

Internal Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project

Conducted by Ghana Office : January, 2014

Country Name	The Project for HIV and AIDS Prevention through Education (HAPE Project)										
Republic of Ghana											
I Project Outline											
Background	<p>In the Republic of Ghana (Ghana), HIV prevalence for the aged between 15 to 24 years old had been increasing from 1.9% to 2.6% for the period of the year 2003 to 2007. It had been the major issues for Ghana to prevent new infection among the youth. The Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC) which was established under the direct supervision of the President had been taking the lead to tackle HIV and AIDS, promoting multi-sectorial approaches, as there was a concern that the proper knowledge on HIV/AIDS had not been spread among people. According to the Ghana Population and Health Survey (2003), the level of awareness for the people on HIV/AIDS is quite high, showing 99% for men and 98% for women. However, only 38% of those men and women together have the proper knowledge on HIV/AIDS. In case of the Ashanti region and Eastern region, which have marked the highest HIV prevalence of the country, where the facilities of VCT/PMTCT (*) have been well established; only few people have voluntarily used those facilities. Under these circumstances, it has become imperative to disseminate the proper information and knowledge on HIV/AIDS - VCT/PMCT, and to improve the accessibilities of social services that will promote to raise awareness and to change behavior of those young generation toward HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>*VCT: Voluntary counseling and testing PMTCT: Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission</p>										
Objectives of the Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall Goal : High risk behaviours among the youth in the target districts are reduced. 2. Project Purpose : The awareness about the risk of infecting HIV and STIs among the youth (Aged 10 -24) and the social environment to reduce youth high risk behaviours are created in the target communities. 3. Logical flow of how the project responses to development issues¹ : ①Dissemination of knowledge on HIV /AIDS prevention through mass media, ②Promotion of service utilization on HIV/AIDS Prevention, ③Through the establishment of proper mechanism to prevent HIV/AIDS involving the various stakeholders such as schools and communities, young generations will become fully aware of risk on HIV/AIDS and the social environment to promote them to avoid high risk behaviors are created. As a result, high risk behaviors on HIV/AIDS are reduced among youth in the target communities. 										
Project Information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project site : Accra city、 Eastern region (one city and five districts)、 Ashanti region (one city and three districts) 2. Main activities : (following activities were carried out by local NGO "PPAG" with the Japanese assistance) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ①Development of education materials on BCC/IEC (*) manuals and guidelines, ②implementation of awareness raising activities using dramas and films, ③information dissemination on medical services , such as VCT/PMTCT services, ④holding PMC meetings at the target communities, ⑤ implementation of training for peer education, ⑥net-workings among various stakeholders, ⑦ HIV/AIDS prevention through education for school teachers and related stakeholders, ⑧ implementation of trainings, ⑨implementation of trainings on administrators (those in charge at DAs) <p>* PPAG: Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana, BCC: Behavior Change Communication / IEC: Information, Education and Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Inputs <table border="0" data-bbox="323 1491 1559 1682"> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1491 798 1525">Japanese Side</td> <td data-bbox="798 1491 1559 1525">Ghanaian Side</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1525 798 1559">(1) Experts:2 for Long term</td> <td data-bbox="798 1525 1559 1559">(1) Counterpart:4 persons</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1559 798 1592">(2) Trainees received: 2 persons</td> <td data-bbox="798 1559 1559 1592">(2) Land and facilities: Project Office, Utilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1592 798 1682">(3) Equipment: Vehicles, Audio-visual aids, Generator, Computers, Office Equipment</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 			Japanese Side	Ghanaian Side	(1) Experts:2 for Long term	(1) Counterpart:4 persons	(2) Trainees received: 2 persons	(2) Land and facilities: Project Office, Utilities	(3) Equipment: Vehicles, Audio-visual aids, Generator, Computers, Office Equipment	
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Project Period	October 2005 – September 2009	Project Cost	297 million yen								
Implementing Agency	Ghana AIDS Commission (GAC)、 District Assembly (DA)										
Cooperation Agency in Japan	None										
Related Projects	<p><u>Japan's cooperation :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers : Dispatch of 27 JOCVs to the target regions in the field of communicable disease control (2005~2009) • Provision of Medical Equipment (equipment for HIV AIDS · Blood Test) amounting for 78.8 million yen(2004~2009) • Group Training Course on HIV AIDS and Reproductive Health in Japan : 7 persons (2007- 2009) • Collaboration with Sony Corporation (June to July in 2009) : BCC/IEC related events for youth and community people were carried out using equipment provided by Sony 										

¹ Reviewed at the time of the ex-post evaluation.

Other donors' cooperation :

- WHO: Care& Support,
- UNAIDS: Technical assistance (coordination of UN agencies and other donors in the field of HIV/AIDS)
- World Bank : Ghana Multi- Sectoral HIV/AIDS Program
- UNICEF: Formulation and implementation of PMTCT, OVC
- USAID: Assistance toward NGOs who carry out the preventive care and supports for HIV/AIDS
- Netherland : Establishment of VCT/PMTCT center

II Result of the Evaluation

1 Relevance

This project has been highly relevant with Ghanaian's development policy "(e.g. the importance of HIV and AIDS Prevention through Education as set in the National HIV&AIDS Strategic Plan (2011-2015) and National HIV, AIDS STI Policy (2013)), development needs, "(e.g. assistance toward youth on the prevention of HIV AIDS)", as well as Japan's ODA policy "Japan's Country Assistance Program for Ghana (2005)", at the time of both ex-ante evaluation and project completion.

Therefore, relevance of this project is high.

2 Effectiveness/Impact

This project focuses on promoting the awareness raised on the risk of HIV/AIDS among youth of target communities, and the reduction of their high risk behaviors. The achievement level of the project purpose was examined by four indicators as described in the table below².

According to the interviews with the field officers of PPAG and those officers in charge of HIV/AIDS at District Assemblies (DAs) during the field study, it was confirmed that the indicator 1) had been already achieved at the terminal evaluation and has been further progressed after the project completion. No relevant data was available for the indicator 2), however, it is assumed that the number of youth who has referred to the health services has been increasing as the number of CHPS (Community-Based Health Planning & Services) facilities³ was increased after the initiation of the project. As for indicator 3), it is also readily assumed that the number of youth who has positive attitude toward PLHIV has increased as the awareness raising activities at the target hospitals have been continued. At the Bekwai District Hospital, the awareness raising activities, which focuses on how to use condoms, how to deal with prejudice against HIV/AIDS and STDs and discourse on health issues, have been carried out every week with the participants of 100 to 200. As for the indicator 4), the mechanisms for youth to avoid high risk behavior has been somewhat established. Currently, the GAC at the central level coordinates and monitors the progress of activities for the youth to avoid high risk behaviors. And the District Sustainable Plan, which was developed at the terminal evaluation for the purpose of continuing the activities, has now been carried out and vehicles procured by the project to the DAs have been well utilized to implement activities. (In some area, the District Sustainable Plan has not been implemented due to the budget shortage). At the New Juaben city, the group discussion or film showings have been continuously carried out by field officers in collaboration with coordinators of SHED (School Health Education Program). There are, however, some concerns that film showings and the renewal of films have been suspended as some members of newly formed drama group left for Accra.

The achievement level of Overall Goal is examined by four indicators as described in the table. As for the indicator 1), the progress has already shown at the time of project completion. The HIV prevalence for New Juaben city has decreased from 6.4% in 2005 to 5.8% at the project completion in 2009 and to 3.0% at the ex-ante evaluation in 2012. As for indicator 2) to 4), no relevant data were available at the time of ex-ante evaluation, but some progresses have been confirmed at the project completion as described in the table.

In summary, although the achievement levels at the ex-ante evaluation have not been fully examined as some data were not available, the project has partially achieved its objectives as the awareness about the risk of infecting HIV and STIs among the youth of target communities have increased to some extent, and the social environment which promotes the youth to avoid the high risk behaviors has been gradually created.

Therefore, the effectiveness /impact of the project is fair.

Achievement of Project Purpose and Overall Goal

Aim	Indicators	Results
(Project Purpose) The awareness about the risk of infecting HIV and STIs among the youth (Aged 10 -24) and the social environment to reduce youth high risk behaviours are created in the target	1) Number of youth who had HIV test is increased by 20% from the year 2005.	<u>Project completion(*):</u> Achieved. The percentage of those youth who had HIV test was increased from 6.5% (2005) to 11.7 %(2009), which contributed to more than 80% increase in comparison with that of baseline (2005). According to the data in Bekwai DA, 655 youth received HIV test in 2008 (2.63% of total youth population) and the number increased to 1,479 in 2009 (5.78%) <u>Ex-post evaluation:</u> In Bekwai District, the number of youth who received HIV test increased to 1,981 in 2010(7.54%) and the number in 2012 was recorded as 1,612(5.82%) which showed slight decrease. ⁴ In comparison with that of 2008, the number was more than doubled.

² The field study at the ex-ante evaluation was only targeted to one city (New Juaben City) and one district (Bekwai District) as a sample. Therefore, the result of the field study does not represent the whole population.

³ This means the Community- Based Health Planning & Services provided by the field health professionals stationed at DAs who can also provide the VCT services.

⁴ According to those in charge of Bekwai DA, the reason of slight decrease in 2012 is due to that not all of relevant data were reflected to these figures as some quarterly report were not submitted by the deadline.

communities.	2) Number of youth who has referred to health service is increased by 20% from the year 2005.	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : Mostly achieved based on the quarterly report. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : According to those officers in charge of HIV/AIDS prevention at New Juaben city, the number of youth who has been referred to the health services on family planning and reproductive health services has been increasing as two CHPS facilities was newly constructed after the initiation of the project.
	3) Number of youth who has positive attitude toward PLHIV is increased by 20% from the year 2005.	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : Mostly achieved. The number of youth who has positive attitude toward PLHIV, which were examined through five questionnaires, has been increased by 18% in average from the year 2005. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : According to those officers who are in charge of HIV/AIDS prevention in DAs, the number of youth who has positive attitude toward PLHIV has been increasing as a result of continuous activities of awareness raising, such as Heart to Heart campaign conducted at Bekwai District hospital after the project completion.
	Supplemental indicator 1) The social environment or mechanisms established (or strengthened) by the project, which fosters youth in the target communities to avoid high risk behaviors	<u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : GAC monitors and coordinates the works by NGOs on BCC/IEC, such as group discussions and service delivery for youth. Awareness raised on HIV/AIDS has been progressed through discussions on radio and film showing at the communities. There are some concerns, however, that film showings and the renewal of films have been suspended as some members of newly formed drama group left for Accra.
(Overall Goal) High risk behaviours among the youth in the target districts are reduced.	1) HIV prevalence aged between 15-24 (15-19, 20-24)	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : The HIV prevalence in average for three target districts was decreased from 3.8% (2005) to 2.1%(2008), which has come closer to the national average of 1.8%. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : The HIV prevalence for New Juaben city was decreased from 6.4% in 2005 to 5.8% in 2009, and 3.0% in 2012.
	2) Number of youth who report consistent condom use in the past 6 months is increased by 20% from the result of the baseline survey.	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : The Proportion of youth who report consistent condom use in the past 6 months was increased 6.3% from the result of the base line survey. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : Relevant data was not available. However, it was confirmed that New Juaben city has continuously carried out awareness raising activities for the youth to avoid high risk behaviors by warning that they are put in danger, especially during Christmas and Valentine seasons when they tend to take risk behavior.
	3) Median age at first sex remains as same as result of the baseline survey.	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : Achieved. Median age at first sex was mostly unchanged from 16.8 to 16.77 years old from the baseline survey. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : Data was not available.
	4) Number of youth who had sex with non-regular partner is decreased by 20% from result of the baseline survey.	<u>Project completion(*)</u> : The proportion was changed from 33.7% at the baseline to 26.8% at the project completion which accounts for the decrease by 20.5% from the result of baseline survey. <u>Ex-post evaluation</u> : Data was not available.

Source : The result of interview toward those in charge of HIV/AIDS in DAs and field officers of local NGO (PPAG)
(*)Based on the data at the terminal evaluation

3 Efficiency

While the inputs were appropriate for producing the outputs of the project and the project period was within the plan, the project cost was significantly higher than the plan because of the procurement of mini-buses for all ten districts in order to continue the activities based on the District Sustainable Plan. (Ratio against the plan: 100% and 166% respectively)
Therefore, efficiency of this project is fair.

4 Sustainability

As for the policy aspect, there has been the established support from government in terms of HIV and AIDS prevention through education toward youth, as the government of Ghana has promoted the importance of such education using mass media as set for "National HIV, AIDS STI Policy (2013)" and has developed the related strategy for HIV/AIDS prevention.

As for the institutional aspects, there has been a clear institutional arrangement in which GAC as the key institution to coordinate and to monitor the activities under the HIV/AIDS prevention through education, while NGOs and DAs have carried out grass-route activities according to the national plan and to report the progress to GAS. As for the awareness raising activities, GES (Ghana health services) has now collaborated with junior high schools.

As for the technical aspects, those in charge of HIV/AIDS at DAs and NGOs have sufficiently acquired the knowledge and skills through project activities and have now been able to conduct the trainings on BCC/IEC by themselves. Those knowledge and skills acquired through project activities have been introduced to other areas through the Regional Coordination Committee (RCC). The educational materials on BCC/IEC, manuals, guideline and BCC strategic manuals have still been utilized at schools and DAs. There are some concerns that film showings and the renewal of films have been suspended as some members of newly formed drama group left for Accra. However, there have been no problems reported after the project completion. As for the financial aspect, the budget of HIV/AIDS awareness raised at Bekwai District has increased, such that GHC 1,678 in 2010 to GHC 2,560 in 2013. While, in the New Jouben City, the budget of same



Minibus procured by the project (New Jouben city)

kind has decreased from GHC 3,840 to GHC 965. Due to the insufficient budget, some of activities under the Sustainable District Plan have not been carried out after the project completion. As no external funds from other donors have utilized, some attempts have been made to generate the fuel cost by squeezing the routine activities when the activities have become stagnant. The proportion of budget allocation of HIV/AIDS activities in the total budget of DAs has been reduced from 1% to 0.5% and the educational activities on HIV/AIDS have been downscaled. It is presumed that the prospect of financial sustainability is somewhat uncertain. Therefore, the sustainability of this project is fair.

※GHC :Ghana Cedi (local currency of Ghana) 1 GHC=US\$0.44 (November in 2013)

5 Summary of the Evaluation

This project has partially achieved its objectives to create awareness about the risk of infecting HIV and STIs and the social environment to reduce youth high risk behaviours in the target communities. According to the field study of selected one city and one districts, the awareness of youth about the said risk has been increased to some extent, and social environment to encourage the risk-adverse behaviour has gradually been created. However, the achievement level is somewhat limited for the continuing mechanism to sustain the effect of the project. As for the sustainability, the concern was pointed out in the financial aspects. As for the efficiency, the project cost was exceeded the plan.

In light of the above, the evaluation of the project is partially satisfactory.

III Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Recommendations for Implementation agency :

Currently, proportion of budget allocation of HIV/AIDS activities from DAs has been reduced from 1% to 0.5% and the educational activities on HIV/AIDS has been downscaled which might affect the achievement. Therefore, it is necessary for DAs to effectively secure the budget allocation from District Assembly Common Fund managed by the Common Fund Administrator. For that, DAs should prepare the effective proposal in order to obtain the funds to implement activities of HIV/AIDS prevention through education.

Lessons learned for JICA :

Some activities of the project were contracted out to the local NGO, PPAG. After the project completion, in New Juaben city, which was one of the target areas of the field study of ex-post evaluation, the project officer of PPAG has continued activities as the government staff under DA. While, in Bekwai District, which was also the target area of the field study of ex-post evaluation, the project officer of PPAG moved to other NGO and his successor of government staff under DA was also transferred to other position. Therefore, activities under this DA have been carried out by the newly assigned officer. Sustainability of the project could have been much higher if project activities had been well integrated into daily routine as well as the capacity development of government officer on HIV had effectively been carried out during the project period.

Therefore, in order to sustain the effect by the project in the similar project, it is recommended that the project activities should be effectively incorporated into the routine work during the project period.