

End-term review of the implementation of the Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies for Hong Kong 2012-2016

First priority area: Scale up HIV prevention in priority communities

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 and 2016	
<p>R1. Keep convenient access to quality condoms and lubricants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Distributed free condoms and lubricants at gay venues, government clinics, NGO centres, working venues, borders, private sex premises, through automatic vending machines in universities and posting condoms to clients.</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One more NGO started to distribute condoms to MSM and male sex workers found in motels; and <li>• Health Clinic of HKU started to distribute condoms in its own clinic and during health events.
<p>R2. Expand voluntary counseling and testing service for HIV and STI in community and clinical settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Timing: Increased evening sessions in Social Hygiene Clinics of DH;</i> <li>- <i>Venue: Started mobile testing, on-site testing at youth centres, expanded the number of districts providing HIV testing services, started VCT at Shek Kwu Chau Drug Rehabilitation Centre; and</i> <li>- <i>Booking: started online and mobile app booking.</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach HIV testing in motel for male sex workers; <li>• Online and telephone support for home test kit users; and <li>• Online booking service.

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 and 2016
<p>R3. Promote HIV testing and condom use as a norm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Promoted through mass media, internet, mobile app and awareness campaign;</i> - <i>Promoted through peers and opinion leaders in the community;</i> - <i>Included HK, Shenzhen and Macau testing centres into location-based navigation of mobile app; and</i> - <i>Produced a short film about HIV prevention and testing which was screened during Gay Film Festival 2015.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DH produced a new API and three episodes of online videos; • NGOs produced videos about proper condom use and negotiation skills; • Held education booths, workshops and activity tours targeting young MSM in universities through collaborating with LGBT groups.
<p>R4. Sustain provider-initiated universal HIV testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Maintained high coverage of testing in social hygiene clinics, TB & Chest clinics, methadone clinics and antenatal clinics;</i> - <i>Updated clinical guidelines on prevention of perinatal HIV transmission.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started to implement urine collection at home in all methadone clinics to increase the HIV testing coverage

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 and 2016
<p>R5. Positive prevention targeting PLHIV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Promoted early uptake of HAART, increased counseling on risk reduction and drug adherence, started partner counseling and referral, screening of STI; and</i> - <i>Conducted a pilot project to enhance detection of gonorrhea and chlamydia among PLHIV by taking rectal and pharyngeal swab.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increasing number of NGOs offered counseling and follow up services to PLHIV.
<p>R6. Outreach to hidden subgroups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Distributed condoms and develop HIV prevention programmes targeting refugees, asylum seekers, new immigrants from high HIV prevalence places, domestic helpers, transgender people and persons who have hearing or physical disability;</i> - <i>Provided on-site VCT at other NGO's centres which serve ethnic minorities and at youth centres for MSM; and</i> - <i>Extended outreach service to Ma Lam, motels and other venues for female and male sex workers.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded outreach educational programmes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – half-way house under Correctional Services for male adult prisoners; – pregnant migrant domestic helpers through collaborating with non-AIDS NGOs; – Children & Juvenile Homes; and – drug users by collaborating with drug rehabilitation centres and organisations; • Social Workers reached Vietnamese drug users by organising health talk at Tuen Mun Community Centre and Shum Shui Po public parks; • Launched a new project for the “private contact base” female sex workers (mainly Mainlanders); and • Started to distribute educational materials at Immigration Department.

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014

New initiatives launched in 2015 and 2016

R7. Availability of syringes, its proper use and disposal

- *Distributed “Health Care Kits” containing new syringes and disinfecting accessories to injecting drug users; and*
- *Distributed clips and sharpbox to cleaners in public toilets.*
- Made a harm reduction manual on safer injection for drug users, family members and social workers.

Second priority area: Maintain holistic and quality HIV treatment, care and support

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 - 2016
R8. Sharing of updated HIV knowledge in healthcare providers and NGO workers	
<p>A. <u>Training and education</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Trained health care workers (DH, HA and private doctors), NGO staff, staff of residential care homes for the elderly, university students from different faculties, and medical and nursing students through attachment programmes.</i> <p>B. <u>Publication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Produced regular publications, submitted articles to peer-review publications, published new HIV manual, promulgated local guidelines on HIV epidemiology, prevention, testing and care, issued updated HIV situation in bi-weekly DH's publication "CD Watch".</i> <p>C. <u>Present in academic meetings / conferences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Poster exhibition at International AIDS Conference 2014</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed HIV educational tools and booklets about HIV medication and drug adherence for medical personnel and frontline workers; • Staff training about HIV for those who can speak different languages; and • Dr Rainbow Scheme to educate private doctors about sexual health of MSM. • Updated HIV infection and Health Care Workers – Recommended Guidelines (October 2015); • Updated Recommendations on the Management of Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Tuberculosis Coinfection (March 2015); • DH and NGOs will attend International AIDS Conference in 2016.

R9. Maintain high level of effectiveness in clinical management

- *Provided health information to attending patients;*
 - *Maintained continuous and equitable access to HAART, multi-disciplinary service and subsidy to eligible PLHIV;*
 - *Regular review and upgrade of clinical service, included computer systems and one-stop medical service; and*
 - *Included submission of “Checklist for Quality Assurance for VCT service in community settings” as one of the criteria for applying ATF since 2015*
- Distributed service information of NGO to methadone clinic doctors to facilitate patient referral; and
 - Referred HIV infected drug users to drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

R10. Facilitate rehabilitation of PLHIV

- *Empowered and mobilized PLHIV in advocacy and education of service providers about the needs of PLHIV; and*
 - *Various NGOs started follow up services for the newly diagnosed patients and their partners.*
- Provided information of Mainland HIV care service to Mainlanders;
 - Incorporated mindfulness training and expressive art therapy for emotional support;
 - Peer Listening Hotline;
 - Outreach service: hospital and home visit, off-premises counseling and mobile app counseling services, and
 - Held seminars for PLHIV to educate them about HIV treatment

Third priority area: Foster an environment which supports safer sex, harm reduction and anti-discrimination

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 - 2016
<p>R11. Educate public about Disability Discrimination Ordinance and acceptance of PLHIV and priority populations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>General public: Through mass media, training and consultancy services to organisations and employers, EOC Funding Scheme, and various mass media campaigns and advertisements;</i> - <i>Specific groups : Training or education provided to teachers, social workers, disciplinary forces, NGOs, public and private health care workers and university students;</i> - <i>Projects : Conduction of Community Participation Funding Programme; Special Partnership Projects; Equal Workplace Campaign funded by EOC; and</i> - <i>Pilot study on PLHIV to measure stigma perceived by PLHIV.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of API by NGOs to promote anti-discrimination against PLHIV; • Launched HIV community education programs in tertiary educational institutions (Tung Wah College).
<p>R12. Examine impact of relevant laws and policies on access to HIV-related services</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Wrote to the Police to explore the possibility of not seizing condoms during their enforcement action against organised prostitution activities.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACA examined the scientific evidence, recommendations from international health agencies and local services regarding various types of legislation during formulation of new Recommended HIV/AIDS Strategies (2017-2021).

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014**New initiatives launched in 2015 - 2016****R13. Expand life skills-based education on HIV among youth**

- *Formed a Task Force to advise on the development of LSBE on HIV in secondary schools;*
 - *Completed a baseline survey about LSBE on HIV in junior secondary schools in 2013; results announced in Jan 2014;*
 - *Annual professional training organised by EDB to teachers;*
 - *“RR in Action” HIV educational programme gave priority to applications of LSBE HIV education projects; and*
 - *DH worked with FPAHK to provide in-school LSBE on HIV in 2014-2015;*
 - *Film production and sharing sessions held by NGOs*
- DH collaborated with FPAHK to conduct LSBE for HIV in secondary school from 2016 to 2017 academic year; and
 - Logo Design Competition for secondary school students and youth.

R14. Tackling the underlying vulnerability of priority populations

- ***Personal support*** : *Conducted programmes which addressed self-acceptance, partner communication, illicit drug use and mental health are in place; and*
 - ***Socio-economical support*** : *Provided assistance on employment, career, legal and social support for priority populations.*
- Use of assessment tools to identify drug users who need drug rehabilitation and treatment services.

Fourth priority areas: Drive strategically informed and accountable interventions

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 - 2016
<p>R15. Improve monitoring and evaluation of individual HIV programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Set out concrete, quality and budgeted M&E plan; and</i> - <i>Conducted internal audit of VCT service in community settings.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd round of internal audit completed in Mar 2016. • Submission of HIV testing and follow up information by NGOs to DH.
<p>R16. Improved monitoring and evaluation of territory-wide response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Enhance communication between NGOs, DH and HA for surveillance purposes;</i> - <i>Launched HIV /AIDS Response Indicator Survey (HARiS) in 2013 to monitor the effectiveness of HIV programmes done by NGOs by using a common set of indicators; and</i> - <i>Study the feasibility of population viral load monitoring.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd round of (HARiS) completed in 2015. Results are available on DH SPP website. • Surveys on needs of PLHIV and acceptability of PLHIV among residential care homes conducted by NGOs.

R17. Characterize HIV risk among male sex workers, transgender population, people involved in compensated dating and non-injecting drug users

- *Studied the risky behaviours among MSM travelling to Shenzhen;*
 - *Compared risk of virtual vs physical channel sex networking in MSM;*
 - *Analyzed sexual risk and substance use among African refugees and asylum seekers in HK;*
 - *Included test for chlamydia & gonorrhoea for FSW in HARiS 2013; and*
 - *Studied the prevalence of Herpes and HPV by blood test among MSM in 2013.*
- NGOs participated in HARiS 2015 and 2016 for the “male to female transgender population”.
 - Qualitative studies on young MSM and study of chlamydia and gonorrhoea infection among FSW and MSM conducted by NGOs.

R18. Conduct formative research of pilot programmes

- *Conducted RCT to evaluate efficacy of network-based HIV peer-education intervention targeting MSM;*
 - *Evaluated acceptability of female condom among monogamous women with STI;*
 - *Study the acceptability of self-testing among MSM in HK.*
- Study on change of sexual and health seeking behaviours among MSM HIV self-test users was completed.

Fifth priority areas: Enhance partnership and capacity for an effective response within Hong Kong and the nearby region

ACA Recommendations (R) and initiatives launched in 2012-2014	New initiatives launched in 2015 - 2016
<p>R19. Foster communication among service providers, policy makers and funding bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>ATF held regular sharing sessions with NGO for reporting NGOs' programs and discussion on project application. Relevant information was uploaded to ATF website;</i> - <i>ATF attended ACA for presentation;</i> - <i>Familiarization visits to different NGOs for the new ACA members; and</i> - <i>Meetings between NGOs through HKCASO or others.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs held their own consultation meetings to collect opinions on the new HIV Strategies; and • NGOs joined the Community Stakeholders Consultation Meeting held by ACA in November 2015 and reflected the opinions collected from different communities at the meeting.
<p>R20. Exchange and collaboration between Hong Kong and other cities especially those in the Mainland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Participated in regional consultation on HIV, STI and other health needs of TG people in Asia and the Pacific, and supported a pilot project for TG persons in Kunming;</i> - <i>Training, information exchange, meetings and mutual participation of activities between HK, Macau and Mainland officials or community organisations (e.g. HIV forum 2014);</i> - <i>Collaboration between Mainland and HK for various studies; and</i> - <i>Maintained the online platform of "Cyberdelta" for data sharing in Pearl River Delta Region.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of experience between Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland authorities at the 15th Tripartite Joint Meeting of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao on Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases; • Alumni-Association – Mainland Training Project for frontline workers in Qinghai held by NGOs, and • Workshop on "Emerging Issues on International HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment" will be held in 2016 with speakers from WPRO, HA, DH and academia.