

EC Partner

Save the Children UK

Facts and Figures

- €725,000 (60% of total) granted in 2003-2008
- 1,000 trainers trained
- 90 Awareness Raising Campaigns will be organized
- 5million condom distributed
- 15 youth forums will be organized and at least 20 people will be trained on advocacy by the end of the project

Did you know?

Young people (15-24 years old) account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide*



Health

Youth and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Program in the Cross-border Areas of Burma/Myanmar

'My friends didn't use condoms. They believed that the girl's body must be very hot if she has the disease. If it's not, don't worry and go ahead. Now they know the only way to know who has HIV is blood testing.'

20 years-old male in Shan State



Display on how to use a condom

Context Young population at high risk

Burma/Myanmar has amongst the highest HIV prevalence in South East Asia. Adolescents and youth in cross-border areas are especially at risk because of high migration, and also because of a lack of access to basic rights, including rights to information, to adequate health care and education. Moreover, the discrimination suffered by those living with HIV and AIDS makes those at risk reluctant to be tested or to seek treatment.

Objective Working together to fulfil youth rights

Save the Children-UK with support from the European Commission is working in 11 townships bordering Thailand and China in order to reduce the risk of HIV infection amongst young people and to realise their rights. The project specifically aims:

- To increase knowledge of reproductive health, HIV and AIDS, life skills and protective behaviours
- To increase availability of condoms and reproductive health services
- To increase access to community home based care
- To improve practices of partners and attitudes of local communities to create a more positive environment for HIV-affected people

Impact What is expected by 2008?

- 150,000 youths will be given life skills training and HIV/AIDS education
- Increased availability of condoms for youth to prevent HIV transmission through sex
- Increased access to Counseling services and quality Home Based Care for 1,000 people living with HIV/AIDS
- Improved practices of partners and attitude of the community towards people living with HIV/AIDS

*UNAIDS 2006 Report on the Global Aids Epidemic

Health

Youth and HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Program in the Cross-border Areas of Burma/Myanmar

A mother's story

A 33 year old woman from Mon State (Burma/Myanmar) was left with three daughters after her husband died of AIDS a few years ago. To solve the family's economic problem, she went to Thailand to work as an illegal migrant worker. She worked as a prawn packer. At first she managed to save a small amount of money and send it back to support her daughters. Soon she got sick and was not able to send money anymore. Her father got angry when he heard that his daughter was sick in Thailand. He suspected it was AIDS. He told his daughter not to come back home and to die in Thailand, to save the face of the family. Nobody in the family dared ask the woman to come back.

The team led by the nurse coordinator visited the family in January 2004, because one of the girls was sick. They learnt that their mother was not at home but sick in Thailand. They approached the old man and persuaded him to let his daughter come back home to stay with her own daughters. They promised to take care of her and she would soon be well. Finally because of his three granddaughters the old man accepted.

Soon the sick woman arrived back in the village. The community home-based care group offered counselling and referred her for blood testing. Not surprisingly, she was found to be HIV positive. The home-based care group provided nursing care, psychological support and the best drugs they had. The patient improved rapidly. She is now living a normal life and taking care of her daughters. Last summer, she traded dried prawn and fish in the southern part of the country and earned a good amount of money.

Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in the village has been reduced because villagers have seen volunteers and nurses unafraid of people living with HIV/AIDS and taking care of them. They have also witnessed that people living with HIV can lead normal lives if they are well cared for.



Life skills workshop