

# DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

<b>Date</b> August 25, 2005	<b>Project number (SMC notes)</b>
<b>Country of the intervention</b> China	

## Heading for the proposed intervention, Site/Area:

HIV/AIDS prevention and care project in Shangqiu shi, Henan Province, China

## Short description of the proposed intervention:

Training courses on HIV/AIDS for local church leaders in the Shangqiu shi-area, financial support for these church leaders to conduct further training courses for church members in the local churches.  
Gynaecological check-ups, medical treatment and information campaigns for women at the clinic in Yucheng, Shangqiu.

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## (SEK)

<b>1) Total Cost</b> (excl. adm. *) <b>1 649 700 SEK</b>	<b>2) Other contributions</b>	<b>3) Sw. Org. own contribution</b> <b>164 970 SEK</b>	<b>4) Sida-grant applied for</b> <b>1 484 730 SEK</b>
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Summarised budget	Local currency	SEK	Remarks
Compiling, printing and mailing of training handbooks	40 000	36 000	CNY 8/copy x 5 000 copies
Printing and mailing of pamphlets and posters	150 000	135 000	CNY 6/copy x 25 000 copies
<b>2 days training courses for church leaders</b> 30 courses x 50 trainees = 1 500 trainees in 3 years			10 courses/year for three years
Lodging and food expenses for the trainees	300 000	270 000	CNY 100 x 2 days x 1 500 trainees
Travel expenses for the trainees	75 000	67 500	CNY 50 x 1 500 trainees
Set of pen, notebook and bag for every trainee	15 000	13 500	CNY 10 x 1 500 trainees
Teaching team's subsidy	12 000	10 800	CNY 200 x 2 days x 30 courses
Teaching team's lodging and food expenses	12 000	10 800	CNY 200 x 2 days x 30 courses
Venue rent	12 000	10 800	CNY 200 x 2 days x 30 courses
Certificate with group photos for the trainees	12 000	10 800	CNY 8 x 1 500 trainees
<b>1 day training courses on a local level conducted by the local church leaders</b> 150 courses x 50 trainees = 7 500 trainees in 3 years			50 courses/year for three years
Food expenses for the trainees (lunch)	187 500	168 750	CNY 25 x 7 500 trainees
Travel expenses for the trainees	375 000	337 500	CNY 50 x 7 500 trainees
Set of pen, notebook and bag for every trainee	75 000	67 500	CNY 10 x 7 500 trainees
Teaching team's subsidy	300 000	270 000	CNY 50 x 4 teachers x 150 courses

<b>The Xiaoqiao Ji Clinic</b>			
Medical check-up and information for women	24 000	21 600	CNY 10 x 2 400 women
Medical treatment for gynaecological infections	48 000	43 200	CNY 12 x 5 x 800 women
Information pamphlets for public campaigns	15 000	13 500	CNY 3 x 5 000 copies
Travel for Amity staff (four times a year)	48 000	43 200	CNY 4 000 x 4 x 3 years
Local communication	30 000	27 000	CNY 10 000 x 3 years
Follow-up, evaluation – independent Chinese agency	30 000	27 000	Third year
Audit fees and bank charges	20 000	18 000	
Visit by a Swedish/international HIV/AIDS expert to monitor, give lectures and give input to the project	32 500	29 250	First year
Visit by Evangelical East Asia Mission staff as interpreter for the HIV/AIDS expert, to monitor and document the project	20 000	18 000	First year
<b>1) Total Cost (excl. adm.*)</b>	<b>1 833 000</b>	<b>1 649 700</b>	Exchange rate: 1 CNY = 0,9 SEK
<b>2) Deduct: other contributions (not Sw. org.)</b>			E.g. Local contribution
<b>Total cost (excl. adm.* &amp; other contributions)</b>			
<b>3) Sw. org. own contribution (min 10% of the</b>	<b>183 300</b>	<b>164 970</b>	Funds from org. in Sweden
<b>4) Sida-grant applied for</b>	<b>1 649 700</b>	<b>1 484 730</b>	
<b>Payment plan for Sida Grant</b> (excl. adm.*)	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Year</b>
	515 160	472 635	496 936

## **1. Background**

China occupies an area of 9,6 million square kilometres, roughly the size of Europe and 21 times larger than that of Sweden. The country has a population of about 1,3 billion; 144 times larger than that of Sweden. China is divided into 22 provinces, 5 autonomous regions and 4 central governed cities. The country has experienced a rapid economical growth and dramatic changes over the past 20 years. The living standards have improved for a large group of people. Despite this, the country only ranks at number 94 in the Human Development Report made by the United Nations (2004). Sweden holds number 2 on this list, surpassed only by Norway. As China's economy grows, the gap between the rich and the poor widens.

HIV/AIDS is a growing problem world wide. According to UNAIDS, approximately 40 million people are infected by the virus today. It has long been known that HIV/AIDS is spreading rapidly in the countries in the south of Africa. Now, experts are bringing our attention to Asia and to China. WHO estimates that there are over 6 million HIV-positive individuals in Southeast Asia and that 95% of them don't know that they are infected by the virus.

Chinese authorities have long tried to hide the existence of HIV/AIDS in China. Today the problem can no longer be ignored. Officially it is stated that there are 840 000 HIV-positive Chinese and 80 000 people living with AIDS (PLWA) in China (2003). International experts believe these figures to be much higher. UNAIDS estimates that the number of HIV-infected people in China will surpass 10 million by 2010 if not drastic measures are taken.

The first official case of HIV in China was discovered in 1985. During the first few years it was believed that the disease only circulated among foreigners and Chinese people returning from abroad. In 1989, 146 drug addicts were tested HIV-positive in Yunnan Province. The disease was soon to be found in all provinces. Henan, with an area of 167 000 square kilometres and a population of approximately 95 million, is one of the worst stricken provinces. From official sources, the number of HIV-positive people in Henan is 16 000. Some international reports however claim that the number might be as high as one million people living with AIDS in Henan Province only. There is no accurate figure at the moment.

Henan Province is divided into 89 areas, shi (city). Shangqiu is one of these cities. The population of Shangqiu shi is approximately 7 950 000. The Shangqiu city includes 6 counties, xian.

Evangelical East Asia Mission has a long history of activities in Henan Province. One of the pioneer missionaries, Carl Blom started a missionary station in the city of Luoyang, in Henan Province, as early as in 1897. Many of the following missionaries were active in the areas surrounding Luoyang; including Sanmen xia, Yiyang and Mianchi. Contacts between the Swedish organisation and churches in Henan have been resumed and intensified during the last ten years. There have been co-operations with Bible Schools, homes for disabled children etc. A Sida-supported project concerning a rehabilitation centre for disabled people in Yiyang, is in progress since the beginning of 2005.

Since HIV/AIDS is a rapidly growing problem in Henan, Evangelical East Asia Mission wishes to support an HIV/AIDS prevention project in this province. Initially there were plans for a project in Yiyang, in connection to the hospital where Evangelical East Asia Mission is already active.

For this purpose, and for monitoring the already started rehabilitation centre project, a representative of Evangelical East Asia Mission, Annelie Sköld, visited Yiyang in April 2005. Before going to Yiyang she visited the Chinese organisation Amity Foundation which she had been in contact with. She was invited to their office in Nanjing and together with Mrs Helen Zhao, the Deputy Director of the Medical and Health Division of the Amity Foundation, she went to one of Amity's HIV/AIDS project sites in Henan; Zhoukou. Helen Zhao went there to evaluate an ongoing project. One part of the project was training courses in HIV/AIDS for church leaders. Another part was health care and information campaigns at small village clinics. One of the training courses was attended and a local clinic in the area was visited.

After the visit to China in April, and after discussing the future HIV/AIDS project with the medical staff at Yiyang as well as with political leaders in Luoyang (responsible for the Yiyang area) and with Helen Zhao, the deputy director of the medical and health division of the Amity Foundation, Evangelical East Asia Mission decided not to continue the plans for an HIV/AIDS project in Yiyang for now but to submit an application for a new area, Shangqiu, where the HIV/AIDS problem is more immediately threatening.

Evangelical East Asia Mission would like to start a similar project as the ones Amity Foundation has been running the last couple of years in Zhoukou, in the neighbouring area of Shangqiu. Amity Foundation is positive to a co-operation with the Swedish partner. Amity has found a concept for information campaigns on HIV/AIDS, using the Christian Council and the church in the local capital of an area as a base for spreading knowledge, first to local church leaders, and via them to the local church members in the surrounding area and to the local people living in the countryside. The method is called "Trainer of Trainers" – "TOT". Evangelical East Asia Mission wants to benefit from the experience Amity Foundation has of this kind of projects. Since they have proven successful over the last few years we believe they can be used as models. At the same time Evangelical East Asia Mission will have a great deal of input in the intervention; in the planning and carrying out of activities as well as the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

The project idea enhances the role of the church in the civil society. As knowledge on HIV/AIDS is spread to a large number of people through the project it becomes obvious to the local government and to the people that the church is making an important contribution to society. Also, the church members are making an example of good citizenship as they help and care for people living with AIDS – a group of people who are now being heavily discriminated against, mostly because of fear due to the lack of knowledge.

Amity Foundation has conducted similar "Trainer of Trainers"-projects on HIV/AIDS prevention but with focus on other target groups. They have, for instance, cooperated with the Chinese Women's Federation, where leaders in women's groups have served as "trainers", training women in the local groups of the federation. However, considering the history of Evangelical East Asia Mission and the strong Christian engagement in Henan, it is natural for Evangelical East Asia Mission to choose the church leaders and Christian members of the local congregations as target groups for this project.

## **2. Problem analysis**

The Chinese government has been slow in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This has led to few steps being taken to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in China. In 2000 only 15 million CNY in the state budget were set aside for HIV/AIDS control for the whole country.

The last few years the realisation of the spreading of the problem has led to an increased budget but it is still very limited. The support from the central government for controlling the spreading of HIV/AIDS in Henan Province is not enough to do what is needed for the large population of 95 million people.

Prevention is a key word in the battle against HIV/AIDS. There is a need for general and basic knowledge on what HIV/AIDS is, how the virus is transmitted, and ways to protect oneself from contracting it. It is difficult to reach the people in small villages in the countryside. Evangelical East Asia Mission finds the Amity model of “TOT” – “Training of Trainers” as a good way to reach as many people as possible. This idea is based on initial training courses where, in this case, local church leaders will receive education and be trained as future trainers. These will in the next round of courses function as teachers for the next group of trainees. This creates a vast spreading effect. The church leaders who participate in the training courses will gain knowledge that they bring with them when they return home. This information will be spread first to the church members in the local churches and through them to the local people.

The Christian church is an important actor in the Chinese society, especially in Henan province. In some cities, 5-7% of the people are Christians and in the countryside this figure is as high as 10% in some areas (including Christians belonging to the non-registered church). By reaching the church leaders – pastors, evangelists, youth leaders, leaders of Christian women’s groups, choir leaders etc – the information on HIV/AIDS prevention will have a great impact on society.

Information campaigns and teaching courses can be conducted in many different ways. A well founded knowledge of the society and culture in which the activities are to take place is essential to succeed in spreading knowledge. Amity Foundation has conducted similar projects in many places, mainly in Yunnan and Henan Province, the last couple of years, and has gained much experience from these projects.

The people living in the areas around Shangqiu are mainly farmers. The living conditions are very poor. The people lack access to good medical care. There are many clinics in the towns and cities but the prices for medical examinations and treatments are high. Due to the poor sanitary conditions and the lack of knowledge on basic health care, the occurrence of gynaecological infections among women is very high. Gynaecological infections lead to an increased risk of contracting the HIV-virus. It is therefore important to lower the frequency of gynaecological infections. Free gynaecological check-ups will also be a good opportunity to inform women about general health care and HIV/AIDS in particular.

Because of the poor conditions of the Henan Province and the Shangqiu area, many people have sold blood to blood banks to earn extra money. Through contaminated medical equipment a large number of people have been infected by the HIV-virus. Whole villages in Henan are struck by the disease. There is an estimate of 32 so called “AIDS-villages” in Henan Province. An “AIDS-village” is a village where more than 30% of the inhabitants are people living with AIDS. Several of the 32 “AIDS-villages” in Henan are located in Shangqiu shi. This project will mainly involve three of these “AIDS-villages”: Shuang Miao, Dong Guan and Cao Ji.

Because people lack the basic knowledge of what HIV/AIDS is, there is a great fear among people. The infected and sick are often discriminated against and shun. Because people are so

afraid of having contact with them it is difficult for them to make a living. The children of HIV-positive or people living with AIDS are in many places refused at public schools and other parents forbid their children to interact with them. Correct information on how HIV is transmitted and maybe more importantly how it is *not* transmitted could change the lives of these people dramatically.

How HIV-infected people and people living with AIDS are looked upon in China varies somewhat in the different provinces. In Yunnan, for instance, where the first AIDS cases were reported, most of the infected people were drug addicts. It therefore became and is still a stigma to have the disease in Yunnan. In Henan, the situation is slightly different. Most HIV-positive people there, were infected through contaminated medical equipment when selling blood. It is therefore not the same stigma to be infected by HIV in Henan, although these people are still feared and in many cases shun. But the fact that so many “ordinary” people in Henan have been infected makes it easier to talk about the disease there.

Church leaders in Shangqiu actively turned to Amity Foundation and asked for help to conduct training courses on HIV/AIDS prevention. Mrs Zhao from Amity Foundation describes how church leaders initially were reluctant to teach about the sexual transmission of the virus and about the practice of safe sex, such as using condoms. However, the situation has changed over the years and when Amity trainers conducted courses in Shangqiu there was no problem talking about any of these topics. However, the courses do not focus on this subject. The courses are so basic that they don't go into these subjects more than briefly. Amity has printed a pamphlet called “A Guide to Pastoral Counselling” dealing with HIV/AIDS in a Christian context as a help for church leaders to deal with the theological and moral questions.

### **3. Local organisation**

#### **Amity Foundation**

Amity Foundation is a Chinese non-governmental organisation, founded in 1985. Most of the initiators were Chinese Christians. Although it is not a Christian organisation its leaders mainly consists of Christians. Amity Foundation wants to contribute to the development of the Chinese society and also make the presence of the Christian church better known.

The main goals of the organisation are formulated as follows:

- × To contribute to China's social development and openness to the outside world
- × To make Christian involvement and participation in meeting the needs of society more widely known to the Chinese people
- × To serve as a channel for people-to-people contact and the ecumenical sharing of resources

Since the founding, Amity Foundation has supported numerous projects, including educational and health-care projects, all over China. The words “Love in Action” is a motto guiding their work. The organisation prioritizes projects that help develop China's western provinces, which are in general much poorer than the eastern provinces. In the past Evangelical East Asia Mission has co-operated with Amity Foundation on the English teachers' project.

Amity Foundation realised the threat of HIV/AIDS at an early stage. In the beginning of the 90ies they started projects dealing with this problem. A large-scale, three-year project in Yunnan was started in 1996. Yunnan, along with Henan, is considered to be one of the worst stricken provinces. The project in Yunnan included information campaigns with pamphlets, posters and books as well as information via radio programs, TV programs, films and videos. Home visits by teaching personnel were one way to spread information. Special campaigns with slogans painted on walls and theatre groups and pop band performances were also organised. During all these campaigns Amity has stressed the importance of having HIV/AIDS informants/trainers at different levels in society.

With experiences from the first three-year project, Amity started another, larger project in 1999. This project included more support and care for people living with AIDS. Free medical treatment was offered to those who couldn't pay. The project also focused on counselling of family members. During 2000 the activities were extended to three more provinces: Henan, Guangxi and Hunan.

From their previous HIV/AIDS projects Amity Foundation has drawn the following conclusions and set up guidelines for their future HIV/AIDS prevention work.

”The prevention of AIDS is a huge social undertaking. It needs participation and concerted efforts at different levels of society. Amity will take the following priority actions to try to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS:

- a) Amity will direct its efforts at preventive work by launching massive AIDS awareness education campaigns at the grassroots, especially in the broad rural areas
- b) Amity will work with families, communities and authorities to break the silence and fight against the stigmatization and discrimination of HIV-positive persons and their families
- c) Amity will support initiatives from local churches to start “Training of Trainers” programs to promote HIV/AIDS awareness education among both Christians and non-Christians
- d) Amity will gear more resources towards the needs of HIV-patients and provide care for them if necessary. Special emphasis will be given to the support of AIDS-orphaned children”

In 2004, 34 information courses for church leaders, organised by Amity Foundation, were held in Henan and Yunnan. The evaluation indicated two main results:

1. The knowledge on HIV/AIDS among the participants had increased  
Polls made before the courses started showed that 40-50% of the participants had never heard of HIV/AIDS before, 30% of the participants had heard of the illness and were very frightened of the disease. At the end of the courses, a simple test was conducted, which showed that 80% of the participants could answer questions on what HIV/AIDS is, how it is transmitted and how one can protect oneself from contracting the virus.
2. The attitude towards people living with HIV/AIDS had changed among the participants  
Due to new knowledge the church leaders were no longer frightened of approaching infected people or people living with AIDS. Personal stories showed that they now dared to show these people love and care without fearing for their own lives.

In several areas, HIV-positive people have had problems supporting themselves because the stigma has shut them out of working places. Amity has therefore started income-raising

projects where people infected with HIV have been granted small loans with which they can start small scale businesses. The loans are to be paid back as soon as they get their businesses running. Amity has also started projects helping orphans who have lost their parents to AIDS.

Amity Foundation's HIV/AIDS projects are unique because they have a close co-operation with Christian churches. The Christian Council and the church in one area serve as a base for recruiting and training local church leaders from the surrounding areas. These church leaders return to their villages after the training courses to initiate similar training in their own churches, functioning as trainers. The idea is called "TOT" – "Training of Trainers".

Amity staff was visiting an HIV/AIDS projects site in Henan when they were contacted by Zhoukou shi. The Christian Council in Zhoukou (approved by the local Bureau of Religious Affairs) had heard of their projects and wanted Amity to start projects there. 2003 a three-years-project was started. In 2004 there was a surplus in the budget and it was decided that this amount of money should be spent on conducting similar training courses on HIV/AIDS for church leaders in the neighbouring area of Shangqiu where the leaders of the Christian Council also had requested help from Amity. In 2005 a few training courses were held in Shangqiu, financed with this surplus in the Zhoukou project budget. Shangqiu Christian Council has asked for a continuance of the training courses. Evangelical East Asia Mission would like to continue on the base of what's already been done in Shangqiu but would also like to add new perspectives on the intervention.

### **The local partner**

The local partner for Evangelical East Asia Mission and Amity Foundation will be the Shangqiu Christian Council. Christian Councils in China exist on a national, provincial, city and county level. Shangqiu would be considered as a county (xian) in this ranking. The local partner has been chosen by Amity Foundation. Mr Song Yongsheng is the leader of the Shangqiu Christian Council and the pastor of the church in Shangqiu. He also holds a position in the local government. The co-operation between the Shangqiu Christian Council and the local Bureau of Religious Affairs is reported to be good – something that is essential for conducting any projects where Christian churches are involved, in China. The leaders of both organisations are positive towards Amity and the conducting of their projects so far. Amity staff Mrs Helen Zhao reports Mr Song Yongsheng and the local church leaders as very active and enthusiastic. Getting permits from the governmental agencies for the projects so far has not posed any problems.

Two more pastors will be directly involved in the project: Mr Yan Xinjian and Mr Li Fengzhen. Trainers for the first courses have already been chosen. They are: Mr Zhang Qiankun, leader of the church choir in Shangqiu, Mrs Gao Yunhong, retired nurse, Mrs Wang Fengju and Mr Li Cunliang.

The trainers are chosen on the following criteria: the trainers have to be active members of the church and they have to have participated in Amity's training courses. Another important factor that is considered is the trainer's pedagogical experiences and skills.

### **The cooperation**

Evangelical East Asia Mission will cooperate with Amity Foundation and a local partner, Shangqiu Christian Council, located in Henan. The Swedish organisation could conduct a

project directly with a local Chinese partner but it would be difficult to monitor the progress of the project as we do not have any staff in the country. Also, Amity has good knowledge on the HIV/AIDS situation in China and experience from previous projects in the same area.

Amity has suggested a project site, one that is in immediate need of action and that is suitable for this kind of project: Shangqiu shi. The planning of the project will be done jointly by Evangelical East Asia Mission, Amity Foundation and the Christian Council in Shangqiu. Amity will be responsible for administering, starting and monitoring the project. The Christian Council will be responsible for carrying out the planned activities. They will invite local church leaders and conduct the training courses. The teachers are church leaders who have been trained by Amity staff in previous teaching courses. The material that will be used (booklets, posters, teaching materials etc) is designed and printed by Amity, especially for this use.

Shangqiu Christian Council is required to document the training courses, according to strict guidelines from Amity (including taking photos of every training session, handing in name lists with names and contact information on every participant etc) and write progress reports to Amity Foundation. Amity staff will also go to the project site four times a year to monitor the progress, evaluate and write reports. Evangelical East Asia Mission will take part of these reports and make suggestions for changes if they see fit.

During the first year a Swedish/international expert on HIV/AIDS will visit the area to monitor the project, hold lectures and give input to the project. Evangelical East Asia Mission staff will accompany this expert on the trip, functioning as interpreter and monitor and document the progress of the project so far (the cost for this trip is within the budget frame). Evangelical East Asia Mission staff will also make frequent visit to the project site outside the budget.

#### **4. Organisational development**

The focus point of the intervention is on spreading knowledge and on enhancing the local churches capacity of dealing with the problems of HIV/AIDS. It focuses on the spreading effect of the primary training courses. The participants at these training courses will organize similar courses when they return to their local churches. The members of these churches will then continue spreading the knowledge on a local level. The spreading effect from phase one (1 500 participants) to phase two (7 500 participants) is already significant. An important part of the first training courses is to facilitate discussion among the church leaders on how to pass the knowledge on to as many people as possible on their return to their hometowns.

As seen in other areas such as Zhoukou, the HIV/AIDS projects have strengthened the Christian churches both in their contacts with local governmental agencies and with the local people in general. There is an obvious need for dealing with the HIV/AIDS problem and these projects have made the Christian churches presence known as a great contributor to the civil society. They have given Amity Foundation and the Christian churches a good reputation as caring, unselfish and devoted institutions.

## **5. Target Group**

1. 1 500 church leaders from the area around Shangqiu who will receive training on HIV/AIDS
2. 7 500 church members belonging to the local churches who will receive training from the church leaders when these return from their initial training courses
3. 2 400 women who will receive medical check-ups and information at the clinic in Yuncheng
4. Local people who will be reached by information through the local churches and the church members

Looking at the problem of HIV/AIDS, this intervention is important from a gender aspect. Women are in greater danger of being infected by HIV/AIDS than men. Many women are infected by their husbands. Also, it is often the women who take care of the sick. The general knowledge on health care is underdeveloped in this very poor area. Many women suffer from gynaecological infections. The occurrence of gynaecological infection increases the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS. It is therefore important to treat these diseases. The free medical check-up also presents a good opportunity to inform the women about HIV/AIDS and how they can protect themselves from it.

In previous "Training of Trainers"-courses, about 25% of the participants in the initial courses, the training courses for church leaders, have been women. However, the percentage of women participating in the local training courses, have been reported to be as high as 80%. Knowledge on HIV/AIDS empowers these women and gives them more control over their lives. The project therefore makes a contribution to strengthening equality between men and women.

The project does not include any medical care or economical help to people living with AIDS. But as more and more people gain knowledge on how the disease is transmitted the stigma, the fear and the prejudice will diminish. The situation for PLWA will be improved if people know that they need not fear having contact with them. In many places the situation today is that people are afraid to have any kind of contact with people they know have contracted the HIV-virus. The stigma and discrimination is heavy and makes it difficult for them to make a living. Training the church members and teaching them about HIV/AIDS makes it easier for them to visit and care for the sick without the fear of contracting the disease themselves. Therefore the HIV-positive people and people living with AIDS is an important secondary target group although the activities of this project are not aimed directly at them.

## **6. Main Goal**

1. To stop the uncontrolled spreading of HIV/AIDS in Henan province
2. To help eliminate the fear, the stigma and discrimination against HIV-infected and people living with AIDS
3. To strengthen the role of the Christian church in the Chinese civil society

## **7. Sub Goal**

1. To spread knowledge and raise awareness on HIV/AIDS by conducting training courses on HIV/AIDS for church leaders from local churches in the area

2. To spread knowledge and raise awareness on HIV/AIDS among local church members through training courses conducted by the returning church leaders
3. To spread knowledge and raise awareness on HIV/AIDS among the local people through information campaigns by the local church members
4. To lower the occurrence of gynaecologic diseases through medical check-ups and medical treatment at the clinic in Yuncheng, Shangqiu
5. To spread knowledge on general health care issues and gynaecological and HIV/AIDS problems to women in the area through information campaigns at the clinic in Yucheng, Shangqiu

Indicators for the sub goals:

1.
  - a) name lists of church leaders who have attended the training courses
  - b) photographs from each training course
  - c) results from tests done in the beginning and in the end of each training course for comparison between level of knowledge before and after the course
  - d) a short essay (1-2 pages) from two or three participants in every course at the end of the course, describing their expectations on the training course and the realisations of these expectations
2.
  - a) name lists of church members who have attended the training courses
  - b) photographs of each training course
  - c) results from tests done in the beginning and in the end of each training course for comparison between level of knowledge before and after the course
  - d) short essays (1-2) from two or three participants in every course at the end of the course, describing their expectations on the training course and the realisations of these expectations
3.
  - a) reports from the local church leaders on what information campaigns they have organized
  - b) photographs from these campaigns
4.
  - a) medical records of the women who have undergone free medical check-ups and received medical treatments at the Yucheng clinic
5.
  - a) reports from the staff at the Yucheng clinic on how the informational material, pamphlets, posters etc has been used and how the response from the local people has been

## **8. Activities**

Church leaders from local churches in the area of Shangqiu will be invited to training courses on HIV/AIDS by the Shangqiu Christian Council. Church members in Shangqiu, already trained by Amity personnel in basic HIV/AIDS knowledge will hold the training courses. Each training course will be two days and with 50 participants in each course. The content of these courses will include general knowledge about HIV/AIDS, what it is, how it is transmitted and ways to protect oneself from contracting the virus. The church leaders will also have seminars on how to spread the information and how to organise further information campaigns in the local areas. Different methods will be discussed in smaller seminary groups. There will be 10 training courses every year for three years, in total; 30 training course for

1 500 local church leaders. Every participant receives a certificate of participation (including a photo) at the end of the course. Information and teaching material will be gone through by Evangelical East Asia Mission and commented on and approved before being used.

Upon returning to their hometowns, the local church leaders will organise training courses for members of the local churches. The information is thus passed on to a larger number of people. There is a total budget covering 100 local courses during a three-year period. The local churches will have to apply to Amity Foundation for the financial support of these courses. The progress of these information campaigns and the spending of the funds will be reported back to Amity. The local churches and church members thereafter have the responsibility of spreading the knowledge further to people in their area. Knowledge on information campaign methods from the original training courses can be used to organise information campaigns for the local people in their area. These will have to be financed by the churches themselves.

The small village clinic in Yucheng (one of the six counties of Shangqiu) is run by a Christian couple who are both doctors. The couple tries to keep the examination and treatment fees as low as possible. They even go out to the countryside and conduct free medical check-ups for those who can not afford to pay. The clinic will receive support to conduct free gynaecological check-ups for women. 2 400 women can undergo check-ups to the cost of 10 CNY/examination during the three-year period. One third of the women are estimated to have some kind of gynaecological condition which requires treatment. The project will include free medical treatment for these women. The medical check-up offers a good opportunity for the doctors and nurses at the clinic to inform the women about general health issues and HIV/AIDS in particular.

## **9. Resources and specific budget**

### **Accessible resources**

- × Well established contacts with representatives of the local government, the Bureau of Religious Affairs and the Christian Council in Shangqiu
- × Permits for already conducted similar projects
- × Experience from similar projects in the area
- × Established contacts with Christian churches in the area
- × HIV/AIDS trainers who have been trained by Amity staff in previous training courses
- × An established village clinic with Christian personnel
- × Information material on HIV/AIDS especially designed for this purpose by Amity Foundation
- × Venues for the teaching courses can be rented in Shangqiu

### **Needed resources**

- × Local church leaders who are positive to participate in the initial training courses
- × Printing of teaching material, pamphlets, posters for the training courses and for the information campaign at the village clinic
- × Active local church members who are willing to participate in the secondary training courses and who are willing to work with spreading the information to other people outside the church
- × Medical check-up material and treatment for gynaecological diseases for the village clinic

**Specific budget:**

× See summarised budget + remarks, page 1-2

**10. Conditions and risks**

A crucial internal factor for the project is that the local churches see the need for this project and responds to the invitation thus sending their church leaders to the training courses. Since similar courses have already been carried out in the area and further ones have been asked for by the Christian Council in the area, we strongly believe that the churches are interested in these courses and will welcome this initiative.

Another important factor is the need for pedagogical trainers who are able to convey the information and knowledge to the church leaders in a simple way. The trainers in previous courses have been Amity Foundation staff members with training in basic HIV/AIDS knowledge – not physicians or specialists on HIV/AIDS. However, the level of information in the training courses is very basic. Most of the trainees lack the most basic knowledge and it is therefore not necessary, at the initial stage, to have HIV/AIDS specialists as lecturers. It is more important that the teaching starts from very simple facts about the virus and the disease. The trainers in Shangqiu will be church leaders who participated in training courses conducted by Amity staff. Among the already chosen trainers are a choir leader and a retired nurse. We believe these people have been chosen for their pedagogical skills.

The secondary training courses conducted by the church leaders for the church members will to a large extent be financed with funds from the project. The main idea of the training of trainers is that the people who have gained knowledge will pass it on to more people, thus creating a spreading effect. There is a risk that the chain will stop at the local church member level since the funding is not extended beyond that. The progress of the project will be monitored by Amity Foundation and it is our hope that the information campaigns will continue even after the formal ending of the project. The churches are very active and even though the further campaigns may not be formal and written down, with plans for monitoring and evaluation etc, we believe the knowledge will still reach more people after this project has formally ended.

There is a risk of church members finding it difficult to teach about the sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS and about the prevention in the form of use of condoms. Evangelical East Asia Mission will therefore promote that the contents of the courses should be stated very clearly. Check-up list that have to be followed can be formulated to make it easier for the trainers to make sure no important information is left out.

The project should not induce any negative side effects if carried out according to the plan.

No specific environment analysis has been made for the project. But the teaching courses will not have any negative impact on the environment of the area.

**11. Responsibilities and sustainability**

The initiative for this project was taken jointly by Evangelical East Asia Mission and Amity Foundation, starting with the meeting of the two representatives Annelie Sköld and Helen Zhao, in April 2005. The planning of the project has been done together. Amity Foundation

has contributed with local knowledge on the area and information from the Christian Council in Shangqiu was gathered by Helen Zhao on a recent visit to this area in May 2005.

The project activities will be started by Amity Foundation. Amity staff will also make visits to the project site, four times a year to supervise the running of the project. Evangelical East Asia Mission will review the Amity reports and give comments on the progress of the project and make suggestions for changes if they see fit. A Swedish/international HIV/AIDS expert will visit the site at the end of the first year to monitor the project and to give lectures and inputs. Evangelical East Asia staff member will visit the project together with the HIV/AIDS expert. More follow-up visits will be made, but these will be outside the budget frame of this project.

The local partner will be Shangqiu Christian Council. Shangqiu Christian Council is responsible for the running of the project. They will report back to Amity Foundation (see 13 Monitoring and Evaluation). Each training course must be documented and reported. Evangelical East Asia Mission requests to be informed of and have access to these reports.

After receiving training in Shangqiu, the church leaders will return to their local villages. They will organize similar training courses in the local churches. These courses will be supported by the project funding but need to be applied for to make sure there is sufficient funding. The financing of further information campaigns organized by the local churches to spread knowledge to the local people is not included in this budget and must be paid for by the churches themselves. However such campaigns are encouraged and reports of such are much welcomed as they are indicators of a successfully conducted project.

The support for free gynaecological check-ups for women and free treatment will stop once the project is terminated. This part of the project only takes up about 5% of the whole funding but is considered an important activity for the women in the area. The clinic will continue to run as it did before the project. Hopefully a well executed project will increase the local people's faith in this clinic and receiving more patients will mean an increase in the clinic's overall budget. This means they will be able to afford subsidizing check-ups and treatment for women if they can not pay the fees.

## **12. Government Endorsement Will be included later**

## **13. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Amity Foundation will be responsible for monitoring the project. Amity staff will conduct four visits to the site areas per year. The local partner will be responsible for conducting and documenting the training courses. Photographs must be taken from each training course, showing a banner with the project name and the number of the course. The local partner is obliged to hand over name lists of all participants of the courses and their contact information so that Amity or Evangelical East Asia Mission can check that the people on the lists have participated in the courses, if they see fit.

At each training course a simple test will be carried out in the beginning of the course. This test contains simple questions on what HIV/AIDS is, how it is transmitted and ways to protect oneself. The tests are anonymous and used only for statistics. At the end of each training

course the same test is given once more and the results are compared with those of the first tests. This will function as an indicator that the trainees have obtained the knowledge they should.

During the first year a Swedish/international expert on HIV/AIDS will visit the site to monitor the project, give lectures and give input and possible suggestions for improvements if he/she sees fit. At the end of the project an independent agency will be invited to conduct an evaluation of the project. The governmental organisation, Centre of Disease Control, CDC, will also evaluate the project.

## 14. Signatures

Date:

Date:

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Signed on behalf of Evangelical East Asia Mission by:

Jan-Endy Johannesson, Director

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Signed on behalf of Amity Foundation by:

Helene Zhao, Deputy Director of the Medical and Health Division