

Summary of the WHO-AIMS Project Proposal to Strengthen the Mental Health System in the People's Republic of China

Title of Project: Improving identification and treatment of depressive disorders and related mental health service systems in primary care.

Objectives: Some specific objectives of this proposal include:

1. Development of the mental health service system and increase the level of identification and treatment of depression at the community level
2. Improve the ability of primary care practitioners (PCPs) to identify and treat depression, particularly in rural areas, including developing training materials
3. Development of a referral and supervision system between PCPs and mental health professionals.

Expected Outcomes: The general expected outcomes of this project are an improvement in the training and capabilities of PCPs and increased awareness, identification and treatment of depressive disorders. Some specific expected outcomes include, but are not limited to:

1. Development of a Chinese version of the WHO guidelines for the identification and treatment of depression for PCPs and a policy for referral and communication between PCPs and mental health professionals.
2. Development of two training materials - one for community health centre and clinic PCPs and the other for the village clinic PCPs
3. 400 PCPs will be trained twice in the duration of the project: 100 from 30-40 urban community health centres/clinics, 300 from 15-20 rural township health cares and 150 village clinics.
4. Development of public education materials for raising awareness about depression.

Expected Impact: There are two identified levels of expected impact of this project:

System Level:

1. Increased number of qualified PCPs in the pilot area
2. Increased accessibility and follow-up for patients with depression in the community.
3. Increased referral and contact rates between PCPs and mental health professionals
4. An established mental health care system in primary care both in rural and urban areas.

User Level:

1. Reduced depression and suicide rates
2. Increased identification and treatment of depression and increased treatment compliance in primary care.
3. Increased patient satisfaction in mental health services and awareness of depression.

For further information on this project and resource requirements please contact:

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