

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Regional Office for South Asia (UNODC ROSA) in partnership with UNAIDS, NORAD and SIDA, national counterparts and prominent non-governmental organisations in the countries of South Asia has just completed Project AD/RAS/02/G23 “Networking for reducing risk-taking behaviour related to HIV/AIDS amongst young drug users in South Asia”. The project aimed at creating an extraordinary response to prevention of substance abuse related HIV/AIDS in South Asia. The long-term objective of the project was to reduce risk-taking behaviour among young drug users. Small research initiatives in reducing risk-behaviour using peer-led interventions were supported by this project in 24 sites in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The project has based-lined knowledge, attitudes and practices of young drug users and used behaviour change communication and participatory learning and action methods in reducing risk-behaviour among young drug users. It also attempted to bridge the gap between substance users and service providers. To achieve this, the project team prepared an intervention toolkit consisting of a field manual explaining the steps in the intervention and two training manuals.

The Training of Trainers’ Manual for Peer-led Interventions focuses on training research agencies, trainers, peer outreach workers/ field workers engaged in the field trials. Reducing risk-taking behaviour among young drug users: Manual for training peer volunteers focuses on training current users in reducing their risk-taking behaviour. This document is the second of the two training manuals.

UNODC ROSA acknowledges the contribution of the authors, Dr Harinder S Sethi, and Dr Suruchi Pant in developing ‘Reducing risk-taking behaviour among young drug users: Manual for training peer volunteers’. This manual has been tested in about 1,200 drug users in the 24 intervention sites in South Asia. This field office would like to thank Dr N. M. Shreshta, Chief Specialist, HMG-Nepal Ministry of Health, Dr Nadeem-ur-Rehman, Programme Coordinator, UNODC Country Office Pakistan, and Mr Zakiur Rehman, Programme Officer, DU, FHI Bangladesh for peer-review of the Peer-led Intervention Protocol. This field office would also like to thank Dr Sun Gang, ICPD Adviser, UNAIDS South Asia Inter-Country Team, Dr Farah Usmani, Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Adviser, Country Technical Services Team for South and West Asia, UNFPA, and Dr Suresh Kumar, Consultant Psychiatrist, SAHAI Trust, India for peer-reviewing the Peer-led Intervention Toolkit of which this training manual is one component. Their suggestions have been incorporated in this manual.

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Preliminary results from field trials of this peer-led intervention design are encouraging in already having reduced risk-behaviour related to HIV/AIDS in young drug users in South Asia. UNODC ROSA will publish these findings in a forthcoming monograph.

This publication is a work in progress and is not intended to be the definitive statement on peer-led interventions for reducing risk-behaviour among young drug users. Drug use patterns, practices and risk behaviours of drug users change rapidly and UNODC continues to work with young people to identify effective methods of reducing risk behaviour. This publication has not been formally edited.