Strengthening Reproductive Health Education and Services for Adolescents in Navoi Oblast, Uzbekistan

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**BACKGROUND**

Funded and backstopped by Fondation Partnerships in Health (FPH), the Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) project has been implemented by Project HOPE’s Navoi team. 

Donors: Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération (FEDEVACO); Fondation Coromandel; GlaxoSmithKline Switzerland; Mr. Axel Hesslenberg and friends; Care and Aid Foundation; Schweizer Kurse.

Operational Area: Navoi Oblast (Navoi City, Karmana, Konimekh, Kiziltepo and Nurota Rayons).

Target population: 25,505 adolescents.

Programme Partners: Project HOPE Uzbekistan, Navoi Office; National Institute of Reproductive Health and Navoi Center for Reproductive Health; National and Oblast Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

**OBJECTIVES**

Phase I (August 2003 to July 2004): to strengthen ARH education and services in Navoi City.

Phase II (August 2005 to June 2006): to scale up ARH education and services in rural Karmana, Kiziltepo, Konimekh and Nurota Rayons with the participation of the communities, and to improve the quality ARH services in Navoi City.

1. **Development of training curricula and support to ARH and TOFs training**

   **Activities**
   - Technical and financial support for the development of training manuals with adolescent involvement.
   - Training of school teachers and health providers as ARH promoters.
   - Training of adolescents as peer ARH educators.
   - Training of Makhalla leaders (traditional community leaders) as ARH community promoters.

   **Results**
   - 356 Makhalla leaders trained as ARH community promoters.
   - 129 school teachers and medical providers trained as ARH promoters.
   - 248 school teachers and medical providers trained as ARH promoters.
   - 330 community leaders trained as ARH community promoters.

2. **Support to ARH educational activities in schools**

   **Activities**
   - Technical support to ARH promoters who teach ARH education in secondary and vocational schools.
   - Production and distribution of ARH educational material for students, teachers, and pupils parents.

   **Results**
   - 129 secondary/vocational schools have offered the project-developed ARH education program.
   - 31,700 adolescents were reached with ARH education program.
   - 970 adolescents directly trained on ARH.

3. **Adolescent Friendly Reproductive Health (AFRH) Services**

   **Activities**
   - Training of health providers as youth-friendly health providers in selected health centers.
   - Technical and logistical support for the establishment of AFRH services in Navoi City (Oblast AFRH service) and in 4 rayons (Karmana, Kiziltepo, Navoi, and Konimekh).
   - Distribution of ARH educational material.

   **Results**
   - 15 health providers trained as youth-friendly health providers in 4 rural health centers.
   - 5 adolescent-friendly reproductive health clinics established in Navoi City and 4 towns in rural areas.
   - AFRH clinics daily providing ARH education, contraceptive counselling and medical services.

4. **Community awareness**

   **Results**
   - 156 Makhalla leaders trained as ARH community promoters.
   - Establishment of a network of ARH promoters and Makhalla activities that increase awareness and support ARH services at the local health facilities and in the schools.
   - Establishment of ARH working group at oblast level.

5. **IEC material**

   **Development and distribution of:**
   - 36,000 copies of ARH brochures for adolescents in Uzbek and Russian.
   - 20,000 copies of ARH brochures for parents in Uzbek and Russian.
   - 400 copies each of two type of ARH posters (one on HIV/AIDS transmission and the other on STI prevention).
   - Contraceptive kits (with a total of 15,000 condoms, 141 pills, and 141 IUDs) for educational activities.
   - 490 T-shirts advertising the AFRH clinic of Navoi.
   - Telephone hotlines now available in the 5 youth-friendly centers.

**COMPONENTS**

**GOAL**

To contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity of adolescents and teen mothers by fostering positive, healthy behavior and reduce unplanned pregnancies, unwanted sex, STIs, premature childbearing and unsafe abortions.

**FONDACTION PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTH**

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"Since my teacher has started to talk openly about sexual and reproductive life, I began to comfortably share my sexual experiences with my friends. I understood that we all have the same problems and the same willingness to talk about it... after what I have learned in school, I changed my way of behaving with my peers and my way of communicating with my parents...”

17-year old school boy, Karmana Secondary School