

TWG Subgroup Meeting

Brief Report

Sub-group : GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Date: : March 6,2008

Venue : PACT Asia in Vietnam, 37 Xuan Dieu St, Hanoi

Chairperson: Đỗ Thị Thanh Nhàn

Major Discussion Points

Introduction of the establishment of Vietnam Women Living with HIV Network (VNW+)

Presenter: Ms. Ngan (from Bo Cau group).

Key points: - Introduction of the network's organization.

- Introduction of the operational strategy
- Introduction of the strategic objectives
- Introduction of the anticipated opportunities and obstacles for the network
- Introduction of the prioritized activities.

A workshop is planned soon to identify prioritized activities. A consensus workshop is planned soon with AIDS Association and relevant agencies.

Sharing of UNFPA representative on reproductive and sexual health of women living with HIV

- Presenter: Doctor Tue
- Key points:
Reproductive and sexual health of women living with HIV is now one of the prioritized interests of UNFPA. An assessment on sexual and reproductive health needs of women living with HIV will be implemented by UNFPA at the second quarter of 2008. Findings will be used for designing appropriate interventions.

Sharing of PACT Asia in Vietnam

- Presenter: Ms. Diana Measham and Ms. Edith Morch.
- Key points:
PACT is interested in the establishment of VNW+ and capacity building for women living with HIV. PACT will refer VNW+ to donors and provide technical assistance for the network.

Sharing of PATH FINDER

- Presenter: Ms Hue.
- Key points: PATH FINDER has received a grant from Ford Foundation to work with Vietnam Ministry of Health to develop a National Guidelines on Reproductive Healthcare for Women living with HIV. Pathfinder will work with Ministry of Health to involve women living with HIV in development of the above-mentioned document.

Sharing of Health Policy Initiatives

- HPI was the organization that effectively contributed to the foundation of VNW+ and will continue its assistance to the network.

Gender and Sexuality Group's activities in 2008

Topics for future meetings:

The meeting in May: Sexual and reproductive health of people living with HIV.

The meeting in July: UNFPA's needs assessment on sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV.

The meeting in September: National Guidelines on Reproductive health services for women living with HIV.

The meeting in November: discussion on gender equality in sexuality and reproductive health.

Additionally, other topics will probably be included.

Other activities:

- Publish "Women and HIV/AIDS in Vietnam".
- Promotion of provision of information on reproductive health and services for clubs/groups of people living with HIV.
- Exchanges among clubs/groups of people living with HIV in Hoa Binh province on gender and reproductive health.

Other Business

- *Sharing of Sun Flower group:*
Sun Flower is a self-help group established in 2004. Membership is now 480 working in 4 provinces. Key activities focus on healthcare, women, society and children. The group has a network of health care volunteers, and provides referrals and counseling.
- *Sharing of Hoa Xuong Rong group:*
The group's membership consists of people after detoxification, 70% of its membership are women living with HIV. The group's activities focus on assistance to detoxification, counseling, care and prevention.
- *Sharing of BBC World Service Trust:*
BBC collaborates with Vietnam Ministry of Health on a communication project for youth about HIV/AIDS. BBC hopes to coordinate with groups of people living with HIV to develop the most appropriate messages.
- *Sharing of Pine tree club (MSM group):*
Shares on emotion and demand of love and sexuality of homosexual persons.

The participants showed interest in the establishment and operation of VNW+ and expected the network will perform activities that meet the needs of people living with HIV. Groups/clubs are willing to join VNW+ if the network will produce an agenda that meet their needs.

Date and Location of Next meeting

Next meeting is planned May 6, 2008 at Pact Asia in Vietnam, 37 Xuan Dieu St, Hanoi.