

Notice on HIV/AIDS Prevention Campaign for Chinese Children and Young People

SCAWCO [2006] 54

To AIDS Working Committee Offices, Health Bureaus, Education Bureaus, Civil Affairs Bureaus, Population and Family Planning Commissions, Youth League Committees, Women's Federations and Committees for the Care of Children in all provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities:

In order to carry out the implementation of the *Regulation on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS* and *China's Action Plan on the Control, Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS (2006-2010)*, in response to the Global Campaign on Children and AIDS initiated by the United Nations, to strengthen children and youth focused HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care to reduce the spread of AIDS and alleviate the impact of HIV/AIDS on children and families in China, and to further protect Chinese children and young people from harms of HIV/AIDS, the State Council AIDS Working Committee Office (hereinafter referred to as SCAWCO), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Population and Family Planning Commission, All China Women's federation, and China National Committee for the Care of Children have jointly decided to initiate the Chinese Campaign on HIV/AIDS Prevention among Children and Young People. We hereby issue the specific requirements in this notice:

I. Strengthen Leadership and Coordination of all Tasks

Children and youth are the future of the nation and of the Chinese people. All relevant departments in all localities must take the perspective of the future of Chinese people and the construction of the harmonious society, and realize the importance of AIDS prevention among children and youth in the overall AIDS prevention work, and regard it as an important component of the national AIDS prevention and control strategy, to strengthen leadership, organization and coordination. Local AIDS Working Committee Offices (leadership and coordination agencies) of all levels must, under the local specific situation, coordinate relevant departments to integrate children and youth AIDS prevention into the overall AIDS prevention and control strategy of the local area and organizations, and provide greater support in policy formulation, fund allocation, communication, education, training, monitoring and evaluation, integrating national and international resources and consolidating all efforts and make detailed plans to ensure the successful implementation of all areas of work in the Children and Youth AIDS Prevention Campaign.

II. Clarify goals and tasks and ensure funding mechanism

The Children and youth AIDS Prevention Campaign must be well integrated with the overall national AIDS prevention and control goals and strategies. The advantages and roles of all government agencies, international agencies and the whole society must be fully utilized, and all sectors of the society must be mobilized to focus on priority areas of dissemination of AIDS prevention knowledge, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, reduction of new infections among children and youth, pediatric treatment, and care for children and families affected by AIDS in an in-depth and sustained effort to

comprehensively prevent and control HIV/AIDS, significantly improve the awareness of self-protection among children and youth, eliminate social stigma and discrimination, and formulate a sustainable development model that is children and youth focused and in line with the situation in China, to help achieve the goals outlined in the China Action Plan on the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS (2006-2010) on improving knowledge and awareness among children and youth, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, pediatric treatment, and free compulsory education for all children orphaned by AIDS. Central and local departments (groups and organizations) are responsible for ensuring that funding is in place for daily expenses of its own system and department, and actively seek the support of central government transfer payment, international cooperative projects and allocated funding from local finance.

III. Popularize AIDS prevention knowledge to improve prevention skills among children and youth

SCAWCO is responsible for issuing and disseminating key messages on AIDS prevention for children and youth, to clarify key communication points in children and youth AIDS prevention education; it will organize the development of Manual on Children and Youth AIDS Prevention Key messages to be used in all communications, life skills trainings and peer education.

Education administrative departments of all levels are responsible for training of school administrators and training of trainers for school AIDS prevention education; they will guide and urge secondary vocational schools and normal secondary schools to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention knowledge into the curricula and extracurricular activities; they are responsible for developing teaching guidelines for life-skills based education for AIDS prevention in school, and integrate in-class teaching with extra-curricular activities to strengthen the life-skills based HIV/AIDS prevention education to maximize the effect of the comprehensive education, to document and promote best practices in a timely manner, so as to promote the broad and in-depth HIV/AIDS prevention education in school.

The population and family planning system should fully utilize the advantages of their management and service network, and integrate youth HIV/AIDS prevention into their “Five Period” reproductive health education programme, in order to promote youth health awareness and ability to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS. Family planning associations of all levels should actively engage youth in a variety of youth HIV/AIDS prevention activities including peer education, promoting the healthy development of children and young people.

Youth League organizations of all levels will focus on out-of-school adolescents as priority, using “Youth Red Ribbon” and other education and communication programmes as carrier and utilizing the advantages of existing resources and networks to mobilize youth volunteers to enter rural areas and communities in high prevalence provinces, and engage in peer education and volunteer activities, giving priority to out-of-school and migrant adolescents HIV/AIDS prevention training and education, ensuring broad coverage and sustainability of the education programme; youth volunteers should be organized to participate in care and support activities for people living with AIDS, and organize extensive education and care activities both on and off campus.

IV. Actively prevent HIV mother-to-child transmission and provide pediatric care and treatment

The Ministry of Health will establish a coordination mechanism for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), strengthen training of technical and administrative personnel for PMTCT, and fully utilize the rural three-tier network, the maternal and child health (MCH) network and the disease control network, with integration of PMTCT into the routine MCH practice to form a PMTCT routine working mechanism; PMTCT services including voluntary counseling and testing (VCT), ARV prophylaxis intervention and follow-up will be integrated into premarital healthcare, antenatal care, child care and other MCH services, establishing locally-appropriate, effective, feasible and user-friendly PMTCT service model. Healthcare institutions should provide services to HIV positive mothers and their infants including relevant counseling and testing, prenatal guidance, prevention, follow-up, nutrition guidance and other services, and provision of free ARV drugs to HIV positive mothers.

The population and family planning system should integrate HIV/AIDS prevention into its reproductive health services. When conducting family planning counseling and follow-up for reproductive age women, youth HIV prevention education should be regarded as one of the priority areas, so that women of reproductive age are more aware of the care and protection of the next generation, fostering a healthy social atmosphere for prevention of HIV infections.

Local healthcare departments should put pediatric care and treatment in a prominent place in ARV treatment, initiating pediatric ARV treatment pilot and roll out step by step; health testing and treatment protocols should be established for children infected with HIV, ensuring that each quarter testing is conducted on T-helper cells and viral load, and provide ARV treatment to those who meet the criteria for treatment. Management on pediatric care and treatment training, follow-up, supervision for adherence, psychological support and referral service will all be strengthened, and problem with supply of pediatric ARV formulation will be properly resolved to achieve the goals for pediatric treatment.

V. Actively promote family- and community-based care and support and anti-stigma and discrimination initiatives

Support and placement policies for children orphaned by AIDS should be further improved. Local government of all levels should earmark specific funding to be used for living subsidy and placement of children orphaned by AIDS; civil affairs departments should work under the leadership of the local government and AIDS prevention and control office to establish a system for the registration, reporting and follow-up of minor children of people living with AIDS and children who lost one or both parents to AIDS, and take strong measures to actively explore the placement and care model for children and adolescents orphaned by AIDS.

The education department should include children orphaned by AIDS who are under financial constraints as the primary recipient of the “two free and one subsidy” and other education support policies, to ensure the education rights of children affected by AIDS.

The Women’s Federation will use the existing integrate the “AIDS Prevention for a Healthy Family”, “12.1 Care for Orphans” and “Face-to-Face” initiative in China CARES counties in the organization and advocacy for care and support of children and adolescents orphaned by

AIDS. Key volunteers should be trained for care and support activities, creating a favorable environment for children and their families affected by AIDS.

The China National Committee for the Care of Children (CNCCC) will take active measures, mobilize resources and organize the “hand-in-hand with the old and young” activities to care for and support children and young people affected by AIDS, creating a favorable environment for their growth and development.

VI. Conduct monitoring and supervision to promote the continued in-depth development of the Campaign

AIDS working committee offices of all levels should integrate Children and Young People AIDS Prevention Campaign into their scope of their annual monitoring and supervision, and conduct inspection and information disclosure as part of their work.

All departments at all levels should follow the guideline of this notice to develop the local and sectoral work plans, and submit their work progress annually to the AIDS working committee office of its corresponding rank. The AIDS working committee office should coordinate meetings in a timely manner to study and solve existing problems to ensure the continued and in-depth development of the current work.

(Seals):

The State Council AIDS Working Committee Office

The Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Civil Affairs

The State Population and Family Planning Commission

The Chinese Communist Youth League

The China National Committee for the Care of Children

17 November, 2006