

## Sexual and reproductive health for youth, Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Fondation PH SUISSE – About Us

Fondation PH Suisse – *Partnerships in Health* supports the sustainable improvement of health systems in low and middle income countries through health education and training. In partnership with ministries of health, and local and international agencies and experts, *Partnerships in Health* provides local health care professionals with training, education, and modern health care equipment to improve the quality of health services for women, children, families and communities in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



### Sexual and reproductive health for youth – about the Program

In response to the tremendous health care needs related to sexual and reproductive health in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to support the national health care reform and poverty reduction strategy (PRSP), *Partnerships in Health* as a partner of the *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*, has been implementing a project on sexual and reproductive health for youth. This project, which started in 2006 and is planned through 2008, has three main objectives:



*Advocacy workshops for information and medical centres, Banja Luka, November 2006*

1. To improve the access and the quality of health services within the health sector reform by developing youth friendly, client-oriented and gender-sensitive medical services for sexual and reproductive health - four medical centres are providing free reproductive health services for young people in Bihać, Banja Luka, Mostar and Brčko.

2. To strengthen the capacities of educators, health professionals and NGOs to work with peer educators on the needs related to the sexual and reproductive health of young people and vulnerable population - Information centres gather and train peer educators who inform their peers in BiH about sexual and reproductive health topics, HIV and AIDS transmission and promote the use of condoms.

3. To improve the capacities of health institutions to offer services on contraception and post-abortion care - Our partner, the NGO XY, conducted working groups which developed guidelines for pre and post abortion counselling and guidelines for safe abortion service delivery.

## Programme Achievements

The great success of 2008 was reaching double the population of students compared to previous years.

Information Centre activities and results:

- 305 peer presentations given at primary, secondary, grammar, economic and technical schools; youth centres and student dorms
- 6249 youths reached
- 43 Community events attended by 12,625 participants
- One-to-one sessions at information centres
- Female clients were double those of male - 563 female to 254 male
- 97 follow-up referrals to medical centres numbered 97 for counseling, contraception advice or gynaecological examination
- Media awareness events - web presentations and TV promotions
- Month long “Creative development for children and “youth” event in Banja Luka City
- Over 4,000 condoms given out Centres, during presentations and events
- 1,804 leaflets, brochures, stickers and posters distributed

Role play training for peer educators, Bihać, November 2006

## The Next Steps

The program aims at developing its network of information and medical centres working on the promotion of sexual and reproductive health in other towns of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to develop the peer education network all over the country.



## How You Can Help

Any level of financial support is appreciated for additional programme components.

## Programme Partners

- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Youth Peer Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Democracy Center “Nove Nade”, Bihać
- OKC “Abrasević”, Mostar
- OC “Vermont”, Brčko
- Kastel Zdravo Da Ste, Banja Luka
- Association for reproductive health XY
- Primary health care center Bihać
- Primary health care center Banja Luka
- Primary health care center Brčko
- Center for mother and child Mostar



Peer educators with poster, 2007

## Communication

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