

**Community and Home-based Care (CHBC) in Pingxiang City, Guangxi Province, China:  
Making a measurable difference in the lives of people living with HIV (PLHIV)**

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**Issues:** CHBC services, which comprise of comprehensive services at home for people living with HIV to enhance their quality of life and independence, are relatively new in China. Concrete evidence of CHBC effectiveness would contribute to further replication of CHBC in China.

**Description:**

With funding support from USAID, FHI/China in 2007 pioneered CHBC in Pingxiang Hospital implemented by CHBC teams led by PLHIV and health care workers. Activities consisted of basic nursing care and symptom management (palliative care), psycho-social support, stigma and discrimination reduction, ART adherence counseling, positive prevention and referral to needed care and support. Services were provided to 259 PLHIV in 2007, 495 in 2008, and 514 in 2009. FHI has provided regular training, mentoring and monitoring to ensure service quality. The effectiveness of CHBC in Pingxiang City was demonstrated through the “Longitudinal and Enhanced Evaluation of PLHIV on ART in 5 Hospitals in Guangxi Province,” conducted by FHI in late 2007-2009, which showed that ART patients in Pingxiang Hospital that offered CHBC scored significantly higher on measures of overall quality of life ( $p < .05$ ), perception of quality of life ( $p < .05$ ), perception of health ( $p < .05$ ), physical and spiritual domains ( $p < .05$ ), and level of independence ( $p < .05$ ) during 6-month and 12-month follow-up surveys, in comparison to ART patients in other hospitals that did not have CHBC.

**Lessons learned:** CHBC enhances overall quality of life of PLHIV. Dedicated PLHIV as CHBC team members, linkages to care and support services, and ongoing technical support and mentoring are keys to the success of CHBC.

**Next steps:** Promote CHBC model, training materials and standard operating procedures for further replication by other care sites in Yunnan and Guangxi. Provide technical support to local governments and hospital leaders to increase coverage of CHBC services in Guangxi.