

Record Attendance at Balkans HIV and AIDS Conference



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
 COOPERATION AGENCY

... because health is a human right

On October 5 and 6, 2006, more than 150 participants from the Western Balkans countries, Europe, and Thailand met in Pržno, Montenegro, to discuss ways to increase the collaboration between the health sector and other sectors in the fight against HIV. The content of this second regional conference, organized by Fondation PH Suisse – *Partnerships in Health* (FPH) with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), was developed with the input and strong encouragement of the partners in the region.

Building *Multisectoral Partnership for Building Resilience* is becoming a key priority in the Balkans as infection rates continue to rise steadily, and case characteristics indicate that the epidemic has moved beyond the initial high risk groups (mobile workers, injecting drug users, sex workers, and gays) to the general population. Furthermore, stigma and discrimination against People Living with HIV (PLHIV) prevail in the health and other sectors and prevent a coordinated and effective response.



This two-day conference was supported additionally by **UNAIDS, SDC, WHO, UNDP, and Mahidol University, Thailand**. Case studies of mainstreaming HIV and AIDS into the strategies and work of non-health sectors were shared by the participants. The keynote speech by Dr. David Feingold, International Coordinator for HIV/AIDS and Trafficking, emphasized the importance of cultural factors in HIV transmission and prevention. Research approaches to more effectively reach high risk groups were shared by presenters from Mahidol University. To demonstrate how the involvement of primary care providers in HIV prevention and diagnosis can be improved, FPH shared its training approach and results of reducing stigma and discrimination and increasing HIV knowledge in more than 3'500 primary care providers during the past year in four countries (Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro).

A further highlight was the interactive session with representatives from marginalized populations — for most of them it was the first time they addressed an international forum. The PLHIV presented their needs and next steps, based on the outcomes of a regional PLHIV consultation supported by FPH in September 2006. A former injecting drug user, a sailor, truck driver, victim of trafficking, and gay individual freely shared details of their life stories, concerns, and recommendations for the health and other sectors.

Bosnian Youth Benefit from Improved Reproductive Health Information and Services



In response to the sexual and reproductive health information and care needs of youth in Bosnia-Herzegovina, *Partnerships in Health* and the *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA) entered a partnership to provide education and youth-friendly services.

Surveys were completed at the beginning and end of 2005 in 4 towns. The results showed an increase in the knowledge of youth during the work of peer educators and youth-friendly health services and an increase in the number of young people using the medical services compared to 2005.

In 2006, the following results were achieved with Ministry of Health youth-friendly clinics and local NGO implementation partners:

Medical centers, in cooperation with information centers, organized four promotional workshops for peer education standards and school peer clubs, and four workshops for medical professionals on HIV/ AIDS and sexual and reproductive health.

290 peer presentations at schools, universities and information centers reaching more than **8'500** young people

8'500 brochures on sexual and reproductive health distributed

22'600 male and **800** female condoms have been distributed by information centers and **2036** contraceptive packets have been distributed by medical centers

1265 young women and men from 10 to 25 years old have visited our free and anonymous medical centers

248 sexual and transmitted infections treated.



Holistic Approach to Diabetes Care and Prevention

Canada



Diabetes is one of the most costly and devastating chronic diseases for the patient, the family, and the health care system. In partnership with the canton Sarajevo and with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Medtronic Foundation, FPH is improving the prevention and treatment of this disease.

During 2006, 12 multi-disciplinary teams consisting of diabetologists, family medicine, physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers have trained 151 medical providers in cantonal health clinics to help improve patient education about the disease, counseling and treatment.



On November 14, World Diabetes Day, with equipment and supply contributions from Roche Diagnostics, NovoNordisk, Oktal Pharma, Bakersfield, Roche and 442 individuals were screened, 30% of these had higher glucose levels, and 11 people were diagnosed with full blown diabetes.

Because of the great success, screenings will continue for a whole month at established hours in each of the 12 participating ambulatory clinics.

Dr. Zaim, Head of the Family Physician Association, stated that this program has significantly contributed to the improvement of referrals between specialists and family doctors. "Because of this project and the joint training we participated in, I have now established a good relationship with the diabetologist. I recently referred one of my diabetic patients to him, and we are managing this patient as a team."

Family Medicine Project Transferred to Local Entity

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), together with the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) and FPH, has been supporting the Bosnia & Herzegovina health care reform efforts since 1999 with the retraining of doctors and nurses, the rehabilitation and equipping of practice sites, training in palliative care, and smoking cessation. The gradual transfer of activities to the local partners and local decision-making has always been a key feature of this project.

It is now planned that in 2007, all project management functions will be transferred to a local entity that will be created and strengthened during the 2007 transition phase.



Help Support New Programs for Central Asian Women and Children

In line with our organizational commitment to strengthen deteriorating health care systems in the Balkans and Central Asia, FPH committed staff time and resources to explore new project ideas with the ministries of health of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan. Maternal and child health needs in this region are critical. Health providers are in urgent need of learning about evidence-based and patient-oriented disease management; equipment, supplies, and even access to running water (as in the main Naryn Oblast maternity unit in the Kyrgyz Republic; picture on the left); and the population requires information about how to adopt healthy life styles and prevent diseases.

FPH thanks **GlaxoSmithKline Switzerland**, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic, and the supporters of the Partnerships in Health Trophy 2006, who provided critical resources to develop these proposals. To make a contribution or simply to know more about our effort in saving lives and improving the health of mothers and children in that region, feel free to contact our staff in Céligny.

Partnerships Trophy 2006

With balmy late-summer weather, the 14 participating teams enjoyed a beautiful golf tournament. The competitors at the Partnerships in Health Trophy 2006 were **Banque Privée BCP (Suisse)**, **Citigroup Global Markets** (2 teams), **Firmenich**, **Hôpital de la Tour**, **HSBC Private Bank** (2 teams), **John McCarthy Associates**, **Mirabaud & Cie**, **Lufthansa**, **Performance Development Partners**, **Pictet & Cie**, **PricewaterhouseCoopers**, and **swisspro SR SA**.

The Golf Tournament generated a sizeable net gain of Fr. 94'192.80, which will benefit the Foundation and, in particular, development projects in Central Asia.

During the fundraising gala dinner, Mr. Muktar Jumaliev, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the UN/WTO in Geneva, shared first-hand the need to develop a better and more inclusive health care system in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Thank you to all friends and supporters of the foundation. Key sponsors in 2006 were l'Agefi, After the Rain, Athleticum Sportsmarket, Auberge de Trélex, Auberge des Chasseurs, Béjart Ballet Lausanne, Bucherer, British Airways, Châlet Au Vieux Moulin, Chopard & Cie, Clos de Céligny, Commune de Céligny, Compagnie Générale de Navigation, Crédit Suisse, Delance Swiss Watches, Durig Chocolatier, EFG Bank, Elizabeth Arden, Fly Baboo, Forever Laser Institute, Forvest Trust, Franck Muller Genève, Garden Center Schilliger, Glenmuir Nordim, Golf Espace, Golf Solutions (Bonmont), Golf & Country Club de Bonmont, Golfers Paradise, Hostellerie de la Vendée, Hôtel d'Angleterre, Hôtel Beau-Rivage, Kempinski Hotels, Kursner Mode Masculine, Lanvin, Le Trousseau, Life Motivations, Lindner Golf Hotel Rhodania, La Réserve, Laurent-Perrier, L'Occitane, Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch, Mandarin Oriental-Hôtel du Rhône, Mont Cervin Palace, Newsweek Magazine, Nix in der Laterne, OJK Marketing & Advisory Services, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Pictet & Cie, Raj Mirpuri Bespoke Couture, Rive One, Royal Plaza Montreux, SB Sport Service, Services Industriels de Genève, and Spa de Divonne.



One of the two HSBC Private Bank teams minutes before teeing off.



The winning team of Citigroup Global Markets.

Rural and Urban Uzbek Adolescents Benefit from Reproductive Health Education

Navoi, November 14, 2006 – I wake up in a Soviet-style apartment in Navoi, an industrial town of Uzbekistan. Shortly, Ravshan will pick me up to meet Makhalla (traditional) leaders in a rural community as part of the final evaluation of our Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) project in the state of Navoi.

The project is managed by two smart and strong Uzbek women, Nigora (the Maternal Health Coordinator) and Nurdida (the Adolescent Reproductive Health Specialist) who have engaged thousands of students, parents, teachers, medical providers, and community leaders in helping adolescents.

The third day (during this first visit to Central Asia, so different from the African life I have been used to!) is also November 14 and my birthday... another birthday far from home... At best, if the internet connection in the office works, I will get the chance to check my e-mail... As I enter the office, the staff breaks out in "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday Cecilia...!", offering me a big bunch of beautiful red roses, a traditional Uzbek silky scarf and lots of wishes for my life. Despite the cold weather, the friendship of the Uzbek staff, who found out about my birthday when they registered my passport at the police - warmed my heart and is leaving permanent memories, just like my interview with the Makhalla leaders, who are so strongly motivated in implementing the programme.

The project (supported by FEDEVACO, GlaxoSmithKline, Coromandel Foundation / A. Hesslenberg) has effectively focused the attention of local authorities on Adolescent Reproductive Health, and has brought this topic to the forefront in these traditionally conservative communities and created a model that can be scaled up nationally.

Cecilia Capello, Interim Medical Advisor



Project Results:

- 253 schoolteachers and medical providers and 127 peer educators trained in adolescent reproductive health education
- 28'160 adolescents reached through the involvement of 129 secondary/vocational schools
- 5 district health centers providing Adolescent Friendly Reproductive Health services
- A special training approach developed and implemented orienting 303 Makhalla activists and parents and involving them in promoting the program in their conservative communities
- Almost 35'000 adolescent and 20'000 parent brochures, and 800 posters on ARH, STIs and HIV prevention distributed.

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Our Mission

Because « good health is a fundamental resource for social and economic development, » as well as an inalienable right, Fondation PH (FPH), a Swiss NGO, is dedicated to building critical health knowledge and skills through health education and training of the primary care providers. In partnership with the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia, FPH assists local institutions to build their capacities and achieve sustainable improvements in the quality of basic and essential health services.

Program Expertise

- Family Medicine
- HIV and AIDS
- Reproductive Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Chronic Diseases
- Public Health

Look for us on the web:
www.partnershipsinhealth.ch
www.balkans-fight-hiv.org

Program Countries

Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, UNMIK Kosovo, Uzbekistan



Staff at the Céligny office: Laurent, Jasmina, Bettina, Francisca with Laura, and Cecilia

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Congratulations to

Aida Muslic, Country Director BiH, on her marriage to Erdin Kurtovic on July 1, 2006

Laurent Zbinden, Administrator / Fundraiser, on his marriage to Evelyn Dappah, on September 30, 2006

Francisca Merino and her husband Sebastian, on the birth of Laura on November 16, 2006