

Family Health International PAKISTAN
Quarterly Progress Report
APRIL – JUNE 2005

Brief Background

Under the Strategic Objective Grant Agreement between US Government (USG) and Islamic Republic of Pakistan, FHI is complimenting the National AIDS Control program to promote awareness and healthy behaviors in vulnerable groups, through information, education and communication programs regarding the risk factors for HIV/STI. This is the fourth focus area of the USG Health and Population Program in Pakistan. As of September 2004 the NACP has reported 2308 HIV positive cases including 304 people with AIDS. The program has developed projects that reduce the transmission of HIV/STI among Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) in five strategic cities in Punjab and Sindh provinces; support people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) with appropriate care; support technical assistance to NACP to monitor the dynamics of the epidemic and the effectiveness of prevention and care programming. FHI Pakistan is working with eight partner organizations for an integrated and comprehensive response to HIV/STI disease prevention.

Key Achievements in this Reporting Period

Prevention

During this reporting period capacity building of the IAs has been ongoing and focused on enhancing capacity on inter personal communication for HIV/STIs and STI service delivery and to design activities around a behavior change model to promote and supporting adoption of safe practices and access to STI services among project audiences. The program has reached more than 97,000 primary beneficiaries of the disease prevention program. This increasing outreach has been made possible through the IAs' project staff including 60 Outreach Workers and more than 1,000 trained Peer Educators. Out of these 20,000 students were informed about life skills, abstinence and faithfulness.

Care and Support

Responding to the recent HIV/AIDS concentrated epidemic in Larkana; FHI has expanded New Light's HBC operations to Karachi. The new initiative will help identify new cases and will provide emotional, psychological support to PLHA. The project will seek coordination with public and private agencies towards increasing access to ARV treatment and rehabilitation of HIV+ve drug users. FHI/USAID program for Home Based Care has reached 757 individuals including 61 PLHA from all over Pakistan.

STI Service Delivery

FHI started its HIV/AIDS prevention program on BCC since September 2003. Peer education was the main strategy. Over the last years FHI has brought good preventive education to the most at risk groups operating at various geographic locations and created a demand for information and services. Realizing that information needs to be packaged with services; provides meaningful contribution to HIV/STI prevention. To date four of the projects have been integrated with community based STI services and potential clients are being referred from the field to the STI establishments. Special considerations have been taken on the positioning/branding of such clinics so that stigma should not jeopardize the preventive efforts. Trained medical staff has been recruited and which provide quality syndromic management to STI patients of the catchment area.

Strategic Information

Baseline evaluation data has been collected; draft report is being reviewed by the FHI Asia Pacific Department. The results of the survey will be available by mid August 2005.

Distribution of BCC Kit for IPC by Outreach Workers

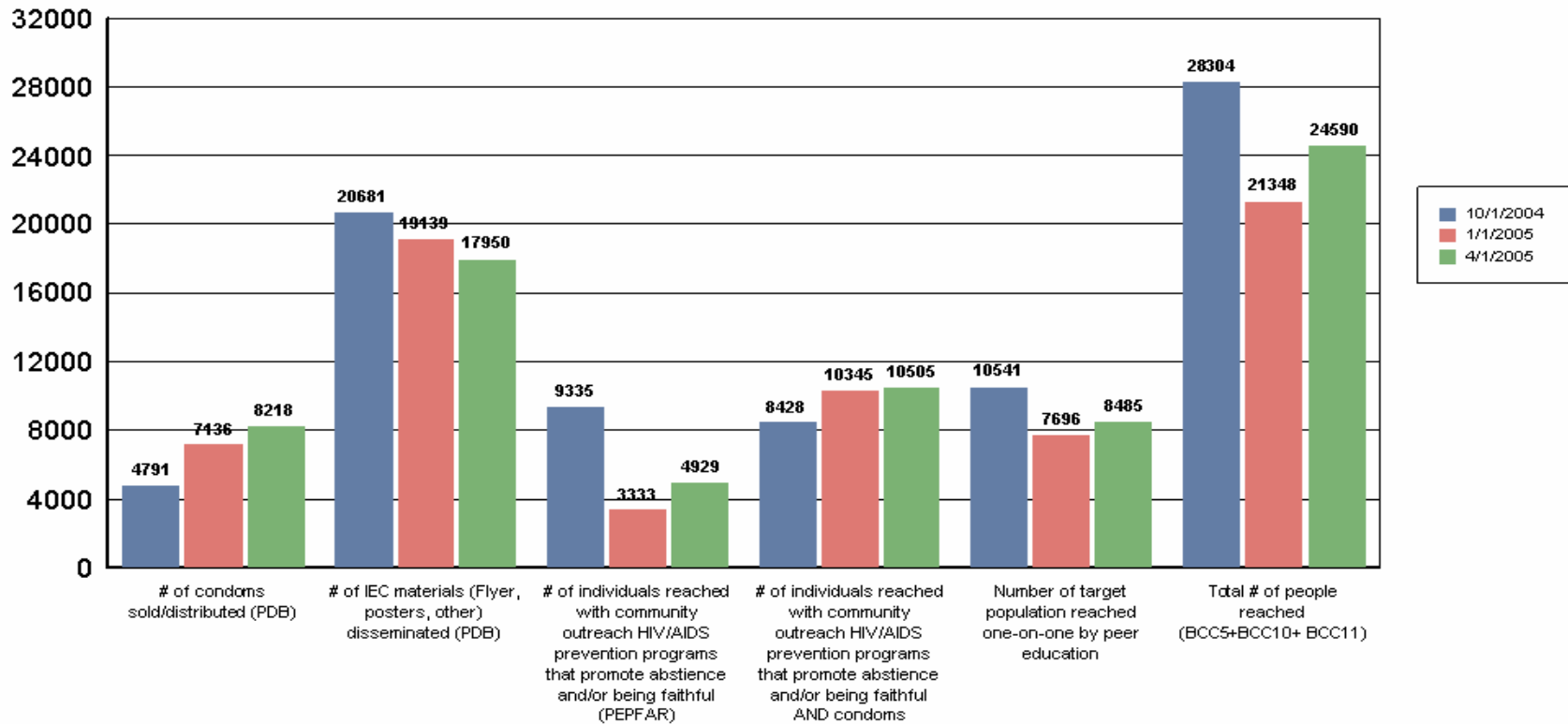
FHI has produced HIV/AIDS/STI communication materials for the field staff recently. The material is being used in inter-personal and small group settings in the field by its partners. BCC KIT aims to communicate complex and sensitive HIV/STI messages in simple ways using.

Implementation of the USAID's OGAC – ABC Guidelines for HIV/STI prevention

FHI CO staff conducted training sessions with the senior management and field staff of its partner agencies and developed an understanding on OGAC ABC guidelines and its context; defined age brackets and Most At Risk Groups (MARG) with respect to ABC guidelines; advised similar training to remaining field staff including ORW and potential PEs from MARG; monitor and maintain weekly diaries of field staff to monitor compliance; advised points on strategic communication on ABC with MARG. However it was felt that multisectoral coordination e.g. micro-credit, informal education and occupational training may be integrated for better compliance.

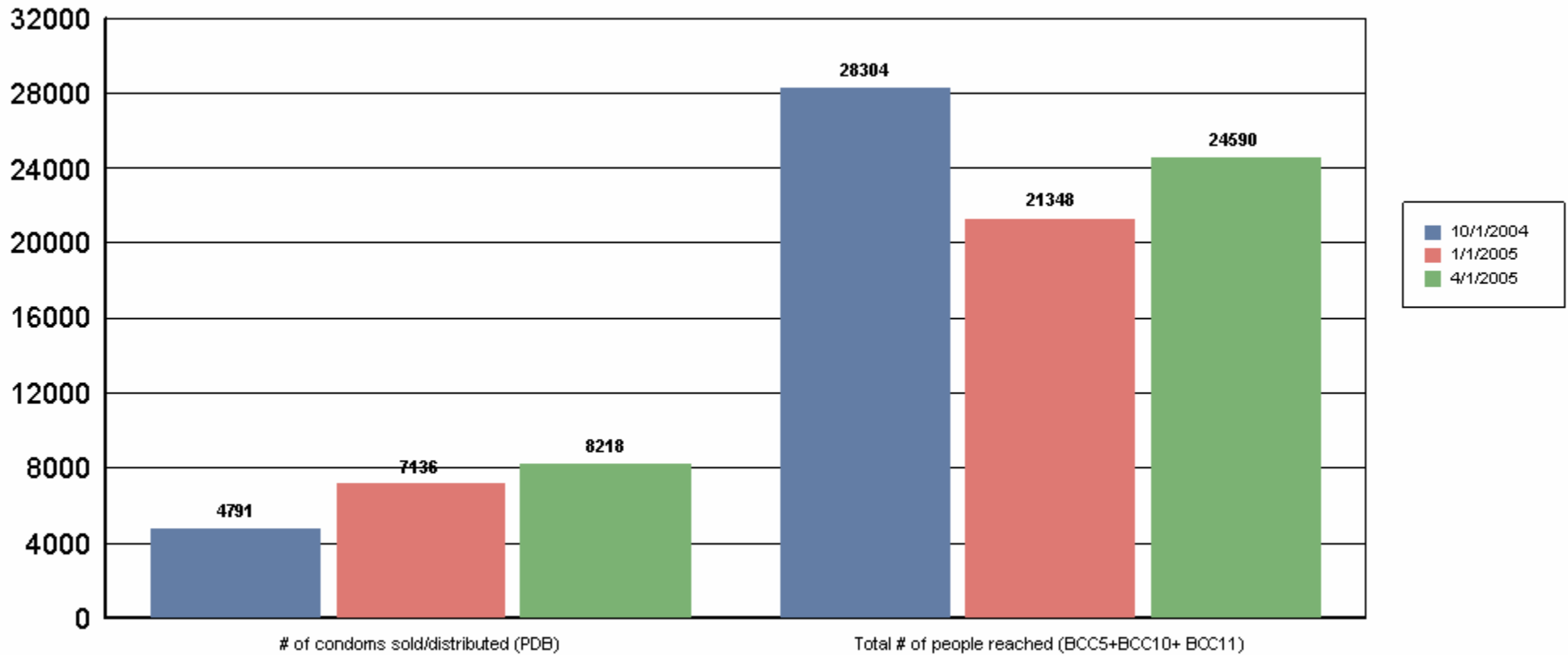
BCC outreach for HIV/AIDS/STI disease prevention FY 04/05

With the help of 07 partner organizations, FHI has reached >97,000 people for improved understanding on HIV/AIDS. Out of these about 22,000 are the students from Islamabad and Multan cities.



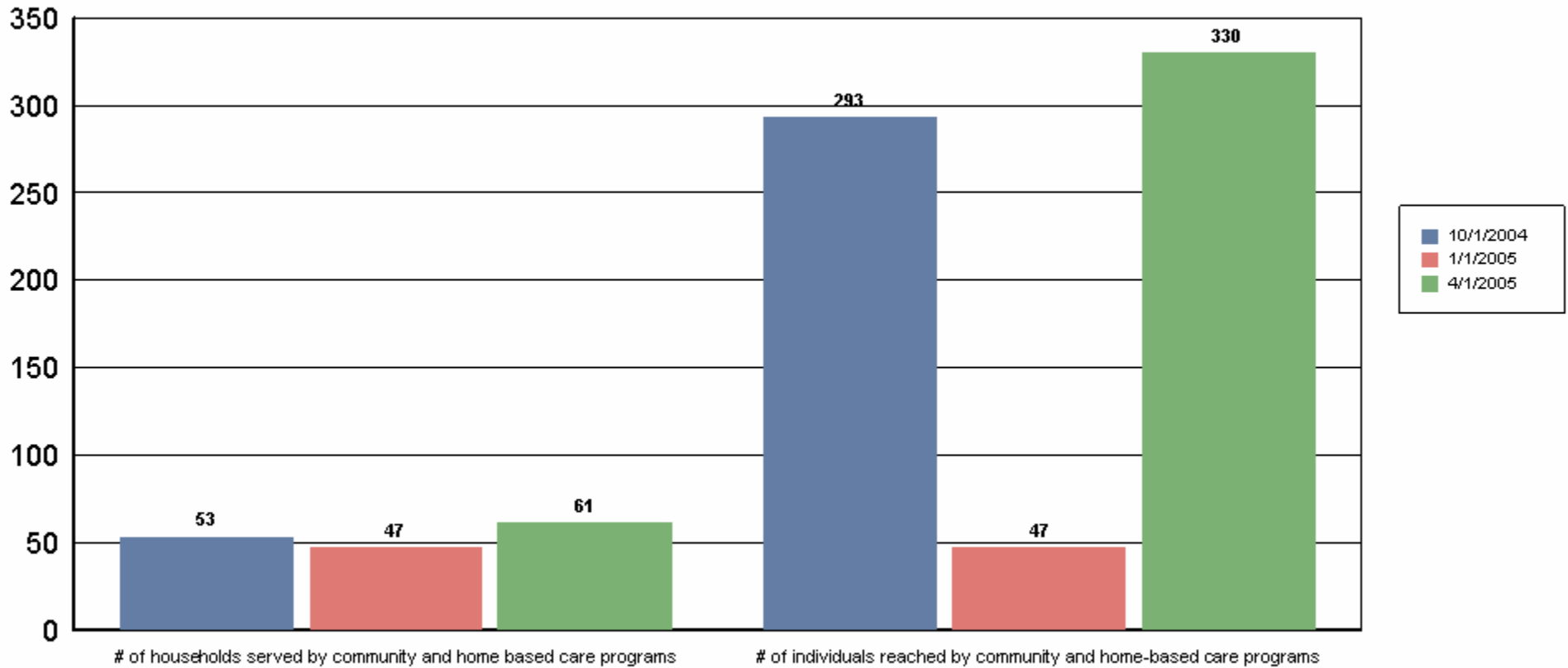
Abstinence (A), Be Faithful (B) and Use Condoms (C) remains backbone of the BCC program

Condom distribution is slowly picking up; also dependant on the IPC skills of the ORWs and PEs and that has improved. In the last three quarters the program has distributed more than 20,000 units of condoms among Most at Risk Groups (MARG) at five different geographic locations of Punjab and Sindh provinces.



Home Based Care (HBC) for PLHA and their families for Positive Living FY 04/05

The program has reached more than 750 individuals including 61 HIV+ persons from all over Pakistan. FHI/USAID has designed Care and Support project to meet emotional, psychological and health needs of the PLHA and their families in Pakistan.



News from the Field

One may see more than 500 street children walking and running at the busy bus terminal of Rawalpindi city of Pakistan. Children's vulnerability to social exploitation can be very well understood from their age and status in the society. Bus and truck terminals are usually home to such run aways; refugees; children from the broken; and the poorest families of Pakistan. These boys and girls are usually of age 9 years and above.

With support from the USAID, FHI has implemented a project for supporting street children; designed interventions to reduce their social vulnerability as well as provision of health services for common ailments. The project provides training on desired *Life Skills* to the kids and also social services to improve their health situation in the area. In this regard FHI's local partner, Organization for Social Development (OSD) provides Personal Hygiene Kits for dental and body care to these children. The kit contains tooth brush, tooth paste, soap, anti-lice shampoo and a comb. Also that it provides seasonal clothing; boots and sleepers to the children. To date OSD has distributed 336 kits to street children along with hair cutting services fortnightly in the project area.

Such local efforts are imperative and contributing towards enhanced capacity of the children to life and improved access to health and social services!



Street Children posing after they have received Personal Hygiene Kits for dental and body care. The kit contains toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, anti-lice shampoo and a comb. Through FHI/USAID support OSD has distributed 336 kits to street children to date.

