

Guangxi Launch Report

Summary of USAID/China Program Launch

Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region

China

August 23 –25, 2004



1. Introduction

Guangxi and the HIV/AIDS Situation in the Province

The population of Guangxi is 46.8 million. Because of its geographic location on the border with Vietnam, Guangxi has historically been a hub for trade, commerce, transportation and travel in southwest China. Cross-border trade and travel between Vietnam and China have also been increasing in recent years, and the rapid growth and development have made Guangxi a major focus for the movement of mobile migrant peoples, traders, transportation workers and tourists.

In Guangxi, although prevalence rates are lower than in Yunnan, they are still substantial. In 1996, only 11 counties reported HIV infections, while by the end of 2002, 74 counties reported cases, representing 75% of all counties in Guangxi. In Ningming county, prevalence among IDUs in the Abt-NIDA supported cross-border project sites are 14%–23% while in neighboring Pingxiang, including Puzhai, about 20% of IDUs are thought to be HIV-infected. Surveys also show that at least half of Ningming IDUs are sexually active (Hammett et al., in review).

HIV prevalence among SWs in the proposed project sites is not known. However, a preliminary survey of SWs in Ningming indicates that few SWs use condoms consistently or are knowledgeable about proper condom use. In general, levels of HIV-related knowledge among Ningming SWs are low. (Ningming County Health Department, unpublished data, 2004).

As well as HIV transmission through IDUs and SWs, in Guangxi there is a serious issue of transmission of STIs and HIV among the migrant and mobile populations. Puzhai borders with Vietnam and in addition to receiving Vietnamese SW and approximately 1,200 transport trucks a day, it is a haven for migrant workers in the trading and tourist industries.

Guangxi Province Map



- a. Vice Governor of Guangxi Autonomous Region; Liu Xinwen welcomed the cooperation of the international community in Guangxi.
- b. Deborah Seligsohn, Counselor of the US Embassy in Beijing brought greetings on behalf of USAID. Ms. Seligsohn introduced the USAID framework and expressed the USG enthusiasm toward working with the Guangxi government in the battle against HIV/AIDS in the province. She introduced representatives from the cooperating agencies to Vice Governor, Liu Xinwen.
- c. On completion of the meeting Vice Governor, Liu Xinwen hosted a lunch for the USG and the CAs.
- d. USG representatives, CA representatives and Guangxi CDC staff traveled to Pingxiang.

3. Dinner hosted by US Consulate in Guangzhou.

- a. Harvey Sernovitz, Vice Consul of the US Consulate in Guangzhou hosted a dinner on behalf of the US Government for the local Pingxiang Government officials and CAs.

4. Launch Ceremony

- a. Agenda of Launch Ceremony

Introduction	Na Ling, Director of Guangxi BOH International Project Office
Congratulation by US Embassy/U.S. Consulate General Guangzhou	Ms Deborah Seligsohn/ Harvey Sernovitz
Guangxi BOH Speech	Representative from Guangxi BOH
Community representative Speech	Representative from local community
CA representative Speech	Dr Cheng Feng
Piangxiang Governor speech	Deputy Mayor
Cut red ribbon and Group photo	Representative of the Embassy, Representatives of Guangzhou consulate, Representative from Guangxi BOH, and Representative from local government to cut ribbon
USAID CAs introduction	4 CAs representatives



Aikou Village Hospital – Launch site.
Home to new FHI sponsored Community Health Center for PLWHA.



Mr. Tan Mingjie, Deputy Director of Guangxi BOH welcomes everyone to Aikou Village Hospital for launch.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony marks the Guangxi Launch.



Nurse's working in Aikou Village Hospital participate in Launch ceremony.



Representatives from US Embassy, US Consulate Guangzhou and CA's at launch in of USAID/China program in Guangxi.



Small reception at Aikou Hospital

5. USAID Cooperating Agencies introduce program to Pingxiang local government.

- a. Each of the CA's introduced themselves to the local government and gave a short presentation about their respective organizations.
- b. Local Pingxiang officials welcomed the support of all CA's and expressed the urgent needs for assistance concerning HIV/AIDS in Pingxiang.



Mr. Shako Shoji of the Ingrain CDC chaired meeting of CA program introductions.

6. Delegation visits Ningming Needle Exchange site.



Ningming Needle Exchange site. New FHI Supported VCT centered for Most At Risk Populations.

7. Conclusion

The launch ceremony and meetings during the visit to Guangxi marks the beginning of the USAID/China program in Guangxi. The Guangxi Autonomous Region government at all levels seems very enthusiastic to work with the project. These important partnerships are the key to success for the USAID/China program in Guangxi.