
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 RAS/G23 “Networking for reducing risk-taking behaviour related to HIV/AIDS amongst young drug users in South Asia”. In line with UNGASS goals, the project aimed to help the creation of an extraordinary response to prevent 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 for agencies engaged in reducing risk behaviour and two training manuals. The present document is the field manual of this toolkit.

The Training of Trainers’ Manual for Peer-led Interventions, used by resources persons, focuses on training research agencies, trainers, peer outreach workers/ field workers engaged in the field trials. The Manual for Training Peer Volunteers, used by trainers/field workers, focuses on training current users in reducing their risk-taking behaviour.

UNODC ROSA acknowledges the contribution of the authors, Dr Harinder S Sethi, Dr Atul Ambekar, Dr Suruchi Pant and Dr Rajat Ray in developing this Field Manual. This manual has been tested in training about 1,200 current users in 24 sites in South Asia where the peer-led interventions were fielded.

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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.