

TWG Subgroup Meeting Brief Report

Sub-group: Gender and sexuality

Date: May 10, 2007

Venue: UNAIDS

Chairpersons: Hoang Tu Anh – Do Thi Thanh Nhan

Major Discussion Points

Present: Mary Packard, Alexandra Ahlen, Mike Hall, Diana Measham, Do Thi Thanh Nhan, Hoang Tu Anh (Chair), Tran Huy Thong, Raquel Perez Palacios, Susan Wood, Margaret Sheehan, Emma Brathwaite, Richard Pooley, Vern Weitzel, Kristy Kelly, Jenni Viitala, Nguyen Thu Huong, Christine Petrie (minutes)

Main Discussion Points:

Creating Connections Project

Presentation prepared by Do Thi Thanh Nhan (Women's Union), Margaret Sheehan (WHO) and Emma Brathwaite (UNAIDS)

With seed funding provided by Ford Foundation, a consultant was employed to conduct an exploratory needs assessment via workshops with young and older women to explore their ideas about gender and sexuality.

The project idea of "Creating Connections" is to develop strategies which open up dialogue about gender and sexuality between women and their partners, parents and children and adults and young people generally. It can apply to women and men. It is anticipated that greater dialogue about gender and sexuality is one of a number of strategies that will lead to HIV prevention in the long term.

Margaret Sheehan outlined the feedback that had been received from women involved in the workshops and recommendations for future action.

In summary:

Mothers wanted information about sex, gender and adolescent development and new skills to help them talk with children about relationships and sexual decision-making.

Young women wanted information about life skills and contraception and to be able to talk to their mothers.

(Refer to full report for more details)

Future plans:

Awaiting funding to conduct practical training programs which offer participants skills in having conversations about sexuality in 3 demonstration provinces (Ha Noi, Thai Nguyen and Ha Nam).

Develop training modules that might be able to be used beyond the 3 pilot projects. The project has a monitoring and evaluation component built in and is very practical and relevant to many organisations.

A copy of the presentation and the consultant's report on the Creating Connections Exploratory Workshops can be obtained by emailing brathwaite@unaids.org.

Diana Measham (PACT) suggested the option of submitting a 1 page funding proposal to PEPFAR which accepts unsolicited proposals. However, it is not clear who this would need

to be sent to. Diana offered to follow up if this was necessary.

Center to Support Women's Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention

Presentation by Do Thi Thanh Nhan, VWU

The Center was established in 2006 and was part of the women's health care group. The role of the Centre is to implement programs on gender, HIV prevention and sexuality and to make recommendations to the Women's Union and government about these issues. The Center employs 13 staff and coordinates activities with other departments of the Women's Union and government departments.

Joint Publication on HIV and gender

Presentation by Dianna Measham (PACT)

Diana gave a recent presentation to PEPFAR representatives about gender and HIV. (PEPFAR have an obligation to focus on gender.) She explained that there are some concerning trends emerging about HIV and gender, for example:

- Husband to wife transmission represents the largest share of new infections of HIV in HCMC

However, she also noted that not a lot of analysis has been conducted on the data that is currently available on HIV and gender in Vietnam. She believes it would be a valuable activity for this working group to try to build up a knowledge base including data analysis in this field. The potential audience for this information would include potential donors, government departments including VACC, Women's Union and other mass organisations. This suggestion received support from the rest of the HIV and Gender working group. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to produce a joint publication with involvement of working group members. A national counterpart will need to be identified as well as other supporters and a funding mechanism. In addition, a decision will need to be made about whether the publication will make recommendations.

The group agreed that this idea should also be presented to the TWG.

Action Points:

Diana Measham will prepare a concept note including budget and process for the preparation of a joint publication on data and evidence about gender and HIV. She will also include a process for dissemination of the publication and then seek endorsement for this from working group members.

Diana will ask Amy from PACT to present this idea at the next TWG meeting.

Other Business

Margaret Sheehan informed the group that the United Nations Theme Group on Gender has been working on a joint programme proposal for funding through the Spanish Government Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund to be submitted by the end of the month.

Date and Location of Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday June 12 from 10.30am – 12pm at PACT.**