

# **GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON PRIMARY PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

## **ASSESSING AND PLANNING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AMONG YOUTH GOOD PRACTICE STATEMENTS FROM VIET NAM**



**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 Hanoi from 23 to 26 September 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 statements have been loosely ranked in order of importance. The following participated.

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# Collecting existing and new information

1. Existing information can be collected from reports of functioning departments, offices (i.e. monthly report of the management committee)
2. Collaborate with police force (local police, local military)
3. Organize meetings with the community, distribute and collect questionnaires
4. Meet and talk to ex-users
5. Organize festivals, fun activities with the participation of youth target groups
6. Use the self-governance youth team and public network (a team who often go out to talk with different people to get information) to collect information
7. Meet the target person and his/ her contacts directly
8. Encourage community members to report drug users/ crime through the mail
9. Meet with everyday community members (i.e. small tea shop-keepers on the street instead of landlords who are more difficult to obtain information from)
10. Understand the target group so that it's easy to get access to get information
11. Meet with local mass organizations
12. Organize group meetings according to age groups so that it's easy to talk to each other
13. Use interviews
14. Distribute questionnaires to collect information
15. Observe the target group

# Involve youth in collecting information

1. Create an emotional link, attract the youth target group's friendliness by being close to them, talking with them, express our feeling to them to break the distance with them
2. Ensure anonymous for the people who provide information
3. The supporters (project partners, Youth Union staff) must set an example by leading a good and healthy life
4. Use Youth target groups to involve other target group
5. Collect primary data and analyze it to come to conclusion to focus on a target group which has a lot of free time
6. Advocate the benefit of information that they provide
7. Organize activities according to their interest
8. Do as promised to the youth target group to establish trust
9. Collaborate with other officers, departments and organizations to mobilize people for collecting information.
10. Sacrifice a bit to gain their trust

## **Mobilize the community**

1. Present to the communist party and local authority on the importance of the prevention activity, and to collaborate with departments, offices and organizations
2. Highly appreciate the role of individuals, groups when they participate in activities
3. Be open, willing to compromise our ideas and other' ideas for a better relationship
4. School children and university students are easy to mobilize because they have a lot of tied relationships, because they have their responsibility, enthusiasms and benefit
5. Provide room for the community to be active by giving them orientation so that they are able to plan and make decision, encourage them to participate in the organization of activities.
6. Together with Youth Union, invite students living in the area to participate in activities
7. Strengthen capacity for the community in prevention activities

## **Involve youth in planning**

1. Talk to youth about the aim of a planning exercise so that they will understand the importance of a planning exercise
2. Highly appreciate ideas of youth and encourage them to be active in the planning exercise
3. Raise different activities for youth to select
4. Provide Youth Union members with information prior to the planning process so that they understand and be able to participate in the planning process
5. Divide participants into groups to discuss and get contributions from everyone
6. Through meetings and festivals, collect ideas from individuals or groups
7. Use loud speakers to invite Youth Union members to participate in planning exercise or go to their home to invite them directly
8. Youth advise for the planning group so that the plan is realistic and feasible
9. Establish groups according to gender and age to develop plan
10. The planning process must be suitable with youth to attract them

# Involve the community in planning

1. Meet directly with the communist party, local authority and mass organizations to talk to them about aims, significance of the planning process
2. Need to identify the roles and responsibilities of the community to involve them in planning
3. Develop draft plan and distribute to mass organizations who will participate in the planning process to get comments
4. If someone wants to involve the community in the planning process, he needs to contact them regularly to get better understanding about feelings, thoughts, wishes in different age and gender group
5. Clarify the relationship, responsibility and right of organizations and institutions when they participate in the planning activities
6. Communicate directly with the head of groups which are far away the centre of the commune
7. Learn skills on how to mobilize people from other social organizations
8. Through monthly meeting of mass organizations, report the situation to them in order for them to influence the community
9. When social organizations participate in planning exercises, they will propose activities which are most relevant to them
10. Need to involve mass organizations such as Women Union, Veterans Union, Farmers Union, interest groups to participate in the planning exercise