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## Report

### On National MSM Technical Working Group Meeting



Date: 22nd May, 2013

Venue: Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh Cambodia

Organized by:



Supported by:



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## **I. Background**

Recent prevalence estimates show that Cambodia has an overall adult HIV prevalence of 0.7% in 2012. The epidemic is concentrated amongst several key populations: entertainment workers (EW) (14.7%)<sup>1</sup>, injecting drug users (IDU) (24.4%)<sup>2</sup> and men having sex with men (MSM) (5.1%).<sup>3</sup> Among MSM/TG, HIV prevalence is 8.7% in Phnom Penh and 0.8% in other provinces (Battambang and Siam Reap) based on the last available figure in 2007 while the highest HIV prevalence is among trans-genders (9.8%) in comparison to other MSM (5.0%).

To address the needs for HIV prevention, care/treatment and support for MSM/TG, a national strategic framework and costed operational plan for MSM (NSF) 2007-2010 was developed and implemented. Currently, several programs are implemented to (1) raise HIV preventive knowledge and sexual behavior change; (2) strengthen health services delivery (VCCT, STI, OI/ART services...) and referral system for EW and MSM/TG through implementing CoPCT SOP; and (3) create supportive environment to facilitate access to services among most-at-risk population (MARP) through implementing MARP community partnership initiative (MCPI).

Under the effort, prevention education covers more than 80 % MSM/TG. However, access to STI services among the group is unsatisfactorily low, around 30 % based on routine data. What's more, there are from time to time reports of stigma and discriminations against MSM/TG either via media such as newspapers or radios or at community. Cambodia's endorsement to the 2011 UN declaration on 3-zeros policy (zero new HIV infection, zero AIDS-related death and zero stigma/discrimination) requires us to double our efforts.

The National MSM Technical Working Group was created to coordinate, advocacy, prepare and review the MSM policy. This working is also to work as technical support group to find the key way and appropriate solutions for MSM issues in Cambodia. In generally, this working always conduct the quarterly meeting every three months to ensure the functions of its members and relevant stakeholder have been actively contributing into the HIV/AIDS response among MSM and TG in Cambodia. It is also necessary way to contribute into the reaching Triple Zero Strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia.

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<sup>1</sup> NCHADS:2006, HSS

<sup>2</sup> NCHADS- HIV Prevalence Among Drug Users:2007

<sup>3</sup> NCHADS:2005, SSS

## **II. Objectives of the meeting**

The objectives of the meeting are:

- To assess the achievements of Prevention Intervention and Support among MSM and TG in First Quarter 2013 in Cambodia
- To demonstrate the achievement of the National MSM and TG Network in First Quarter 2013
- To assess and discuss among members on the updated of services delivery by Family Health Clinics and MSM Clinics

## **III. Methodologies**

This is a very important to use the various approaches in the meeting by ensuring the actively participation of the each members and their understanding on the concepts and main discussions in during and after the meeting. Anyway, the National MSM Technical Working Group Meeting some necessary approaches were used including facilitation, presentation, discussion, ask and answer the questions.

## **IV. Main Discussion**

*H.E Dr. TengKunthy*, who is a Secretary General of National AIDS Authority and being a chairman of the National MSM Technical Working Group made the speeches for welcoming, introducing and opening the meeting

*a. Presentation and discussion on the achievements of Prevention Intervention and Supports among MSM and TG in First Quarter 2013 in Cambodia.* (Presented by Mr. Heng Saly, MSM Technical Officer of FHI360)

The achievement of Prevention Intervention and Supports among MSM and TG in First Quarter 2013 in Cambodia was come up and prepared by MSM Secretariat Working group who is a core group of the National MSM Working Group. The main achievements were:

### **1. Main achievements**

- MSM and TG reached of Education (outreach) is 16,411 people (decreased)
- Condoms and lubricants provided 174, 170 (increased)
- Conducted the NMSMTG Meeting 1 time
- Conducted the MSM Secretariat TG Meeting regularly
- Participated the meeting with PHD Municipal Meeting on MSM and TG
- Conducted the Field Visit on Prevention Intervention among MSM and TG in Siem Reap, Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Poi Pet, Preah Sihanouk, Kg Cham and PP
- Developed the draft tools as national monitoring for MSM and TG programs

- Supported in review the two years action plan of Bandanh Chaktomuk (BC)
- Conducted the HIV/AIDS Community Networks Consultation Meeting (FonPAMs)



## **2. Challenges**

- The late of GF funding is a big problem in promoting the understanding of PE and PF
- The target group is still mobility and hidden people
- Some location still have the problem for the VCCT services (taking long time for the result)
- Not identify the MSM figures
- Limited the coverage areas (not comprehensive coverage)
- Limited funding from donors
- The number of MSM and TG accessed to services is still low
- Lack of funding for Mstyle Program from Oct 2013

## **3. Ongoing tasks and next steps**

- Conducting the workshops/trainings to mainstream MSM and TG concept into Health Services Provider, Local Authorities, Police, Media and Relevant Stakeholders
- Strengthening the intervention of MSM and TG to access VCCT and STIs services
- Preparing for the MSM Secretariat WG Monthly Meeting and NMSMTG Meeting
- Conducting the field visits for the MSM and TG programs in the provinces
- Providing the outreach, condoms, lubricant, referral and other needed services to MSM and TG in the community

## **4. Suggestions**

- Request to donors in considering for the financial support to KANHNHA and KDFO
- All MSM Secretariat WG and NMSMTG members should participate the meeting regularly

***b. Presentation on achievement of the National MSM and TG Network in First Quarter 2013 (presented by Mr. Lor Seyha, BC Excom)***

The presentation started with the history of BC, vision and mission. The network was established in 2006 originated by the MSM and TG group with supports from NAA and NCHADS and partners including UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNDP, KHANA, FHI360 and others MSM local NGOs. In November 2012, BC conducted the General Assembly to review the bi-law, strategic plan, HR Policy, Financial Policy and election for new Ex-com that there were MSM and TG over 500 people in 11 provinces participated.

In February 2013, BC was a mandate to organize the Dialogue Workshop between MARPs/PLHIV and Local Authorities that aimed to share experiences and issues of MARPs and PLHIV from the community level to local authorities and relevant stakeholders that need improvement, to identify mutually suitable and acceptable solutions for both local authorities and the communities toward improving access to HIV services, to link the community response with the national initiative, particularly the PCPI and CoPCT by strengthening the collaboration and cooperation between communities networks and local authorities and to enhance collaboration among NGO/development partners/ donors and community networks for mutually respects and improved services. Recently, BC conducted the Leadership and Capacity Building among MSM and TG focal points in provinces.

***c. Presentation on updated of services delivery by Family Health Clinics and MSM Clinics ( Presented by Dr. Than Sotheavuth, MSM and TG Medical Doctor, MEC)***

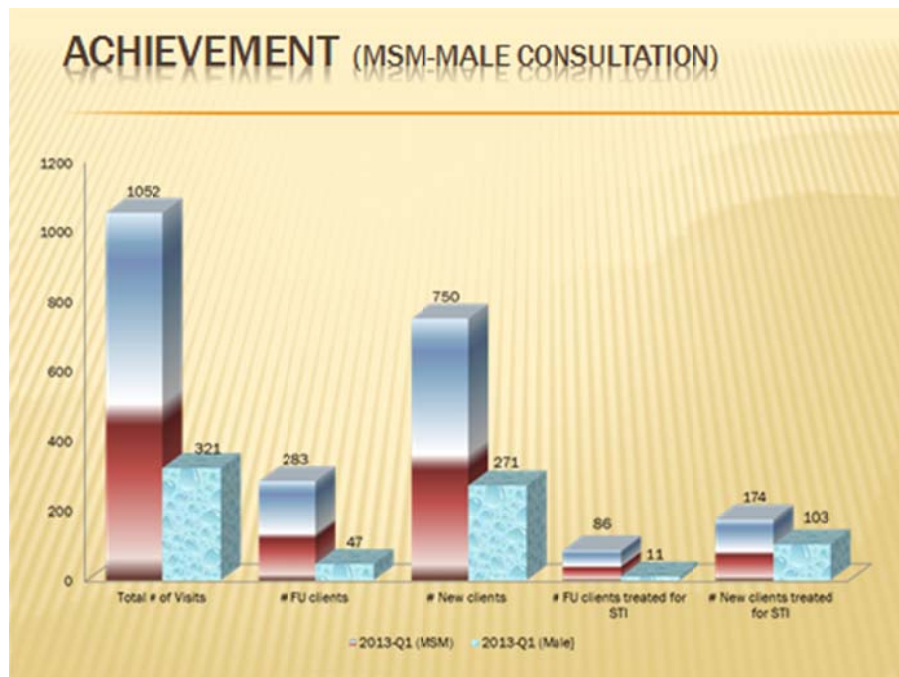
The project aims to reduce HIV/AIDS/STI transmission among MARP at higher risk of HIV exposure. The main activities are:

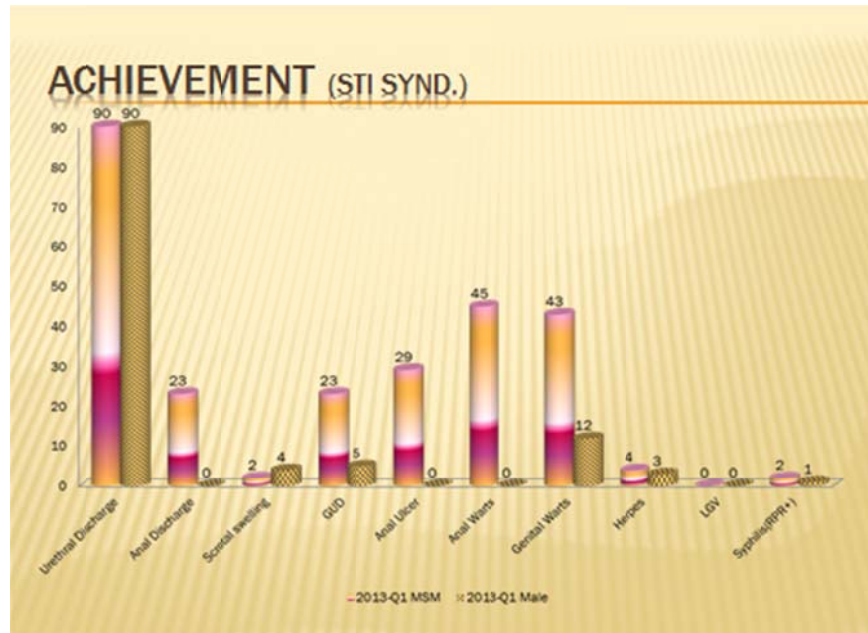
- Providing care and treatment for STI
- Providing the VCCT testing
- Providing education on HIV/AIDS and STIs

Below are the symptoms of STI among MSM and TG:



The MSM and TG had access services:





## V. Conclusion

The National MSM Technical Working Group is playing the main roles to respond HIV/AIDS transmission among MSM and TG in Cambodia. According to the achievements of HIV/AIDS responses in the first quarter in 2013 demonstrated that the number of MSM and TG access to VCCT and STI was increased. The outreach activities are provided to the target group by the local MSM and TG NGOs. But for the MSM Network (BC) seems that keeping in silent (low performances) due to the funding constraints. The CPIT program is very helpful to increase the numbers of MSM and TG in the community access to VCCT in places.

## VI. Recommendations/suggestions and next steps

The meeting has come up with the following recommendations:

- BC should conduct the events to reduce stigma and discrimination against MSM and TG by inviting relevant stakeholders including various ministries.
- BC must keep in touch with both technical and financial donors to prepare the events or campaigns to advocate for the supports.
- MSM Secretariat has to strengthen in collecting MSM and TG in provinces from local NGOs and Networks
- When MSM Secretariat conducts the meeting have to send to all NMSMTWG Members to inform about the meeting and objectives even they are able to join or not.
- Strengthening and expanding the condoms contributions to the target areas

Next steps for NMSMTWG:

- Promoting the MSM Positive Project into agenda of the meetings and others events and MSM Secretariat should incorporate CPN+ as a member of MSM Secretariat.

- MSM Secretariat must have the regular meeting and right report and openly for new members
- Revise the MSM Secretariat members and NMSMTWG members
- MSM Secretariat and BC must strengthen the relationship with the community
- BC must have the specific representatives and getting in touch directly to media
- NMSMTWG should request to KHANA relating local travel for the MSM field visits.
- The next NMSMTWG Meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

## VII. Index

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
8h.00-8h.30	Registration	Secretariat
8h.30-9h.00	Opening remark and leading the discussion by chairman of National MSM Technical Working Group and as Secretary General of National AIDS Authority (NAA)	H.E Dr. Teng Kunthy
9h.00- 10h.00	Presentation and discussion on the achievements of Prevention Intervention and Support among MSM and TG in First Quarter 2013 in Cambodia	Mr. Heng Saly, MSM TO, FHI360
10h.00-10h.15	Tea break	Secretariat
10h.15-10h.55	Presentation on achievement of the National MSM and TG Network in First Quarter 2013	Mr. Lor Seyha, BC Ex-com
10h.55-11h.45	Presentation on updated of services delivery by Family Health Clinics and MSM Clinics	Dr. Than Sotheavuth, MSM and TG Medical Doctor
11h.45-12h.00	Conclusion and closing remarks by chairman of National MSM Technical Working Group and as Secretary General of National AIDS Authority (NAA)	H.E Dr. Teng Kunthy

Prepared by:

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