

HIV Prevention and Care Interventions for MSM in the Greater Mekong Region (GMR)

A regional consultative forum sponsored by
CDC-GAP/USAID-RDM APR/FHI-APR

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Bangkok, Thailand

Concept paper

The goal of *HIV Prevention and Care Interventions for MSM in the Greater Mekong Region* is to plan for the reduction of HIV transmission and STI prevalence among MSM in the GMR.¹ In early 2005, a three-day workshop entitled *Strategizing Interventions among MSM in the Greater Mekong Sub-region* was convened by the US government/donor agencies, CDC-Global AIDS Program (CDC-GAP), USAID-Regional Development Mission Asia Regional Program (USAID-RDM ARP), and implementing partner Family Health International Asia Regional Program (FHI-ARP). Over 50 regional experts from eight countries reviewed the implications of recent research to prevent HIV transmission among men who have sex with men in the GMR, and drafted a conceptual framework of evidence-based interventions and a two-year vision and action plan for the region.

Objective of the forum

The two-day regional consultative forum aims to 1) learn about best practice examples of MSM HIV prevention programming; 2) complete country action plans that were begun in the February workshop; 3) create a mechanism for regionally based planning and coordination; 4) produce a resource development plan for coordination and implementation of interventions among MSM in the GMR.

Three priority needs were identified by the participants of the first workshop:

- 1) Strengthening of existing or newly created community organizations, MSM and non-MSM, so that they can facilitate access to prevention, care, support and treatment services by MSM;
- 2) Improvement of existing clinical services through the adoption of clinical guidelines and training in the health care sector in the GMR;
- 3) Engagement with regional governments to recognize the need for HIV prevention, care, support and treatment services by MSM and to establish relevant, supportive policies, programs and adequate resources.

Participants will be asked to design and recommend ways to effect regionally based planning, coordination and methods of resource development as well as to create an action plan to achieve the workshop goal. Research data and the findings of the February meeting will be updated and time goals for the first workshop's two-year vision will be set. Participants will be drawn from community-based groups, networks and organizations, non-government organizations (local, regional and international), the United Nations, national government ministries, and interested donor agencies.

The *HIV Prevention and Care Interventions for MSM in the Greater Mekong Region* regional consultative forum is supported by the original three sponsoring agencies.

¹ For this forum, the Greater Mekong Region (GMR) refers to the following five countries: Cambodia, China (Yunnan and Guangxi provinces), Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.