

HIV/AIDS in China: Some New Development

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Wen Jiabao in Ditan Hospital December 1st 2003



"four free's"

- Wen said China would step up education and prevention efforts, and pledged what state media dubbed the "four free's": free treatment for people with HIV or AIDS, free anonymous AIDS testing, free drugs to ensure pregnant women do not transmit the virus to their children and free schooling for orphans whose parents died from AIDS.

Wu Yi in Wenlou Village December 2003



Madam Wu also met with Dr Gao Yaojie last year



Clinton with Song Pengfei in the AIDS/SARS summit



New culture revolution: going to the countryside



Care & Love Home was closed after media shows



Care & Love Home closed



Transparency

1. Article 23 of the Law on the Control and Prevention of Infectious Diseases clearly demands that the government publish information on infectious diseases.
2. The State Secrets Law contains no provisions relating to health information. Moreover, in 1999, the Ministry of Health issued a notice to all provincial health departments stating very clearly that AIDS-related information is not a state secret.
3. I believe there is no fundamental legal barrier or policy that prohibits publication of information related to HIV/AIDS and other health information.
4. Unfortunately, in the past few years, and most recently with SARS, the Chinese government has covered-up important health-related information, including, of course, AIDS related information.

Blood scandal

1. The essentially nationwide blood-sales related AIDS epidemic became known to the central government (among others) in the mid-1990s, but it was only in December 2002 that the former Minister of Health, Zhang Wenkang, reported to the National People's Congress that the blood sales related AIDS epidemic was present in 23 provinces. The Chinese government has not informed the public which provinces and which counties are affected. It has said, however, that in many of these affected areas, the HIV infection rate among blood donors is 10-20%, and in some it's as high as 60%.

**Speech by Executive Vice Minister of Health,
Mr. Gao Qiang, at the HIV/AIDS High-level Meeting
of the UN General Assembly (09/22/2003)**

- Faced with the arduous tasks of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, the Chinese government considers itself highly responsible for public health and safety. We will intensify our work, strengthen the prevention and treatment measures and be determined to contain the prevalence and spread of HIV/AIDS.

Gao Qiang on government's role

- First, we will strengthen government efforts to fulfill the responsibility. The Chinese government has considered HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment an important task. We will further clarify the targets, identify the responsibilities and improve evaluation, supervision and monitoring. Should there be any HIV/AIDS spread caused by ineffective work, we will hold the person or department in charge accountable for the negligence.

Gao Qiang on Free Treatment

- Second, the Chinese government is committed to provide free treatment and medicines to HIV/AIDS patients who are in economic difficulties. This program will cover low-income HIV/AIDS patients in urban areas and all patients in rural areas. Moreover, the central and local governments will invest more than 10 billion yuan to strengthen the medical assistance system to people suffering from infectious diseases and train people to conduct professional HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Gao Qiang on legal problems

- Third, we will improve the laws and regulations and intensify the intervention on dangerous behaviors. Public awareness campaigns will be launched, educating the public and encouraging them to participate in the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts. Illegal acts like drug trafficking, drug use, prostitution and illegal blood collecting and supplying will be cracked down while drug-free community and healthy sexual life will be promoted.

Gao Qiang on rights protection

- Fourth, we will protect the legitimate rights of HIV/AIDS patients and oppose social discrimination against them. In all the 124 counties where the Chinese “care” project will be established, integrated measures including antiretroviral treatment, care and life assistance will be adopted. The government will provide economic aid to HIV/AIDS patients living in poverty and their children will be tuition-free students.

Gao Qiang on international cooperation

- Fifth, we will be more active in international cooperation. The HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in China have received concern and support from the international community, to whom I hereby express our heartfelt appreciation on behalf of the Chinese government. We welcome the continued financial and technical support from the governments of the nations and the international organizations.

Gao Qiang on Global Fund and UN Millennium Declaration

- Meanwhile, the Chinese government is ready to be active in the global fight against HIV/AIDS and fulfill its responsibilities and obligations. We have pledged USD\$10 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts of developing countries, fulfill the development goals of the UN Millennium Declaration and contribute to the early control of HIV/AIDS prevalence and realization of the global HIV/AIDS control objective.

China Care Project

- The China Care project, which has been established in 51 counties of China, encompassing extensive and comprehensive prevention and treatment measures such as health education, behavior intervention, antiretroviral treatment, consulting and care. The whole country is now developing the HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment mechanism featuring government leadership, multi-sector cooperation and **public participation**.

Treatment

- The goal of China National Action Plan is 50% of people with HIV/AIDS got treatment by the end of 2002
- By the end of 2002, about 400 people with HIV/AIDS got antiviral therapy in China
- Domestic production of generic drugs
- 20 million Yuan annually for the treatment of farmers with HIV/AIDS
- About 3,000 people got antiviral therapy in Henan & other provinces since this year

Prevention & education

- 100% condom program has been implemented in some cities
- Harm reduction program has been introduced in some places

China Care Program

- Involve 11 provinces and 51-100 counties where there are blood caused HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Combine prevention, treatment and care
- Community based or government dominated?
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation
- Lack of information transparency
- Lack of human rights protection

Community Based Organizations

- Gay & lesbian hotlines and websites
- Women's involvement
- Faith-based organizations
- People with HIV/AIDS
- Student involvement
- Supporting children
- Marginalized situation of drug users, sex workers and migrant workers

Human Rights Records

- Detention & investigation of activists
- Police raid against farmers with HIV/AIDS
- Restriction of freedom of moving
- Cover-up of HIV/AIDS crisis
- Media censorship
- Restriction of NGO development
- Criminalization of sex work & drug use

爱知行动

www.aizhi.org

- Legal & human rights education
- Policy study
- Support the children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
- Support community based activism
- Information & education

Future plans

- HIV/AIDS related Human rights monitoring and education
- HIV/AIDS education in target populations
- Harm reduction for people who use drugs (pending)
- Supporting children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
- Supporting community based organizations
- Supporting student involvement
- Policy study and advocacy

Impact on Children/Orphans

- By the year 2010, 260,000 orphans will be left by parents who died of AIDS. (China CDC, August 2002)
- In many villages of Henan, hundreds of children lost one or two parents. (AIZHI project, August 2002)
- We think the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS is much higher than that predicted by China CDC

Organizations and people who care (1)

- 河南睢县东关村感染者互助组（河南）
- 河南上蔡县后杨村艾滋孤儿学前班（河南）
- 河南上蔡县文楼村艾滋孤儿帮助项目（河南）
- 联合国儿童基金会（北京）
- 国际拯救儿童会（北京、云南和西藏）
- 中国儿童发展基金会（北京）
- 中国计划生育协会（北京）
- 北京爱知行健康教育研究所（北京）
- 东珍艾滋孤儿项目（北京）
- 红树林（北京）
- 121联合大行动（北京）
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Organizations and people who care (2)

- 国际扶轮社（北京）
- 救世军（北京）
- 中国性病艾滋病防治基金会（北京）
- 爱德基金会（南京、香港）
- 爱之关怀（广州）
- 美中艾滋病联盟（美国）
- 中国艾滋孤儿基金会（美国）
- 爱心基金会（美国）
- 智行基金会（香港）
- 香港天主教正义和平委员会（香港）
- 德兰修女组织香港分部（香港）
- 台湾中途之家（台湾）
- 高耀洁（河南）、桂西恩（武汉）
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Children left

