: *Promotional poster from the exhibition*

Summary of an anti-stigma project implemented by ActionAid International and other partners. Lists location, implementing agencies, funding agency, project objectives, project activities, anti-stigma content, monitoring

and evaluation methods and outcomes, and how other groups can participate in the project (see page 15).

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The power of role-models

Description of an anti-stigma poster featuring Yao Ming and Magic Johnson, and guidelines for its use.

Let everyone see

When displaying the poster, keep in mind:

- 1. Position it so that the smaller text and photos are also visible.*
- 2. Consider displaying it in areas where people sit or wait, not only areas where people walk by.*

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Image: *Yao Ming and Magic Johnson poster*

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Let everyone discuss

A simple discussion guide that can be used to ensure that the meaning and message of the poster are understood.

“Our Lives” documentary

Li Xiang (Mangrove Support Group)

This documentary describes the lives of four people living with HIV. HIV has brought changes, but rather than the suffering, stigma and tears which some viewers might expect, their lives are still like any other person, and they live with hope and confidence.

Graphic

Film scene: Working in the field, an ordinary part of village life.

Broad audience

This film can be shown to PLHA, and also to the general public, health workers, etc.

Increase the effectiveness of health education

This film can be integrated into a larger HIV & AIDS education programme. If shown early, it will increase people’s receptiveness of other HIV prevention messages.

Organize a successful screening

Guidelines for screening the film, including discussion questions.

Film scene: “The horse carried us further and further. That was how I obtained my wife, and how I obtained my happiness”.

Reader survey on HIV & AIDS discrimination

This survey is intended to help the reader recognize discrimination in their local area, while also helping to produce useful data on HIV-related discrimination in China.

The deadline for responses is May 31. Results of the survey will be published in Issue 4.

In this box, the survey respondent writes the area (city, county, town or village) for which they will complete the survey.

Graphic

Graphic

Graphic

Graphic

Graphic

25 forms of discrimination against people living with HIV & AIDS, organized into the following categories: healthcare, employment, education, reproduction and family life, and other. For each question, there are the following options: commonly occurs, sometimes occurs, does not occur, uncertain.

Although the survey is printed here, to actually participate the reader must write to a particular email address, and will receive an automatic reply with the survey questions and further instructions.

Based on “Protocol for the identification of discrimination against people living with HIV” (UNAIDS, 2000).

From fear to compassion

Despite the China CARES project, staff of Pingxiang People's Hospital still reported fear of HIV & AIDS. However, an FHI project aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination within the hospital has led to huge changes. Based on lessons learnt, this article discusses why HIV-related stigma and discrimination exists in the healthcare field, and the importance of addressing it. It makes the following suggestions:

Graphic

Box: The story of Xiao Li, an HIV positive volunteer whose participation in the project has helped hospital staff to see PLHA in a different way.

discrimination exists in the healthcare field, and the importance of addressing it. It makes the following suggestions:

1. Provide ongoing awareness training
Increase knowledge of HIV and its transmission.

2. Provide training in universal precautions and post-exposure prophylaxis
Teach medical staff how to protect themselves.

3. Increase communication between medical staff and PLHA
Communication helps to normalize HIV & AIDS.

4. Learn from more experienced medical experts
Seeing the way that foreign medical professionals interacted with PLHA helped change the attitudes of staff at Pingxiang.

Definition: Universal Precautions

Graphic

Definition: Post-exposure Management

Graphic

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Self-assessment checklist for hospitals

Selected points from "The PLHA-Friendly Achievement Checklist" (Population Council, 2003), arranged into three categories: access to care, confidentiality, and infection control.

Graphic

Project at a glance: Addressing discrimination within the home

Summary of a project implemented by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance and Ruili "Home of Red Ribbon". Lists location, implementing agencies, funding agency, project objectives and project activities.

Addressing self-stigma

Meng Lin (Ark of Love)

Graphic

What is self-stigma, and why does it exist?

Suggestions:

1. Continue and expand anti-stigma programmes in the broader community.

2. Providing information immediately following diagnosis is crucial.

3. Safeguard privacy.

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Readers are encouraged to write to us; interesting letters will be published in a "Reader Letters" section. In anticipation of Issue 3's topic, "High-risk behaviour intervention", we pose the following question: Which organization(s) should be responsible for carrying out high-risk behaviour intervention?

Call for submissions on future topics.

Issue 2 "High-risk behaviour intervention". Submission deadline: May 20.

Issue 3 "AIDS and TB". Submission deadline: June 20.

Notices

Hand in Hand
Introduction and subscription information for this PLHA magazine.

CHAIN Change of Address
New address and contact details.

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Funding opportunities

Oxfam Hong Kong HIV/AIDS Project

Oxfam Hong Kong welcomes applications all year round for projects addressing poverty alleviation for PLHA, sex work, and access to treatment.

Resources

Photo exhibition: *Fighting AIDS, We Are Together*

Described on page 4. ActionAid can also provide the exhibition materials to interested groups, as well as relevant training and guidebooks.

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Image: Yao Ming and Pu Cunxin poster

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Poster: Yao Ming and Magic Johnson
See page 5 for usage guidelines.

Poster: Yao Ming and Pu Cunxin

Audio-visual material: *Our Lives*
See page 6 for usage guidelines.

Book: *Our Stories*
Published by Mangrove Support Group, this book describes the lives of 20 different PLHA.

Handbook: *HIV/AIDS Occupational Exposure*

Book: *Face and Let Face*
Published by the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, this book describes six anti-discrimination projects in China, and lessons learnt.

Books: *Quiet Storm, Xinling de Huhuan*
Positive stories of people living with HIV & AIDS.

Box: CHAIN contact details..

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AIDS Action - China Edition is a joint project of:

Healthlink Worldwide

www.healthlink.org.uk

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www.chain.net.cn

For subscription details, or to download the full Chinese version or English synopsis of past issues, please visit the CHAIN website.

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