

TWG Subgroup Meeting

Brief Report

Sub-group: MSM Sub-group
Date: Wednesday 23 January 2008, 2:00 – 4:15pm
Venue: Army Hotel, 33C Pham Ngu Lao Street

Chairperson Donn Colby

Participants: Participants from VCHAP, CIHP, T&A Communication, Center for Promotion of Social Advancement, VSO, Youth Union, Hanoi AIDS Center, Can Tho AIDS Center, Khanh Hoa Health Education Center, HCMC Provincial AIDS Committee, John Hopkins, CCRD, Hai Dang club, Multi-color club, Green Field Club, Thong Xanh club, FHI, MDM, ISDS, University of NSW, Ford Foundation, iSEE, SHAPC, Star Project, VAAC and UNAIDS.

Major Discussion Points

- 1. Report of the provincial MSM Focal Points (Le Cao Dung, HCMC)**
MSM Focal Point of provinces of Hanoi, Khanh Hoa, HCMC and Can Tho had a meeting in the morning of 23 January 2008. In all provinces, there have been many activities targeting MSM especially during the World AIDS Days. Provincial MSM working groups of Khanh Hoa and Hai Phong also conducted advocacy meetings for leaders at provincial level. Provincial focal points also mentioned their difficulties in mobilizing funding for MSM activities because there is no budget line. Another difficulty is that the lack of IEC materials specifically for MSM and the lack of skills of MSM club to produce effective media products for education and advocacy purposes.
- 2. Report on the MSM BCC workshop in Siem Reap Cambodia 5-9 November 2007 (Nguyen Son Minh, Hai Dang club and Mai Xuan Phuong, VAAC)**
The workshop was organized by the regional Purple Sky network in Seam Reap (Cambodia) from 5-9 November 2007. Seven participants from Vietnam attended the workshop. Participants found the workshop very useful and they had experience to learn from other country. As the WG has received positive feedback about the course, it will consider the possibility of organizing the course in Vietnam.
- 3. Presentation on the plan for Workshop on Men and HIV (Huynh Lan Phuong, UNAIDS)**
Phuong (UNAIDS) presented the plan for MSM and HIV workshop. Inputs from the participants will be incorporated in the plan submitted to VAAC. Participants suggested that the workshop should be called MSM and HIV and the time can be flexible, not necessarily fixed to one day, depending on the contents. The presentations should also be included a summary/overview of resources allocated to MSM against the prevalence among MSM in Vietnam as a tool for advocacy.
- 4. Presentation on ISDS plan to adapt MSM stigma and discrimination toolkit**
Khuat Thu Hong (ISDS) presented their plan to adapt the African MSM stigma and discrimination toolkit to Vietnamese context. ISDS has experience in adapting HIV

stigma and discrimination toolkit and also experience in researching on MSM issues. They will work with UNAIDS/MSM WG to adapt this toolkit. The adaptation process is expected to be finalized this year and will serve to provide an understanding on MSM-related issues, leading to reduction of stigma and discrimination. Feedback include considering having separate toolkits for different targeted audience groups and skills for specific cases. Since the level of understanding on homosexuality is different from African culture and Vietnamese one, more information on this issue should be included. It is also recommended that ISDS can work with SHAPC since they will also conduct a research on MSM stigma and discrimination in 6 provinces in 2008.

5. National MSM Working group plan for 2008

Donn Colby reviewed MSM WG workplan in 2007 and draft plan for 2008 and requested comments/feedback/contribution from the participants. It is recommended that the group should continue to support the operations provincial working groups

Other Business

- **Handing over chairmanship of the MSM WG:** many thanks to Donn Colby for his chairmanship over the past year. The chair of MSM WG is Mr. Pham Vu Thien from CIHP. Thien has experience in communication and media and he is happy to support the group in this matter.
- **Announcement on procedure for nominating and selecting a co-chair:** the MSM WG is inviting nomination for co-chair position. It will be a two year commitment: one year as vice chair and one year as chair.
- **Announcement from SHAPC:** SHAPC is conducting a research on MSM stigma and discrimination and request the WG member to provide feedback on the questionnaire, which will be sent to members via email in the future.

Date and Location of Next meeting

To be decided – in March 2008