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A volunteer in the street

## Chapter 1 : OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIC

An estimated 38.6 million [33.4 million ; <sup>a</sup>46.0 million] people worldwide were living with HIV in 2005. An estimated 4.1 million [3.4 million-6.2 million] became newly infected with HIV and an estimated 2.8 million [2.4 million ; <sup>a</sup>3.3 million] lost their lives to AIDS.

Overall globally, the HIV incidence rate (the annual number of new HIV infections as a proportion of previously uninfected persons) is believed to have peaked in the late 1990s and to have stabilized subsequently, notwithstanding increasing incidence in a number of countries. In several countries, favorable trends in incidence are related to changes in behavior and preven-

tion programmes. Changes in incidence along with rising AIDS mortality have caused global HIV prevalence (the proportion of people living with HIV) to level off. However, the number of people living with HIV have continued to rise, due to population growth and, more recently, the life prolonging effects of antiretroviral therapy. In sub-Saharan Africa, the region with the largest





A Red Ribbon composed of candles in front of a church in Helsinki

burden of the AIDS epidemic, data also indicate that the HIV incidence rate has peaked in most countries. However, the epidemics in this region are highly diverse and especially severe in southern Africa, where some of the epidemics are still expanding.

New survey data underscore the disproportionate impact of the AIDS epidemic on women, especially in sub-Saharan Africa where, on average, three women are HIV-infected for every two men. Among young people (15-24 years), that ratio widens considerably, to three young women for every young man.

Among the notable new trends are the recent declines in national HIV prevalence in two sub-Saharan African countries (Kenya and Zimbabwe), urban areas of Burkina Faso and similarly in Haiti, alongside indications of significant behavioural change including increased condom use, fewer partners and delayed sexual debut. In the rest of sub-Saharan Africa, the

majority of epidemics appear to be levelling off, but at exceptionally high levels in most of southern Africa.

HIV prevalence has also been declining in four states in India, including Tamil Nadu, where prevention efforts were scaled up in the late 1990s. In Cambodia and Thailand, steady ongoing declines in HIV prevalence are continuing. However, HIV prevalence is increasing in some countries, notably China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam, and there are signs of HIV outbreaks in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The majority of people living with HIV in eastern and central Asia are in two countries: Ukraine, where the annual number of new HIV diagnoses keeps rising, and the Russian Federation, which has the biggest AIDS epidemic in all of Europe.

Meanwhile, evidence of resurgent epidemics continues to emerge in the United States of America and in some countries in Europe among men who have sex with men, and there exist largely hidden epidemics among their counterparts in Latin America and Asia.

More than 1.3 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries by December 2005, up from approximately 400 000 people two years earlier. In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people receiving treatment increased more than eight-fold (from 100 000 to 810 000) between 2003 and 2005, and more than doubled in 2005 alone. Most of that trend is due to increased treatment access in a few countries (notably Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia). The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy in Asia increased almost threefold, to 180 000 in 2005. ■



Chinese peasants read handbooks on HIV/AIDS prevention

## Chapter 2: China's HIV/AIDS Epidemic

### 1. National HIV/AIDS Estimates

In 2003, the Chinese Ministry of Health, with support from UNAIDS and WHO, assessed the extent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in China. Since then, the Chinese government has made significant effort into strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, including efforts such as scaling up HIV testing to identify people living with HIV, and actively providing clinical treatment and care to AIDS patients. Nationwide screening of former commercial blood and plasma donors and certain key populations, such as IDUs, has been done, and the number of HIV sentinel surveillance sites has been expanded along with voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services. Through

these efforts, an improved understanding of China's HIV/AIDS epidemic has emerged.

#### Key findings

The latest estimation results indicate that as of late 2005, people currently living with HIV/AIDS in China are 650,000 (range: 540,000 to 760,000), of which 75,000 have developed AIDS (range: 65,000 to 85,000). Nationally, HIV prevalence averages 0.05% (range: 0.04 to 0.06%). In 2005, there were an estimated 70,000 new HIV infections (range: 60,000 to 80,000), and 25,000 AIDS deaths (range: 20,000 to 30,000).

#### 1.1 Distribution of people living with HIV and AIDS

There are approximately 288,000 drug users living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 44.3% of the



total number of estimated HIV cases. Seven provinces – Yunnan, Xinjiang, Guangxi, Guangdong, Guizhou, Sichuan, and Hunan – each have more than 10,000 drug users infected with HIV, and these 7 provinces account for 89.5% of the HIV/AIDS cases among drug users.

Approximately 69,000 former commercial blood and plasma donors and recipients of blood or blood products through transfusions, are living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 10.7% of the total number of estimated HIV cases. Five provinces – Henan, Hubei, Anhui, Hebei, and Shanxi – account for 80.4% of infections in this population.

Approximately 127,000 sex workers and their clients are living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 19.6% of the total number of estimated HIV cases.

There are approximately 109,000 partners of HIV-positive individuals and members of the general population who are living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 16.7% of the total number of estimated HIV cases.

An estimated 47,000 men who have sex with men (MSM) are living with HIV/AIDS, accounting for 7.3% of the total number of estimated HIV cases.

Approximately 9,000 cases of mother-to-child transmission have occurred over the past year, accounting for 1.4% of the total number of estimated HIV cases.

## 1.2 Number of people living with AIDS

Among the estimated 75,000 people living with AIDS, approximately 22,000 were infected through commercial blood and plasma donation and blood transfusion, and approximately 53,000 were infected through injection drug use, sex, and

mother-to-child transmission.

## 1.3 AIDS deaths in 2005

Among the estimated 25,000 AIDS deaths in 2005, approximately 10,000 have occurred among former commercial blood and plasma donors.

## 1.4 New HIV infections in 2005

The estimated 70,000 new HIV infections have primarily occurred among high-risk groups, including drug users, sex workers, clients of sex workers, MSM, and partners of people living with HIV/AIDS. A relatively small proportion of new cases are associated with mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

# 2. Characteristics of China's HIV/AIDS Epidemic

## 2.1 HIV/AIDS is still on the rise

Sentinel surveillance data indicate that HIV prevalence among drug users has risen from 1.95% in 1996 to 6.48% in 2004. HIV prevalence among sex workers has risen from 0.02% in 1996 to 0.93% in 2004. In areas of high transmission, HIV prevalence among pregnant women has risen from 0 in 1997 to 0.26% in 2004. These data indicate that HIV infections continue to increase.

## 2.2 HIV has spread widely, but there is significant geographic variation in the epidemic

By the end of November 2005, Henan and Yunnan have each reported over 30,000 cumulative HIV cases. Guangxi, Xinjiang and Guangdong have each reported over 10,000 cumulative HIV cases. Ningxia, Qinghai, and Tibet have each reported fewer than 100 cases.

There are significant geographic variations in

# Time to deliver in China



A Zimbabwean nurse takes care of a person living with HIV/AIDS



Mr Pu Cunxin, HIV/AIDS live ambassador talks with Mr. Zhang, a young man living with AIDS



Indian Volunteers promise to stop HIV/AIDS





Figure 2-1 A class on HIV/AIDS prevention in a middle school

HIV prevalence among drug users and sex workers. In some areas of Xinjiang, Yunnan and Sichuan, HIV prevalence among injection drug users exceeds 50%, while in Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Inner Mongolia, Liaoning, HIV prevalence among injection drug users remains under 5%. In some parts of Yunnan, Chongqing, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Sichuan, HIV prevalence among sex workers is over 1%.

### 2.3 New cases are primarily being transmitted through injection drug use and sex, but other modes of transmission are also found

Currently, injection drug use and sexual contact are the dominant modes of HIV transmission.

Although former commercial blood and plasma donors account for a significant proportion of people living with HIV and AIDS, transmission in this group occurred primarily before 1996.

Estimation results indicate that among people currently living with HIV/AIDS, 44.3% were infected through injection drug use, 43.6% were infected through sexual transmission, 10.7% were infected through blood/blood products, and 1.4% were infected through mother-to-child transmission.

Among the estimated new HIV cases in 2005, 49.8% were associated with sexual transmission,



Figure 2.4 Youth Red Ribbon Campaigns in China

48.6% were associated with injection drug use, and 1.6% were associated with mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

#### 2.4 More people are progressing to clinical AIDS, and AIDS-related deaths are on the rise

The main clinical manifestations of AIDS among AIDS patients include pulmonary infections, infectious diarrhea, shingles (herpes zoster), and oral fungal infections. Approximately one-third of AIDS patients have late-stage illness, and most seek treatment only when opportunistic infections become serious. These factors influence treatment effectiveness.

During the last 2 years, the number of reported AIDS cases and deaths have risen dramatically, indicating that many people living with HIV are developing AIDS. The number of AIDS cases reported in 2004–2005 accounted for 60.7% of the cumulative number of reported AIDS cases, and the number of AIDS deaths reported in 2004–2005 accounted for 63.4% of the cumulative number

of reported AIDS deaths.

#### 2.5 The epidemic is spreading from high-risk groups to the general population

Surveillance data indicate that HIV is spreading from drug users, sex workers and their clients and other high-risk populations to the general population. In some areas of Yunnan, Henan, Xinjiang and other provinces, HIV prevalence already exceeds 1% among pregnant women and those receiving premarital and clinical HIV testing, meeting UNAIDS criteria for generalized epidemic.

#### 2.6 There is a potential risk that the epidemic will spread further

HIV/AIDS awareness remains unacceptably low, and many people still do not know enough about how to protect themselves against HIV. National surveillance data indicate that 45.5% of injection drug users are sharing needles and syringes, and 11% of drug users are engaging in high risk sexual activities, thereby increasing their risk of becoming infected with HIV and accelerating the spread of HIV among drug users, sex workers and their clients. Mobility of people living with HIV is another factor affecting the spread of HIV around China. Other important factors fueling the spread of HIV include increases in risky sexual behavior, and rising sexually transmitted infection rates in many cities.







They suffer  
from HIV / AIDS





Chinese President Hu Jintao and Vice Premier Wu Yi, visit AIDS patients in hospital

## Chapter 3 : Progress in HIV/AIDS

# Prevention, Treatment and Care in China

In 2005, the Chinese government has taken steps to further strengthen its leadership in the response to HIV/AIDS. The State Council convened an executive meeting and a national videoconference was held on multisectoral work in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care to clarify roles and responsibilities, to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care legislation, and to include HIV/AIDS in the 11th National Five-Year Plan. In addition, comprehensive

prevention, control, treatment, care and support measures have been implemented. Overall, significant progress has been made in the following areas:

1. Advancing a government-led prevention, treatment and care response with multisectoral cooperation and strong societal participation

To ensure an effective HIV/AIDS response,



Leadership and coordination have been strengthened by increasing representation on the State Council HIV/AIDS Working Committee Office (SCAWCO), and by further clarifying the roles of each government agency and by setting up 5-year HIV/AIDS prevention goals and strategies. President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, Vice Premier Wu Yi and other national leaders have visited people living with HIV/AIDS in hospitals and in their homes, and expressed sympathy for them and for healthcare and volunteer workers. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Railways, All China Women's Federation, All China Youth Federation and other Ministries and NGOs have established HIV/AIDS coordination mechanisms, with each agency formulating strategic plans for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care. Around the country, governments of all 31 provinces and autonomous regions, and 88% of prefecture governments have established prevention, treatment and care leadership coordination mechanisms. Leaders at each level of government have also paid visits to and expressed sympathy for AIDS patients and healthcare and volunteer workers, participated in HIV/AIDS education activities, and assessed local HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care responses. The foundation has been laid for a government-led prevention and care response with multisectoral cooperation and strong societal participation.

## 2. Strengthening policy measures to standardize HIV/AIDS prevention and care work in accordance with the law

In June 2005, Premier Wen Jiabao chaired an executive meeting of the State Council that outlined 9 key areas for China's HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care response. Each level of government was requested to prepare action plans, placing HIV/AIDS prevention, treat-

HIV/AIDS prevention exhibitions in rural areas





Premier Wen Jiabao visits people living with AIDS

ment and care among the key public health areas of the 11th National Five-Year Plan, and to formulate and implement these action plans, including providing funding for prevention, treatment and care work in the public budgets of financial administration at all levels. Health education has been strengthened, and information about HIV/AIDS prevention and care has been disseminated. Surveillance has been strengthened, and a more complete HIV/AIDS surveillance network has been established. Strong, targeted intervention measures for key populations have been implemented. Management of blood donation and collection has been further consolidated in order to eradicate illegal

blood collection activities. Significant work has been done to provide treatment and prevention, care and support measures for people living with HIV/AIDS. Prevention, treatment and care work in rural areas and among migrant populations has been strengthened. Key scientific research in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care are being taken up. HIV/AIDS prevention and care laws have been drafted, including the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Regulations, which has been issued early in 2006. These regulations detail the responsibilities of each level of government as well as the rights and responsibilities of people living with HIV/AIDS. Henan, Zhejiang and other provinces have also formulated local HIV/AIDS



prevention and care regulations.

### 3. Targeting key areas and implementing prevention, treatment and care measures

#### 3.1 Strengthening of HIV surveillance and testing and ensuring timely detection of HIV and AIDS cases

Surveillance has been strengthened, and a web-based disease reporting system has been established. Additional national and provincial sentinel surveillance sites have been established. By the end of 2005, there were 329 national HIV sentinel surveillance sites and 400 provincial sentinel surveillance sites, covering the majority of prefectures and key populations. In addition, there are now 57 confirmatory laboratories and 3,756 screening laboratories, and screening has been conducted among key populations. There are now 2,850 free VCT clinics providing free counseling and testing services. By the end of November 2005, a total of 141,241 cumulative confirmed HIV cases have been reported, among which 32,263 were AIDS cases in the 31 prov-

inces and autonomous regions.

#### 3.2 Initiation of mass media education to fight social stigma

The Ministry of Health, the Publicity Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Education, All China Federation of Trade Unions, All China Youth Federation, All China Women's Federation, and other ministries along with some NGOs have initiated mass media education activities, such as Workers' Red Ribbon Campaigns, Youth Red Ribbon Campaigns. HIV/AIDS prevention publicity posters have been distributed to 740,000 villages across China, 50,000 neighborhood communities, 2,100 universities and 90,000 middle schools. The Central Communist Party School has already begun to include HIV/AIDS prevention and care material into its curriculum. The Ministry of Justice has organized HIV/AIDS awareness competitions in Reeducation through Labor Centers among 50,000 police and 240,000 Reeducation through Labor Center residents. SCAWCO, the Publicity Department of the Cen-

tral Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, and other ministries and commissions under the State Council have jointly launched national mass media education campaigns on HIV prevention for migrant workers. Each local area has organized mobile



10 Opening ceremony of the Exhibition on HIV/AIDS prevention and control held in 1998



Program launched by China Family Planning Association

can performances to disseminate prevention and care information using diverse styles of educational activities rich in content. According to incomplete statistics, over 120 million IEC materials have been distributed, and 34.9 million people have received HIV/AIDS information and face-to-face education.

### *3.3 Scaling up of behavioral interventions and comprehensive prevention measures*

Six ministries, including the Ministry of Health and the National Population and Family Planning Commission, have formulated methods for implementing condom promotion for HIV prevention. Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Yunnan, Hainan and other provinces have already begun to implement 100% condom use programs on a large scale. Nationally, 2,686 Targeted Prevention Teams have been formed to initiate targeted interventions among high-risk groups, focusing particularly on prevention of sexual transmission of HIV. The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Public Security, the State Food and Drug Administration and other agencies have established 128 methadone clinics and 91 needle and syringe exchange pilot sites. The management of blood collection has been strengthened, effectively

containing the transmission of HIV through blood collection/donation. In clinical settings, the proportion of blood coming from voluntary blood donors has risen from 22% in 1998 to 94.5% in 2005. Pilot programs for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission are now underway in 271 counties within 28 provinces and autonomous regions.

### *3.4 Actively treating AIDS patients and providing care and support services*

The domestic production of antiretroviral drugs has been expanded, and a reliable supply system has been established. Capacity building and training for care and treatment have been strengthened, and 9 clinical care training centers have been established. Currently, 20,453 AIDS patients are receiving antiretroviral therapy in 605 counties within 28 provinces and autonomous regions. According to Henan statistics, where treatment is available, AIDS mortality has fallen from 15.4% in 2001 to 7.7% in 2005. In Henan and Hubei and other provinces, a pilot pediatric care project was launched that has provided antiretroviral therapy to 104 children. Free schooling and a living allowance are being provided to children made orphans by AIDS in accordance with national policy. To date, 4,385 children of schoolage (or 92.71% of all eligible children) are receiving free education. Self-support groups have been established for people living with HIV/AIDS in Henan, Xinjiang, Shaanxi, Shanxi, and other places.

## *4. Strengthening supervision, increasing investment, deepening scientific research, expanding international cooperation*

China National People's Congress, China Na-



tional Political Consultative Committee, and the State Council HIV/AIDS Working Committee Office member organizations completed a joint supervision mission to assess HIV/AIDS prevention and care policy measures implemented by each provincial government. The Ministry of Health brought together different sectors, international organizations, and NGOs to begin monitoring and evaluation of China CARES project and international cooperation projects. A national experience-sharing meeting was convened on comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care through the China CARES project to share and promote effective prevention and care work experiences and methods.

The central government has continued to increase its investment in HIV/AIDS prevention and care. The national budget for HIV/AIDS prevention and care has risen from 390 million RMB (US \$48.75 million) in 2003 to 800 million RMB (US \$100 million) in 2005. Local investment has risen from less than 100 million RMB (US \$12.5 million) in 2003 to 280 million RMB (US \$34.7 million) in 2005.



Books issued by Chinese government on HIV/AIDS prevention

China has setup a large HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care scientific research project, establishing a platform for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care research in Henan and Yunnan provinces. Protocols have been launched in the areas of clinical care, treatment drugs, vaccines, diagnostic testing, and epidemiology. Significant progress has been made in strengthening clinical research into traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) for AIDS treatment. The Chinese government has strengthened cooperation and exchange with UNAIDS, WHO and other UN agencies as well as with the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and other countries. Currently, international cooperation projects are underway in all 31 provinces and autonomous regions. The international community has already committed approximately 2.2 billion RMB (US \$275 million) in donations to support China's response to AIDS. In 2003 and 2004, approximately 700 million RMB (US \$87.5 million) was allocated.

1000,000 people take part in the Exhibition on HIV/AIDS prevention and control held in Beijing in 1998



Chinese NGO Volunteers

## Chapter 4 :

# Chinese NGOs

## in action against

# HIV/AIDS

It is now very clear that the virus poses not only a medical problem, but also a challenging and multifaceted social problem. Because of this fact, it is imperative that NGOs not related to the medical arena become involved in prevention and control efforts. The Chinese government is supportive of the development of such organizations on the mainland, and has recognized the key role that they can play against the deadly virus.

Vice Premier Wu Yi stated that "we should mobilize all the partners in society to participate in the fight against HIV/AIDS. We need to improve our policies and strategies to build a better environment for all forces in society to participate in the response, and to try our best to facilitate the involvement of all sectors." It was found early on in the epidemic in China that NGOs could deal with many sensitive health education interventions that the gov-



government felt reluctant to handle directly. As a result, NGOs on the mainland that are focused on HIV issues are growing in both number and impact.

There are currently over fifty large NGOs involved in AIDS control. These large organizations can be divided into two groups. The first group is composed of mass organizations such as All China Women's Federation, All China Youth Federation, the Red Cross, All China Federation of Trade Unions, and the Chinese Working Committee of Caring for the Younger Generation. Each of these organizations has branches at different levels throughout China, and most of their work is done by dedicated social workers. The second group is composed of professional civil groups such as the Chinese Association of Medicine, the Chinese Association of Preventive Medicine, China Family Planning Association, the Chinese Foundation for the Prevention of STD & AIDS (CFPSA), and the Chinese Association of STD/AIDS Prevention and Control (CASAPC), among others. The organizations in this group typically have branches at the provincial level, and most of their work is conducted by medical and public health personnel.

The number of small NGOs is even greater, and includes such organizations as the "Home for Loving Care" in Beijing, the "Mangrove Support Group", the "Love Care Family" in Wenxi county of

Shanxi Province, the "Health Club" in Jilin City of Jilin Province, and the "Chengdu Gay Community Care Organization" in Sichuan Province. Most of their work is conducted by volunteers and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Whatever their levels, most Chinese AIDS NGOs get their financial support from the government and international organizations; however, many also get support from social donations.

## 1. SPECIFIC AREAS OF ACTIVITY AND IMPACT

Since the first case of AIDS was discovered on the mainland in 1985, Chinese NGOs have played a key role in prevention and control efforts. Associated activities fall into the following categories.

### 1.1 Health education

Without a vaccine or cure for HIV/AIDS, educational interventions are especially important in



Figure 1.1 Young Volunteers



12A program jointly launched by international NGOs

the prevention and control of the disease. Chinese NGOs have assisted government at various levels to develop policy and material for health education. Successes have been achieved in the broad dissemination of AIDS prevention knowledge, as well as anti-discrimination education. Specific activities include:

1) Various AIDS education booklets, pamphlets, and videos have been produced. For example, the educational video "AIDS Track" was disseminated nationwide. This video was awarded a Special Prize by the Chinese Ministry of Public Health. The video "Warning of the Century" was aired on CCTV in 1999. During 2001, the CFPSCA cooperated with the Beijing Television Station in airing a quiz show in which high school students competed in answering questions about HIV/AIDS.

2) During 1994, five national newspapers ran

an STD/AIDS knowledge competition in which more than one million people participated.

3) In cooperation with local governments, the NGOs held large-scale AIDS exhibitions in Guangzhou and Nanning during December, 1997, and May, 1998. With the support of the Ministry of Health, the CFPSCA and the CASAPC collaborated in holding a large AIDS exhibition in Beijing during December, 1998. More than 200,000 people attended these exhibitions. Thereafter, this exhibition format was expanded to many other provinces and cities. More than 500,000 people were exposed to prevention and control knowledge.

4) AIDS information campaigns for railway workers was developed by the CASAPC and implemented along the Beijing-Hong Kong, Beijing-Ulaanbaatar, and Kunming-Pingxiang railway lines.

5) Peer education for young people was de-





Love and care to the people living with HIV/AIDS

veloped in Yunnan Province and expanded to other provinces.

6) The NGOs cooperated with the governments and health departments in the Weifang region of Shandong Province, especially the cities of Shouguang and Zhucheng, to develop a large-scale and multifaceted HIV/AIDS campaign formal areas. This was accomplished using the following approach:

a. A leadership group that included the governmental head of the county and heads of departments concerned with STD/HIV/AIDS prevention and control was established in every county in the region;

b. Health professionals and social workers who were to be involved in survey and education efforts were trained;

c. Knowledge, attitude, and practice surveys were conducted prior to the design of the educational interventions;

d. In light of survey findings, multifaceted educational interventions were developed and implemented at the county and township levels;

e. Thereafter, intervention assessments were conducted. Preliminary results showed a coverage rate of the target population of 90 percent (about 100,000 persons), and the HIV/AIDS awareness rate rose from 35 percent to 60



Volunteers on the train

percent. This inspired the Weifang regional government leadership to continue to build the region into a model area for HIV/AIDS prevention and control.

7) China's NGOs along with members of the State Council AIDS Working Committee, have actively joined in the response against HIV/AIDS. All China Women's Federation and All China Youth Federation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, conducted a "Face to Face" publicity campaign that targeted women and young people in China Cares program sites. In 2003, the "Youth Red Ribbon" program supported 250 training workshops, knowledge contests, and plays. It also printed and distributed 1,100,000 copies of twenty-six different types of educational materials. All China Federation of Trade Unions added AIDS education into the training of its members. For example, education on general sanitation and health care were supplemented with AIDS Education. By the end of 2003, more than 8,000 lecture courses had been conducted for over one million participants.

8) Since the early 1990s, the Chinese Family Planning Association (CFPA) has paid special attention to AIDS prevention, and has taken an active part in the work of prevention and control. The CFPA has made great strides in IEC work,



Cards with knowledge on AIDS prevention





Red Cross in Action

and has conducted a series of educational activities in diverse groups, ranging from the Family Planning Association members, young people, and farmers to those in the migrant population, active military personnel, and service providers in entertainment establishments. Through these interventions, the CFPFA has gained great experience in disseminating HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge.

## 1.2 Professional training and communication

Chinese NGOs organized various training courses and symposia on both sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, and published journals to increase the professional knowledge of health system personnel. These activities include:

1) China International Symposium on AIDS in Beijing was hosted by China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the CFPFA during December 1995;

2) The CASAPC produced educational materials for a ten-province-campaign, developed a training course on AIDS prevention and control for counselors on the mainland, and developed a training course on AIDS program management for Hong Kong;

3) During 1996, a television film entitled "The Same World, the Same Hope" was produced to educate the public about HIV/AIDS, and organized a national level workshop on AIDS diagnosis and treatment;

4) In 1997, the CASAPC joined Hong Kong-mainland seminar on AIDS, and created an anti-AIDS campaign along the Beijing-Hong Kong railway line;

5) In 2001, the CASAPC assisted the Ministry of Health in organizing China's first large-scale AIDS conference, which attracted more than 1000 participants.



Training activities

6) From 2003 to 2005, four workshops on HIV/AIDS surveillance and diagnosis were organized for health professionals and workers in the systems of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Public Security in Jilin City, Baoding, Dalian, and Chengdu by the CFPSA and local Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These workshops were supported by the University of Illinois at Chicago, Fogarty AIDP, the University of Nebraska, and the US-China AIDS Alliance Foundation;

7) An International Medical Forum on Infectious Disease was held in Beijing;

8) The Working Committee of the Caring for the Younger Generation organization held several seminars and training classes at various governmental levels that included HIV/AIDS prevention and control knowledge. The trainees included public servants and local leaders from various governmental units at the county, town, and village levels.

9) The CASAPC held a national symposium during 2004 on the China-UNICEF Cooperation Project on AIDS Prevention and Control;

10) The Chinese Journal for STD and AIDS Prevention and Control was started in 1995. The

Journal on International Information on STD and AIDS went into publication in 1996. AIDS prevention and treatment information and advice on STDs and AIDS was posted on the Internet, and the website "AIDS On Line" was established in November, 2001.

### 1.3 Social mobilization

Chinese NGOs have worked actively to involve all sectors of society in prevention and control efforts. These activities include:

1) With the support of over thirty Chinese ministries and national departments, forty-seven national civil associations, forty-one media organizations, and representatives from international organizations such as UNAIDS and the World Health Organization, the Chinese NGOs launched the "121 Joint Action Plan" on March 28, 2003. The goal of the plan is to foster governmental and nongovernmental cooperation so that social resources can be utilized in an efficient and effective manner in fighting HIV/AIDS. The Joint Action Plan received broad social acceptance and media acclaim. National level scientists and academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and leaders from industry and business sectors participated in activities that raised public awareness of both AIDS and the need for broad social involvement in battling the epidemic. On December 1, 2003, a celebration was held in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing that recognized the achievements of the Joint Action Plan. Both Zhou Tienong, the Vice Chairman of the CCPC, and Wu Jieping, the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the 9th NPC were in attendance. Individuals and organizations that had made donations to the plan were awarded certificates of merit. In January, 2004, the plan was recognized



Yao Ming, basketball star and Love Ambassador for people living with HIV/AIDS in China



as being among the "Top 10 Public Relations Events in China During 2003."

2) From 2000 to 2005, the CFPISA engaged celebrities in literature and art as goodwill ambassadors. Among these individuals were basketball star Yao Ming, film stars Jiang Wenli and Liu Xun, and singers Kris Phillips, Zheng Xuan, Zhang Huamin, and Cai Guoqing. These celebrities played a major role in publicizing AIDS knowledge, offering care and solace to orphans and persons living with HIV/AIDS, sending a message of nondiscrimination to the broader public, and conducting other AIDS-related activities.

#### *1.4 Behavioral interventions and research targeting high risk populations*

Over the years, Chinese NGOs have employed various mechanisms to carry out interventions among high risk populations; indeed, most needle exchange programs, interventions targeting drug users and men who have sex with men (MSM), and the promotion and distribution of condoms have been conducted by, or involved, Chinese NGOs.



① Lecturing sex workers

1) The Chinese Preventive Medicine Association (CPMA) has been involved in HIV/AIDS prevention and control since 1995. The CPMA implemented a condom promotion project, sponsored by the World Health Organization, among high risk populations. This was the first condom distribution project in China.

2) The promotion and distribution of condoms at STD clinics in Shanghai and Henan Province was started in 1996.

3) Behavioral investigations of commercial sex workers and long-distance truck drivers in



① Lecturing drug users



② Organizing people living with HIV/AIDS to plant trees in Beijing

Yunnan Province and Inner Mongolia were conducted in 1995 and 1997.

4) An intervention targeting the drug user population in Liangshan Prefecture in Sichuan Province was conducted in 1998.

5) The CASAPC conducted interventions among intravenous injection drug users, commercial sex workers, MSM, and migrants.

### *1.5 The AIDS network*

Four joint meetings for NGOs on HIV/AIDS prevention and control were held in Beijing (1995), Zhuhai (2000), Harbin (2003), and Congqing (2005). At these meetings, NGO representatives from across China shared prevention and treatment information. At the first meeting, a Code of Action was passed by thirty-six organizations, including the CASAPC, the CFPSA, the Chinese Association of Medicine, the Chinese Association of

Preventative Medicine, China Family Planning Association, and All China Women's Federation. The code was reviewed and revised at subsequent meetings.

### *1.6 Care for people living with AIDS and AIDS orphans*

Chinese NGOs have given great attention to the problems of social discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and AIDS orphans.

1) The CFPSA and the Shanxi Provincial Health Department developed an educational intervention in Xia County during August-December, 2001. A preliminary assessment indicated a target population coverage rate of 90 percent, and a rise in the HIV/AIDS awareness rate from 5.7% to 34.6%. The awareness rate on HIV/AIDS transmission modes was raised from 41.2% to 81.1%.



Ms. Jiang Weni, movie star and Love Ambassador on HIV/AIDS in China



# STOP AIDS

Madam Zhang Ying in Anhui province launched the first NGO in China to help the orphans caused by HIV/AIDS



# STOP AIDS



Mr. Kris Phillips, Singer and Love Ambassador for HIV/AIDS, visits AIDS patients

The awareness rate on HIV/AIDS non-transmission modes was raised from 12.32% to 45.07%. Thereafter, local NGOs in Xia County established a "Love Care Home" for people living with HIV/AIDS.

2) The Working Committee of the "Caring for the Younger Generation" organization investigated the mental health status, general quality of life, and educational status of AIDS orphans in Henan, Shanxi, and Yunnan provinces. On the 16th World AIDS Day, the Working Committee and UNICEF held a joint seminar on "Caring for Orphans Affected by HIV/AIDS." Chinese state leaders, officials from UNICEF, and principals from relevant Chinese ministries attended the seminar and appealed to the public to be attentive to the living conditions of affected orphans.

3) The CASAPC developed care and support programs for cities and counties in twelve provinces and the cities of Beijing and Shanghai.

4) The Home of Loving Care has long been

recognized for its care and treatment of people with HIV/AIDS, as well as its prevention and control efforts. Through the Home of Loving Care, those with AIDS have received medical care, disease consultation, guidance, and psychological support. It is a true bridge between people with HIV/AIDS and the broader society.

5) More and more people living with HIV/AIDS are willing to publicize their status and participate in prevention and control activities. These individuals develop self-help groups and assist in antiretroviral treatment education.

6) International NGOs also play an important role in antiretroviral and opportunistic infection treatment in China.

7) The Positive Art Workshop (PAW) was established by persons living with HIV/AIDS in December, 2002. PAW activities include art events, interactive exhibitions in China and abroad, charity fundraisers, and AIDS awareness events. Of particular importance is their ref-



fort to document on film and still photography in -  
ages that capture the hopes, fears, frustrations,  
and ideas for the future held by persons living  
with HIV/AIDS.

8) Xia Shuang, a woman from rural Jilin Province in northeast China, was infected with HIV in 2001. Initially despondent about her conditions, she received help from a local NGO. Thereafter, she actively participated in AIDS related activities, and organized a health club for others infected with HIV in her area. This club serves as a place for study, communication, mutual support, and self-help activities. In 2004, under the sponsorship of the CFPSA, Mrs. Xia attended the Chinese NGO satellite forum at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok and made a presentation to those in attendance. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan called her a hero in the fight against AIDS.

### 1.7 International exchange

Chinese NGOs have carried out many collaborative programs on AIDS prevention and control with their international counterparts.

1) Chinese NGOs actively participate in vari-



10 Mrs. Xia ties a red ribbon for Mr. Kofi Annan



10 U.S. ex-President Bill Clinton visits Chinese AIDS patient

ous international AIDS conferences.

2) Chinese NGOs participated in the AIDS meeting for Northeast Asian Countries in November, 2000. Those in attendance shared experiences in fighting the virus and strengthened their spirit of cooperation and common purpose.

3) During the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Chinese NGOs successfully organized various programs, including an NGO forum with the theme "Exchange, Cooperation, Friendship, and Facing the Challenge Together." More than 300 participants attended the forum, and heard key note speeches by Dr. Wang Longde, the Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Health of the PRC, and Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS. The press reported that this was the first time that Chinese NGOs had made such a strong statement about HIV/AIDS.

4) The 7th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific was held in Kobe, Japan, on 1-5 July, 2005. During the Congress, a Chinese NGO symposium on HIV/AIDS prevention and control was held in the International Conference Center on the evening of 2 July 2005. This symposium was organized by the CFPSA, the CASAPC, and the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation. Financial support was obtained from numerous



Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS visits China

Internal and external organizations and individual donors. Drs. Wang and Piot also attended this session and gave keynote addresses to more than 100 delegates from around the world. Members of vulnerable populations from the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan also made presentations. A Chinese NGO exhibition was also held in the NGO exhibition area of the Congress. The news media once again noted the active role that Chinese NGOs are taking in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

5) At the UN Special Assembly on AIDS on 2 June 2005, Vice-Minister Wang Longde praised the contributions made by Chinese NGOs and others who are working hard against AIDS on the mainland. He encouraged the all sectors to participate in the battle. He stated that China is at a critical juncture in the battle against AIDS, and Chinese NGOs are key players in the effort. Indeed, he concluded that Chinese NGOs are 'becoming an indispensable force in AIDS prevention and control.'

## 2. CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

In spite of the success of Chinese NGOs in prevention and control efforts, several changes in approach need to be addressed:



Chinese forum during the 15th International AIDS Conference

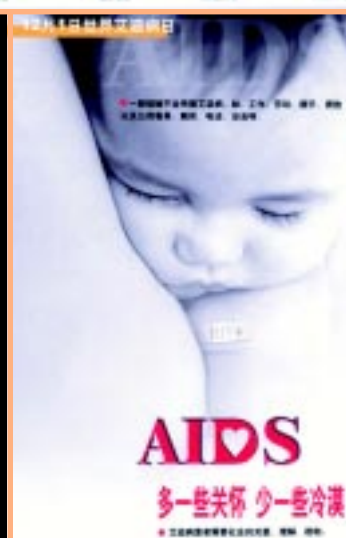
- 1) Chinese NGOs need a greater focus on capacity building.
- 2) Chinese NGOs need increased financial support.
- 3) There is a need for more NGOs to participate in AIDS programs.
- 4) There is a need for more cooperation among Chinese NGOs.
- 5) There is a need for greater cooperation between government sectors and Chinese NGOs to avoid duplication of effort or gaps in coverage.

These changes will help to insure that the invaluable role that Chinese NGOs have played in the battle against AIDS will not only be maintained, but will actually grow in importance and impact.





♂ 聖潔性愛



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洁身自爱 人人参与 预防艾滋病

毒品  
DRUGS  
與  
&  
AIDS  
愛滋  
ARE LINKED  
一針相連



Various posters on AIDS prevention at public locations in China

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- Chinese Population Communication Center
- Chinese Association of STD and AIDS Prevention and Control





for the future

*S T O P*  
*A I D S*



## Member Organizations of China NGO Network for International Exchanges

All China Environmental Federation

All China Women's Federation

All China Youth Federation

China Arms Control and Disarmament Association

China Association for NGO Cooperation

China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture

China Association for Science and Technology

China Association of Employers' Promotion

China Association of Women Entrepreneurs

China Care and Compassion Society

China Disabled Person's Federation

China Economic and Social Council

China Education Association for International Exchange

China Environmental Protection Foundation

China Family Planning Association

China Green Foundation

China Law Society

China Society for Human Rights Studies

China Society for Promotion of the Guangcai Program

China Wildlife Conservation Association

The Chinese Association for International Understanding

The Chinese Medical Association

The Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

The Chinese Society for Sustainable Development

The Red Cross Society of China

The National Association of Vocational Education of China

United Nations Association of China

