

Regional Office for South Asia

Donors:



Netherlands



UK

YOUNG WOMEN: DRUGS AND HIV/AIDS

CHARCA: A joint United Nations project, CHARCA aims to strengthen existing interventions, promote best practices, encourage replication and scaling up, and bring about result oriented management of HIV/AIDS programs. The primary stakeholders are young women in the age group of 13-25 years in the CHARCA districts who are vulnerable because of poor access to resources including information, education and access to health and legal services. The project will empower young women to make decisions about their own lives. The secondary stakeholders include men, spouses, families, health providers, community and religious leaders, local organizations, media, politicians and policy makers. UNODC is the lead agency for CHARCA in Mizoram's erstwhile Aizawl district (Aizawl, Kolasib, Serchhip, Mamit and Champhai), since HIV in Aizawl is also drug related.

5 PILLARS OF CHARCA

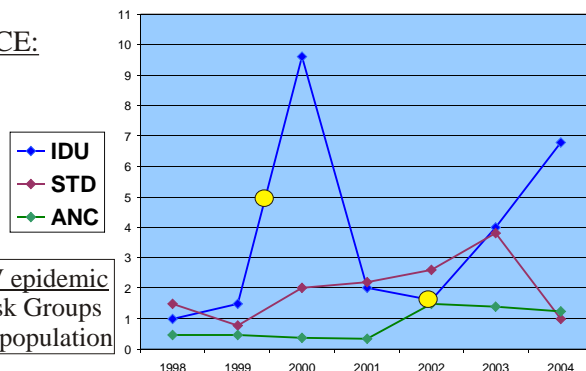
- 1) Awareness Building
- 2) Building Skills
- 3) Improving Services
- 4) Building Support structures
- 5) Creating enabling environment

CHARCA BASELINE FINDINGS

- The proportion of young women with at least one symptom of STI is much higher than those actually availing services.
- Misconceptions about the modes of HIV transmission is high.
- The awareness on condom use for HIV prevention is high.
- The proportion of young men aware of consistent condom use for protection against STIs is substantially higher than those who perceive it to protect against HIV/AIDS.
- 80 percent of young women reported abuse during the past year.

Source document : A commitment to Protect the 'Young & Vulnerable'" UNODC 2005

HIV PREVALENCE: MIZORAM



Source: NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) 2004

ACTIVITIES AS ON DECEMBER 2005

- Linking women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.
- Outreach through 182 peer educators (*Hian*) in three Pilot Districts.
- Working through the existing strong networks of community based organizations.
- Setting up community-based information centres (*Hmeichhe Buk*).
- Legal literacy training on rights of young women.
- Improving health services.

Source document : A commitment to Protect the 'Young & Vulnerable'" UNODC 2005



Peer Educators Champui and Mangili in the CHARCA office, Aizawl (Mizoram)

THE PEER EDUCATOR PROGRAM

- Provide accurate information on gender, drugs and HIV to women and adolescent.
- Develop a support group of women/ recovering users who are affected or infected in the area.
- Provide referral information and support to those in Need.
- Establish long term community based support mechanisms for families affected by drug abuse and HIV.
- Each Peer Educator/phian will form at least 2 Self Help Groups.



Champui talking to women in Salem Veng during her outreach