

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON PRIMARY PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

ASSESSING AND PLANNING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AMONG YOUTH GOOD PRACTICE STATEMENTS FROM THAILAND



**World Health
Organisation**

**Mental Health And Substance Dependence
Noncommunicable Diseases And Mental Health
Geneva**



**UNITED NATIONS
*Office on Drugs and Crime***

**Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation Unit
Division For Operations
Vienna**

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Introduction

The representatives of the local partners of the UNDCP/WHO Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse working in Viet Nam met to share their experiences on assessing and planning for substance abuse prevention in Bangkok from 5 to 8 August 2002. The statements contained in this document were identified by the participants as best describing their own experience in five different aspects of assessing and planning for substance abuse prevention. The following participated.

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Collecting existing and new information

1. Use in-depth interviews with target beneficiaries and related groups for example: drug users and rehabilitated drug users as a key source of information
2. Use existing youth groups/ activities to collect information from all sectors
3. Train young people to collect information from their peers including about in-depth interviewing
4. Use existing community forums to collect information
5. Contact and collect information from both formal and informal leaders including religious leaders
6. Use questionnaires to collect information in the community providing opportunities for community leaders, volunteers, youth and agencies that work in the community to participate in this process
7. Use existing written materials from all available resources
8. Use existing organizational networks and personal contacts to get existing and new information
9. Coordinate with both those in high ranking positions and at practitioner level to reach all levels
10. Cross check all information by using different governmental, non-governmental and community sources
11. Organize separate focus group discussion for each segment, e.g. youth, community leaders and community members
12. Organize community forum for baseline collection
13. Consider the willingness of interviewees, the place of the interview and the confidentiality of the results for all types of interview

Involving youth in collecting information

1. Use image and activities of organization as motivator for participation of youth
2. Use existing youth leaders/ groups (if any) to help collection information from other youth in community including former drug users
3. Use personal contacts and organizational network to help increase participation of youth in data collection and then they will help us reach other youth
4. Build trust with youth that participates in data collection by reducing the age gap between coordinator and the youth, a friendly relationship and respect of each other
5. Use the following to increase youth's motivation and participation in data collection process:
 - Community history; future expectation towards the community; effect of substance abuse on the community; and, existing youth leaders as role models
 - Examples of youth leaders of other communities
6. Promise and strictly keep the confidentiality of the information that you received from youth
7. Give trust to the capacity of youth that participates in the data collection process
8. Use other existing activities to help reaching youth, building interest, increasing motivation and as reward for involving youth in the data collection process
9. Focus on youth volunteers
10. Provide training before data collection process as well as support for the whole process

Community mobilization

1. Use existing community leaders and networks to help do community mobilization
2. Use community activities such as religious and cultural events, community theatre, etc. as motivators for involving them in meetings
3. Invite representatives of all segments and groups to attend meetings
4. Organize meetings at times that are convenient for community members
5. Use the confidence towards your organization and staff in asking for collaboration and coordination for the meeting
6. Do not ignore people that do not agree with the project:
 - Invite these people to attend the meeting
 - Invite these people participate in the project
7. Use existing community forums or other meetings as opportunities for community mobilization
8. Do not use substance abuse problems as the entry point for discussion; use problems raised by community members instead
9. Coordinate and invite all agencies and groups in project committees
10. Use other communities as role models to help build motivation for participating in the project

Involving youth in planning process

Activities that help to involve youth

1. Use games, recreation, and community theater to help increase interest of youth in getting involved in the planning process
2. Mobilize youth ideas for the planning process through activities, games and community theater
3. Use timing after religious events/ activity hours/ free time in school as meeting opportunities for involving youth in the planning process
4. Provide motivation and incentives to youth for example food or prizes for youth sport games or support for youth to participate in training sessions organized by other agencies
5. Use activities to build self esteem among youth before asking them to provide input in the planning process

The role of youth in the planning process

1. Provide opportunities and freedom for youth to think and propose their ideas and activities
2. Use existing youth leaders to help persuade other youth to participate in the planning process
3. Use youth who are interested in this project and process to persuade other youth to participate in this process
4. The Project Coordinator should have a friendly personality, understand and accept nature of adolescents and respect each other

Involving community in planning

Concrete ways/ activities to involve different groups in planning

1. Coordinate with all type of leaders such as youth, formal and informal leaders, religious, volunteers, etc. in order to ask them to help mobilize community members for planning meetings
2. Use existing forums/ meetings in community as channels/ opportunities to promote and invite community members to planning meetings
3. Use other activities as entry point, e.g. training activities, religious and cultural events, existing community meetings, then organize planning meetings after these events
4. Use social sanction to manage with those who not collaborate
5. Use data related to substance abuse, such as the current situation, as motivation to bring community members to participate in planning meetings
6. To help persuade people to participate in planning meetings, invite powerful people or authorities as chairpersons and people who have direct experience such as mothers of drug users

Deal with mistrust and territoriality

1. Use existing relationships and trust of both the individual and the organization
2. Use both administrative and/ or religious powerful leaders to help coordinate
3. Provide importance to those who haven't agreed with this project as well as allocate responsibilities to them
4. Volunteer yourself or the organization to help various with types of work in the community, including referral services to make community members reach services (such as treatment)