

Report: Three days Training of Trainers Workshop for DICs' Staff on "HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Services to Drug Users"

Implemented by: UNODC Iran

Date: Feb 28-Mar 1 2010

Venue: Conference Hall of Pardisan Hotel, Mashad

Opening:

This three-day training on "HIV/AIDS prevention and care services to drug users" was conducted by UNODC Iran on Feb 28- Mar 1 2011 under Project XWWK05 "Sub regional project (Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan) for provision of comprehensive HIV prevention and care services to drug users". Participants from the offices of Tehran and Mashad of State Welfare Organization, Shahid Beheshti Medical University, Mashad Medical University, and the service providers from 6 selected Drop-in Centers from Tehran and Mashad provinces were trained on Harm Reduction, Antiretroviral Treatment, and Sexual Transmitted Disorders through power point presentation and group working. (See annex I).

Day One

In the first session of the workshop, Dr. Setareh Mohsenifar, UNODC National HIV/AIDS Advisor, introduced briefly the project and delivered speech on "HIV/AIDS situation in Iran". Referring to HIV/AIDS statistics, she pointed out the importance of provision of services to drug users.

In the beginning of the second session, Dr. Shirazi facilitated "effectiveness of Harm Reduction". He mentioned that the main purpose of Drop-in Centers is to strengthen referral system. He also gave explanations on Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT), Condom Distribution, and Harm Reduction in prison settings. During the session, the facilitator conducted a role playing on VCT. The session was conducted in an interactive way and Dr. Shirazi answered many questions raised by the participants.

Ms. Li, Head of UNHCR office in Mashad, delivered speech on "harm reduction and HIV/AIDS among immigrants" as the last speaker of the first day. Pointing out the existence of 1 million registered and 2 million illegal refugees in Iran, especially in Mashad, Golestan, and Birjand provinces, she referred to the dire need to provide prevention and harm reduction services to these vulnerable groups. Referring to the great capacity of Afghan community in Iran, she pointed out the importance of their involvement and coordination in the project. At the end, she expressed her gratitude to Iranian government to host many Afghan refugees.

Day Two

In the first session of the second day, after reviewing the previous day discussions, Dr. Shirazi, elaborated the topic of establishment a DIC and the outreach team. He emphasized the importance of the DIC and outreach staff's proper manner with the clients. The participants were divided into 3 groups and were asked to discuss and share advantages and disadvantages of working with drug users.

Dr. Setareh Mohsenifar trained the participants on the essentials of Needle and Syringes Programme (NSP). Through a group working, she discussed the reasons of decreasing the number of clients for NSP in DICs and the solutions to solve this problem.

The third session of the second day focused on Opioid Substance Treatment (OST), was facilitated by Dr. Ramin Radfar, drug expert. Dividing the participants into 2 groups, they shared their opinion on advantages, disadvantages, and the availability of Methadone.

Day Three

The third session was begun by Anti Retroviral Treatment (ARV) topic which was explained by Dr. Radfar. Through PowerPoint presentation, he trained the participants on the process and side effects of ARV for HIV positive drug users.

Dr. Shirazi was the second speaker who elaborated "Sexual Transmitted Disorders (STD) and Blood-Borne Virus (BBV) Diseases". He discussed the symptoms and treatment of such diseases.

The last session of the workshop focused on "Condom Distribution and Safe Sex". Dr. Shirazi demonstrated correct method of male and female condoms use. Safe sex is one of the most efficient methods to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission, he added.

The workshop was adjourned by the speech of Dr. Setareh Mohsenifar expressing her gratitude to the participants and hoping the success of the project.