



Health Promotion among youth (Technical Cooperation)

Background

In Central Asia, HIV transmission is still largely limited to high risk groups, especially injecting drug users. As the HIV epidemic spreads from people who inject drugs (predominantly male) to their sexual partners, the proportion of women living with HIV in the region is increasing. There is a consequential high risk that the epidemic expands to the entire population, especially among young people. In Central Asia approximately half the population is under age 30. At the same time due to the difficult economic situation, the countries lack from any real social and economic prospects for youth. The dissatisfaction and marginalisation may cause the increase of drug use and has a negative impact on the health status of the young population.

Injected drug use by young people and the associated risk of HIV infection represent a particular challenge for the health systems. The prevention of addiction and of HIV has so far not been adequately integrated into the services offered under national health, education and youth policies. Channels for reaching young people within and outside the school system are not optimised. Measures to promote health among young people are usually carried out sporadically and within specific contexts. They frequently rely on donor financing and are not mainstreamed in a functional referral system in which services offered by state and private-sector organisations are interlinked. Marginalised and higher-risk groups among the youth are frequently excluded from services.



Regional Programme Health in Central Asia

The Regional Programme Health in Central Asia (TC) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and is contributing to improvements in the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV prevention and drug demand reduction and basic social protection in the three partner countries, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Programme partners are ministries of health, youth, social affairs and education. National strategies play an integral role in implementing the programmes. The different socio-political conditions in each country are taken into account. At the same time, regional cooperation strengthens the regional exchange between the countries.

Founded by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Implemented by:

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Furthermore, the Regional Programme is cooperating with a number of local and national governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as with other civil society institutions and the private sector. The programme also cooperates closely with other German and international partners, e.g. KfW, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, USAID.

Overall term (Planned): 2009-2018 (10 years)

Expected total funding: EUR 28 million

Phase 1: 2009-2011

Phase 2: 2012-2014

Priorities: SRHR including maternal health

Basic social protection

HIV prevention and drug demand reduction,

health promotion among youth

Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Health promotion among youth,

GIZ programme advises ministries of health, education and youth on health promotion in the areas of sexual, reproductive health and rights (including gender equality) and HIV and drug abuse prevention among youth. It supports governmental and nongovernmental partners in developing youth-oriented, interactive and participatory methods that can be used to appeal to young people to avoid high-risk behaviour mobile information tours, mobile youth theatre, football competitions and Dance 4 Life. An integral component of the work is the development of educational material, teaching modules and teacher trainings. In this context, monitoring learning progress is particularly important. The integration of the developed tools into curricula at general education and vocational schools assure sustainable implementation on a national level. In addition, non-governmental organisations are strengthened, specifically those that work

with young people and that include HIV and drug abuse prevention in their range of services. The programme provides youth leaders with training, helps to conduct media campaigns and supports the establishment of resource centres for governmental and non-governmental service providers in the youth sector. Preventive programmes for young people who are particularly at risk, drug users, street children and labour migrants, are jointly developed and implemented with partners. Non-governmental organisations in particular receive support with implementing special programmes for drug users. Other important activities include advanced training for health care personnel and strengthening the coordinating function of the ministries of health.

Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation extends to all programme areas. Some of the measures include organising regional conferences or regional forums for exchanging experiences and mutual learning. In order to strengthen regional cooperation, the programme is also arranging joint study trips with representatives from all three countries, runs training courses for participants from across the region and supports joint supraregional initiatives.

Material:

1. Join In Circuit Guidelines Tajikistan
2. Teacher Training Manual Tajikistan
3. Billboard Example Safer Sex; Informational Campaign, Kyrgyzstan
4. Peer Driven Intervention - Factsheet
5. Factsheet on the joint Study Trip to Ukraine

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