

FROM CRISIS TO CARE: STAR PROJECT'S ROLE IN ADVANCING HARM REDUCTION DURING DISASTERS

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BACKGROUND

STAR (Stop TB and AIDS through RRTTPR) focuses on harm reduction through the RRTTPR model: Reach – Recruit – Test – Treat – Prevent – Retain

STAR collaborates with People for Change (PCG), a community-based group in Chiang Rai that supports people who use drugs. PCG helps ensure access to hygiene supplies, health services, and peer outreach during emergencies.



METHODOLOGY

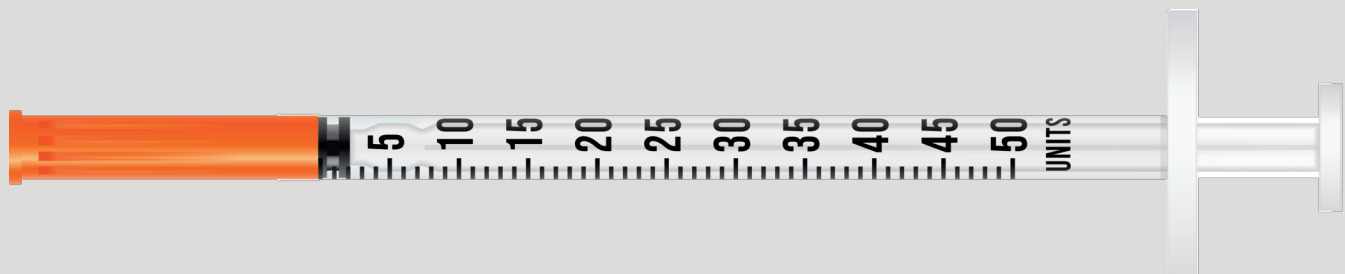
In September 2024, floods and landslides caused widespread disruption. PCG’s office, a key supply center, was flooded and became unusable.

Despite the crisis, PCG members worked with local community leaders to distribute clean needles and support peers affected by the disaster.

Later, staff from Raks Thai Foundation joined efforts on the ground to co-develop strategies with PCG for reducing needle sharing and building a sustainable, community-led harm reduction system.

RESULT

- Harm reduction services continued despite the crisis
- Reduced needle sharing and infection risks
- Community members felt supported and included
- A replicable, flexible model was developed



CONCLUSION

- Harm reduction can be integrated into disaster response
- Community leadership is essential for continuity
- Emergency plans should include vulnerable populations

