Analysis and Advocacy (A²) Project in Guangxi, China: Key findings and impact

Key Findings:

- Guangxi Zhang Autonomous Region currently has the third highest cumulative number of reported HIV infections in China.

- The most-at-risk population groups include injecting drug users (IDUs), female sex workers (FSWs) and their clients.

- Without the scale-up of the current HIV response, A² modeling results indicate that the number of new HIV infections will continue to grow rapidly from approximately 10,800 per year in 2005 to almost 16,000 per year by 2010.

- Guangxi’s Five Year Action Plan and budget for 2006-2010 includes allocation of resources to expand interventions for IDUs, FSWs and their clients, as well as anti-retroviral therapy (ART), prevention of mother-to-child transmission services, and methadone maintenance therapy.

- Interventions for men who have sex with men (MSM) remain limited but have been expanded in the revised action plan.

- Achieving the targets in the Guangxi’s Five-Year Action Plan would reduce the expected number of new HIV infections annually by the year 2010 to 7,387—compared with 15,957 if current interventions remain unchanged.

- At the current funding level, there remains a resource gap of about 1,504 million RMB to implement the proposed plans.

What’s been accomplished?

Policy and Program Impact

- A² baseline projections showed that the number of new HIV infections will continue to rise in Guangxi in the absence of more effective HIV interventions.

- A² projections have led to modifications in Guangxi’s Five Year Action Plan and budget for 2006-2010. Most notably, the revised five-year plan now includes prevention efforts among MSM, which the A² models showed were among the highest at-risk groups. Due to the number of MSM in these sites, Guangxi CDC selected Baise, Beihai and Guilin cities to conduct HIV/AIDS interventions among MSM.

- The Guangxi Provincial Government also increased its five-year HIV/AIDS prevention budget in order to appropriately fund programs for MSM.

- A² policy and cost-analysis scenarios have influenced Luzhai County, a HIV hot-spot in Guangxi, to significantly increase its allocation of funds for HIV prevention. Based on A² policy analysis of resource needs, Luzhai County Government released special funds for HIV prevention and control and increased the number of government-funded staff working in HIV/AIDS.
Details of new resources made available by the Luzhai Country Government include:
- five additional personnel in Luzhai County CDC
- 200,000 RMB allocated to the county for HIV/AIDS
- free methadone maintenance treatment provided to IDUs
- five additional medical staff at ART site
- establishment of HIV/AIDS prevention and control funds

Guangxi Provincial Government has used the linked AEM-GOALS model to identify populations at-risk and resource needs. A² cost-estimations have been presented and referenced in meetings of Guangxi AIDS Working Committee as a decision-making tool to identify and address resource needs and gaps in the provincial HIV/AIDS program.

World Bank used A² results in their evaluation of HIV/AIDS in Guangxi to plan future programs.

Key technical staff of the Guangxi Health Bureau and Guangxi CDC have been trained on how to use AEM and GOALS. Through hands-on mentoring in data collection and policy analysis, staff have become proficient in implementing the model. In fact, staff from Guangxi CDC have started to serve as technical resource persons for the national CDC and provide AEM training to the national CDC and other provinces.

The State Council AIDS Working Committee Office has begun to train 12 more provinces to use and apply the GOALS model for resource needs and budget planning.

The national CDC has begun to train and pilot AEM in a number of other provinces to inform the national HIV projection and drafting of the next five-year action plan.

To facilitate capacity building, the resource needs module of the GOALS model has been adapted, simplified, and translated into the Chinese language.

Advocacy and Media

- The A² project’s policy scenarios successfully convinced local governments to increase funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Guangxi Provincial Government allocated resources for interventions among MSM based on A² projections; the Luzhai County Government significantly increased its expenditure for HIV prevention.
- Convinced of the utility of the A² model, the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office will expand the use of the model to 12 other provinces as a decision-making tool for strategy and resource allocation.
- The results of various policy scenarios and resource needs were presented to the Guangxi HIV/AIDS Working Committee.
- Results of A² data analysis have been presented to policymakers and decision makers at the meetings listed below:
  - A² Introduction Meeting, Beijing, August 2005
  - A² and AEM Introduction Workshop for Hunan and Sichuan province, September 2006
  - Guangxi CDC presented the AEM projection at the National CDC, Beijing, September 2006.
  - Guangxi Senior Policy Symposium, September 2006

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