



Our new Logo, see last page.

Connekt

The newsletter of the Youth Network for Drug Abuse Prevention

ISSUE
October 20



Theme Meeting on Preventing Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS, Cuiaba, Brazil, 8 - 11 September, 2001



LOCO HACETE CARGO!
NO COMPARTAS
LA JERINGA

One of the disastrous effects of drug use is infection with HIV and AIDS. While there are many ways in which drug use can lead to HIV transmission, including unsafe sex, the problem of transmission through the use of injectable drugs is a grave one in a growing number of countries.

In co-ordination with the Brazilian National Ministry of Health, the National Co-ordination for STD and AIDS prevention, UNDCP Brazil, and UNAIDS Brazil, the Global Youth Network organised a participatory meeting for young people involved with preventing HIV/AIDS amongst young injectors. The meeting was held in the city of Cuiaba, capital of the Mato Grosso State of Brazil. This was also the site of the 4th Brazilian National Forum on HIV/AIDS Prevention.

A total of 14 youth groups from eight countries participated in this meeting. The idea was to formulate a set of guidelines for working with young injecting drug users that were written by young people for use by their counterparts elsewhere in the world. In much the same way as we did for the meeting on using performance for substance abuse prevention, the meeting was organised into small working groups where people could better contribute their thoughts and ideas. We would like to thank all those who attended the meeting, especially a young person, who is HIV positive with many health prob-



lems, and made valuable contribution to the working group sessions. Drug-related harm and ways to reduce the social and health consequences of injecting drug use among youth were debated. One of the interesting things that emerged was the striking similarity between the various factors that make young injectors particularly vulnerable to HIV infection, including lack of information, access to health and social services. On the last day of the meeting, we all heard the shocking news of the bombing of the world trade centre in New York and this pretty much ruined the mood for all of us. Some people had a friend or a relative in New York or indeed in the US who they were concerned about and the magnitude of the attack was just too much to absorb. The meeting thus ended on a fairly solemn note where we all promised to stay in touch and work with the other members of the youth network to replicate the spirit of New York, in some small way.

Gautam Babbar, UNDCP
Gautam.babbar@undcp.org



Profile of a Young Injecting Drug User

Name: John Doe (!?)

John was born into a middle class family; his father was in the armed services while his mother was a housewife and a school teacher. The fact that the whole family re-located from time to time meant starting home from scratch. After 15 years in the army, John's father decided to strike out on his own. The family had to re-locate yet again. With great difficulty, John's father managed to find a job and started life once again. Nine years later, John's father left his home country to earn more money.

John's adolescence had a factor that was very crucial "A HOME WITHOUT A FATHER".

In the meantime, John had grown to be 15 years of age. John was just entering high school, but he had been smoking cigarettes for some time now. He also knew about cannabis.

Though John tried smoking cannabis on a few occasions, he did not like the dull effects; John was stealing money from home to buy cigarettes. By now, John was 17 years of age and was entering college. He had a car and was driving all over town. In-between, he was introduced to valium (diazepam) and prodrome (methaqualone) tablets, which he used for a couple of weeks. One day a college pal introduced him to a light brown powder which had no name. The effect was the beginning of a roller coaster ride into a whirl of images, emotions and sensations.

As time passed by, the loading of powder into cigarettes proved uneconomical and wasteful, and he graduated to "Chasing the Stuff" (aluminum foil/pipe etc). The numbing and intoxicating effect was kind of awesome for this young man, until the inevitable happened. John had a very good friend and using partner who informed him that injecting the powder (heroin) would have a better effect... so John went for his first shot of heroin.

Again, the effects were so stunning that automatically the want for more had started. Injecting heroin became top priority for John. John was 20 years old and was facing a lot of problems financially, physically and spiritually, but John continued to use!!!

John's father got him a job abroad, he had a good salary, and came home often. All the time, he continued to inject heroin. Life was actually deteriorating pretty fast. On every visit home, John had to go to a detox centre, but that did not stop him. Then came the news that injecting drug users were at great risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS. John couldn't care less, all he wanted was his next shot.

John quit his job and moved back to his home country where he quickly spent his money on heroin. This started the down hill trend of sharing needles and syringes with using partners, the pattern took on a cult lifestyle.

John would go out in the morning looking for his drug and then get together with his friends and start the ritual of injecting.

Meanwhile, an important event had taken place in John's life. He had married a young woman. He was still injecting drugs, not only heroin but a combination of tranquilizers with heroin. He was sharing injecting equipment and was continuing to have sexual encounters with his wife, as well as other women. It never dawned on him that he was at the top of the high risk group of either contracting or spreading the deadly virus.

John went to jail on a charge of possession of Narcotics, was released on bail and stayed clean for about 4 months before having a relapse. He entered an institution for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and was introduced to a husband and wife team of Psychiatrists. He underwent therapy and counselling and he was made aware of the dangers of HIV/AIDS. John volunteered for an HIV test



and found that God was kind to him, he was negative.

Today, John is in a self-help programme for drug addicts, free from any mood altering substances (total abstinence) for the last 3 years and 8 months. He is happily married with a 15 month old baby boy. A Non-Governmental Organization has employed him in a managerial position. He helps injecting drug users to kick the habit and to make them aware of the dangers of sharing injecting equipment. He does most of his work anonymously.

This is a true story written by John (in the third person singular), whose real name has been changed, to protect his identity. It is for the purpose of creating awareness of the deadly disease of AIDS - and should not be used for any commercial purpose, but may be re-printed and used for the purpose intended. True story of a young injector, SAHAI Trust, Chennai 60001 India

Indo Chinese Outreach Network

What is I.C.O.N?

>I.C.O.N. Is a volunteer, street-based outreach programme for young Indo-Chinese drug users. It aims to prevent and reduce drug-related harms, and to improve the health and well-being of its teenager group.



What does it do?

- >Needle and syringe exchange and condom distribution
- >Safer injecting advice
- >Peer-based research
- >Peer-education and harm minimisation training



Promotional materials from different youth groups

TRINH'S STORY

- Family emigrated to Australia when she was a child
- Emotional trauma as a result of her migration experience and the lack of a feeling of belonging
- Parental and inter-generational conflict caused family breakdown
- Did not complete high school studies and has been unemployed since she left
- Started using heroin by 'chasing the dragon'
- Injected heroin after her dependence on the drug increased
- Was unaware of the risk of being infected with hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV at the time of her first injection
- Became infected with hepatitis C within weeks of her first injection
- Has been imprisoned on three occasions
- Has not accessed mainstream drug treatment services or health services



True story, the real name has been changed.
The story should not be used for any commercial purpose

Central and Eastern European Youth Training Workshop on Needs Assessment and Programme Planning, Sigulda, Latvia, 6-10 August, 2001

As some of you may recall, we had organised a training workshop on needs assessment and programme planning for drug abuse prevention in South Asia last year. From 6-10 August this year, we organised a similar training meeting for 22 youth from 11 countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

This workshop was broadly based on the training module developed for the South Asia meeting by Dr. Harinder Sethi, from India and included extensive hands-on training, a field visit to a community in Riga and an eventual role-play presentation of project proposals.

Signe Rotberga, the UNDCP's one-woman-show in the Baltic States, Giovanna Campello, a colleague here in Vienna, and I were the training team.

Amongst other things, we covered various techniques of needs assessment like role-plays, interviews, focus group discussions, making effective presentations, preparing a budget and assigning roles and duties to members of your team. The emphasis was on the concept of learning by doing, rather than through lectures and presentations. The participants also undertook to conduct training in their own organisations and share their learning with other people.

The workshop itself was an interesting experience partly because of the language barriers. It was inter-



esting to see that people managed to communicate in a mixture of 3-4 different languages and of course, in non-verbal ways.

The group of young people (and some not so young youth workers!) were particularly lively and despite working for up to 10 hours a day, they managed to party a bit.

As some of you know, whenever we organise events we always ask for feedback from the participants and the one valuable comment we continue to receive is that most of the meetings we organise tend to err too much on the side of work and don't leave enough time for relaxation and social interaction. Yes, we do load up the meetings with quite a bit of work and maybe we will cut it down a bit, but not too much. As youth, we still need to justify the trust that UNDCP is placing in us by providing us an opportunity to make ourselves heard.

As a follow-up to this meeting, we have asked the participating groups to submit project proposals by utilising the new skills they have been given. These will be submitted to us by October and we shall then provide a small amount of funding for one or two proposals.

Gautam Babbar, UNDCP
Gautam.babbar@undcp.org

EVENTS...EVENTS...EVENTS...EVENTS...**HIV/AIDS and Human Rights Asian Regional Training Workshop**

This workshop will be held from 3-9 November 2001 in Bandung, Indonesia. The workshop is an interdisciplinary workshop, designed and open for students/youth leaders interested in HIV/AIDS and Human Rights issues.

Contact:

J1. Cikutra Baru IV/16 Bandung , 40124, Indonesia

Tel.: +62 22 720 3350, Fax.: +62 22 720 3350

E-mail: arieftp@bdg.centrin.net.id

<http://www.hivhr-ws.org>

International perspectives on young people in crisis: An on-going approach to development of methods of care, education and reintegration

Venue: Boyne Valley Hotel, Drogheda, Co. Louth, Ireland. Costs: IEP 230 Approx. (inc. accommodation, meals and gala banquet).

Speakers: Thom Garfat (Canada), Niall McElwee (Ireland), Michael Maher (England), Graeme Farquharson (UK), Gavin Reid (Scotland) and Charlie Mead (UK).

Contact: E-mail: cycnet@icon.co.za

Children's voices: taking account of the views of children and young people

Venue: Scottish Borders, Scotland

Themes: Are the voices of children listened to, and are they heard? Do the voices of parents count? Children in Scotland's annual conference will examine these questions: children's voices in the family; children's voices in the community; and children's voices at the national level.

Contact: Elizabeth Sykes,

Children in Scotland, Princes House, 5 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh EH2 4RG

Tel.: 0131 228 8484 , Fax: 0131 228 8585 , E-mail: info@childreninscotland.org.uk

International Conference on Volunteering, Beijing

Jointly sponsored by China National Committee for IYV 2001, UNDP/UNV and other organisations.

Theme: Volunteering towards a Caring Society: Recognition, Facilitation and Development.

For more information about the Conference and the China National Committee for IYV,

Contact:

Wang Xin, Programme Officer.

Beijing International Volunteers Association (BIVA) and China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE)

Tel.: +10-62016342, Fax: +10-62380927, Email: wangxin@civa.org.cn

Asian Youth Forum, Japan

Venue: Kitakyushu, Japan

Will bring together college-aged young people from Korea, Japan, Thailand and other Asian countries to discuss language, culture, global issues and international understanding through the medium of English-as-an-Asian-language.

Contact:

Email: kates@fed.tottori-u.ac.jp , <http://www.asianyouthforum.org>



Jouhaida Hanano
Gautam Babbar
Stefano Berterame
UNDCP
Demand Reduction Section
P.O.Box 500
A-1400 Vienna , Austria

Phone: 0043-1-26060 5041/4244/5474
Fax: 0043-1-26060 5928
Email: jouhaida.hanano@undcp.org
gautam.babbar@undcp.org
Stefano.berterame@undcp.org



www.unaids.org. This is the official site of UNAIDS which provides information on the UN and activities related to HIV/AIDS.

www.unicef.org/programme/lifeskills/mainmenu.html. This site is about skills-based health education which help young people take greater control of their lives.

www.worldaidsday.org. All over the world, people like you could make a difference on the World AIDS Day 2001 through volunteering your time or making a donation. Explore possibilities on how to help by visiting this site.

'LET US RESOLVE TO CONSOLIDATE OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH YOUTH ON EVERY FRONT', SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES IN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY MESSAGE.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan's message for International Youth Day, which is celebrated on 12 August:

International Youth Day is in itself a very young phenomenon. The very idea to create an international day for youth was proposed by young people at the first session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. It was proclaimed as a United Nations observance by the General Assembly only last year. On this day, we promote awareness of the landmark World Programme of Action for Youth, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1995. The Programme seeks to make governments more responsive to the aspirations of youth for a better world, as well as to the demands of youth to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. It came about because young people understood that, to deal effectively with the impact of globalization on their lives, they must start preparing for the future now and not wait for governments to tell them what to do.

The Programme covers 10 priority areas for action, ranging from education, employment and poverty to health, the environment and drug abuse. In each of these areas, the Programme looks in depth at the nature of the challenges and presents proposals for action. I would urge Governments to take its recommendations seriously, and to work together with young people for its implementation.

Effective partnerships are needed at all levels -- among young people in different countries, between youth and governments, and between youth and the United Nations; and at the national, regional and global levels.

At the national level, Governments are encouraged to encourage governments that have not already done so to formulate and adopt integrated national policies that address youth concerns; and to support the creation of national youth partnership bodies, so that youth policy can be implemented through youth action. Many youth-related agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have supported the national youth-policy process.

At the regional level, the United Nations regional commissions are holding hearings with youth non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies and intergovernmental organizations to review regional youth trends and plan follow-up actions. The process is supported by the United Nations Youth Fund.

At the global level, the World Programme of Action endorses two global platforms to review and promote the Programme: the World Conference of Youth Ministers, which gives voice to governments, and the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, which gives voice to youth NGOs. They constitute unique vehicles for dialogue and action.

On this International Youth Day, let us resolve to consolidate our partnerships with youth on every front. Let us ensure that the leaders of today listen carefully to the leaders of tomorrow. Let us pledge that young people's voices will be heard all over the world in the twenty-first century.



DISCLAIMER. Highlighting non-UN events and websites in this newsletter does not imply endorsement by the UNDCP. These are provided here as a resource for young people and youth workers. The views expressed in these sites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of UNDCP.

This is your newsletter. Tell us how we can improve it and what you would like to read about. Do send us your comments and suggestions at the address given above.

We have a new logo (page 1), Ms. Claudia Univazo, who works here with us at the UN designed a new logo and we think it looks wonderful. THANK YOU CLAUDIA!

