

Project reference

ONG-PVD/2003/062-759

EC Partner

Marie Stopes International

Facts and Figures

- Duration: **2005-2008**
- EC contribution: **€575 688**
- Beneficiaries: vulnerable mobile populations in **3 counties** of Guangxi Province
- **750 000 rural middle school students** received information
- **8 500 middle school teachers** were trained
- **27 000 migrant young people** were given behaviour change communication
- **18 000 students** at **5 universities** received SRH information



**EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**

Fight HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS support to mobile populations in Guangxi Province, China

"Our girls don't know anything about their bodies or sexual health until you give them the training. It helps so much."

Manager of Laoshi Entertainment Establishment

**Context**

China today has all the factors necessary for an escalating HIV/AIDS epidemic: low risk awareness, high sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates, low condom usage, and a large mobile population. Recent official figures estimate one million HIV/AIDS cases, with forecasts that this will increase to 10 million by 2010.

Objective

This project aims at improving the health and well-being of disadvantaged mobile populations by increasing their awareness of sexual health issues including STI/HIV/AIDS, increasing access to affordable and quality condoms and services and promoting behavioural change. The activities include:

- Advocacy, networking and building capacity on STI/HIV/AIDS among government and civil society actors and develop additional initiatives to improve health for mobile populations
- Increase STI/HIV/AIDS awareness and the adoption of safer sex practices among the mobile population through peer education and condom social marketing
- Increase access to affordable, high quality, client-centred Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services through an SRH centre

Impact: What has been achieved?

By 2007:

- 750 000 rural middle school students from 500 schools received information in school newspapers, supplemented by teacher-led discussions in class
- 8 500 middle school teachers trained to conduct reproductive health and sex education classes
- Information, education and behaviour change communication was provided to 27 000 migrant young people in high-risk professions or positions of responsibility
- 18 000 students at five universities received SRH information through workshops

Fight against HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS support to mobile populations in Guangxi Province, China

A peer educator's experience

"It was an impressive evening.

Our class was invited to attend a new activity - peer education. We went to the classroom, without knowing anything about it. I was shocked to hear the two facilitators talk about sex and reproductive health. It is still taboo to talk about sex even among university students in China. Even the word sex will embarrass most young people. However, the two facilitators presented this topic with a funny game. I suddenly felt relieved and most of my classmates felt the same. The "ice" of embarrassment was broken!

We started discussions and played games in an interactive and entertaining way. Through all these activities, the sensitive topics like sex, HIV and condoms became easy and natural, related to everyone.

I have learned fresh but very practical information through the lively and funny workshop. Meanwhile, I was attracted by the peer education itself, too. I felt it is part of my life and my responsibility to help my friends to know more about sex and adopt safer behaviour. It is an honour for me to participate in this effort!

With confidence and passion, I actively participated in the following trainings and workshops. From sharing, I became more responsible and capable. Now, I am qualified as a peer educator like those I admired so much. The ideas of respect, responsibility and rights have not only changed my sexual attitudes and behaviour, they have also become important topics for my friends and me. I believe I can fly higher through sharing, discussing and learning! "

Tianmin Huang,
peer educator from Guangxi Medical University



We are proud to be peer educators!