



REPORT ON HIGH LEVEL MEETING

“Reducing Stigma and Discrimination For Improving the Implementation of HIV and AIDS Interventions among MSM and Transgender People in Cambodia”



24th December 2013

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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I. Background

Although little is known about the TG population in Cambodia, including its size, members of this population appear to be at particular risk. In the 2005 STI prevalence assessment, HIV prevalence was higher among TG than MSM (9.8% vs. 2.6%). In the Bros Khmer study (2010), the proportion of HIV positive TG was also higher than that of MSM (2.6% vs. 1.9%). Additionally, STI prevalence (including rectal or urethral chlamydia and gonorrhea, or syphilis) was 21% for TG while only 7% for MSM. The 2007 BSS revealed that more TG reported having 'ever sold sex' than MSM (60% vs. 36%). Among all who sold sex, TG reported 'first selling sex' at an earlier age than MSM. The first sexual partner for TG was more commonly a man (93%) while for MSM it was more commonly a woman (56%). The survey also reported that TG tended to use condoms less consistently with all sexual partners, and reported more condom breakages and using lubricant less frequently than MSM. For both TG and MSM, condom use was the lowest among non-paying partners. Despite these findings, in the past TG have been conjoined with MSM in prevention programs, which mean their unique needs have often been neglected.

Cambodia's National Strategic Plan III for a Comprehensive and Multi-Sectorial response to HIV and AIDS 2011-2015 includes a clear HIV prevention strategy targeted to men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people.

The 2012 continuum of prevention to care and treatment (Boosted CoPCT) for MSM, transgender people, and other key affected populations is being implemented across priority areas, strengthening HIV prevention and linkages to other health and social services.

To address the issues happening on MSM and TG works especially for direct implementing agencies and community based organization, the National AIDS Authority and Men Health Social Services conducted a High Level Meeting on Reducing Stigma and Discrimination for improving the implementation of HIV and AIDS interventions among MSM and TG people in Cambodia in order to build partnership and relationship with the local authority, local police and stakeholders. The meeting brought together government sector, development partners, civil society organizations, MARPs Networks, private sectors and MSM and TG individuals.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the meeting were:

- To build relationship with local authority, local police in order to mutual understanding between civil society and government.

- To strengthen the enabling environment in term of coordination and collaboration with the local police and local authority
- To reduce stigma and discrimination among MSM and TG from the community and society in order to increase the number access to VCCT and STI
- To strengthen the quality of services for MSM and TG in Phnom Penh in addressing the issues and needs related accessing to VCCT, STI and other services

III. Methodology

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. Meeting Progressions

A. Welcome and Opening Session

- **Addressed speech remarks by Mr Dork Pagna, Executive Director of MHSS**

In the speeches, **Mr Dork Pagna** highlighted that, it is an important meeting which co-conducted by National AIDS Authority and Men Health Social Services in order to reduce stigma and discrimination among MSM and TG People in Phnom Penh as well as in whole country.

Now, MHSS has been implementing the projects in 9 provinces within targeted groups around 8000 people who are MSM and TG which mostly focusing on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Support.



- **Addressed speech remarks by Mr Choub Sok Chamreun, Deputy Director of KHANA**

Mr Choub Sok Chamreun pointed out, on behalf of KHANA and Flagship, would like to appreciate to the government of Cambodia especially National AIDS Authority, relevant stakeholders' and local authorities for their great collaboration and contributions in order to address the new innovative and strategies for the HIV/AIDS response, which are the main objective of Flagship Project in term of prevention, care and treatment intervention related HIV and AIDS among MARPs included MSM and TG, EWs and PWID. The



Flagship is extremely contributing to achieve the 3 zeros strategy of Cambodia including Zero to infection, Zero to discrimination and Zero to death related HIV. In order to achieve these strategies, Flagship has been addressed one among these three strategies, Zero to new infection.

In his speech, he concentrated to key strategies in order to accomplish to the Zero to New Infections as below:

1. Engaging and providing a safe space for MSM and TG accessing to HIV/AIDS education, Condoms and lubricants
2. Providing supports and encouraging MSM and TG accessing to VCCT by using the Finger Prick Methods which is the fast test and result
3. Engaging, supporting, encouraging and referring MSM and TG who are HIV positive to get ARV and to regularly follow up
4. Continuing the support from local authorities and local police in order to have discussion between health services providers and MARP group to ensure the issues and needs of them are addressed
5. Enabling and providing supports to find the released treatment and death caused by HIV/AIDS among MARPs group especially MSM and TG
6. Enabling the facilitation and encouraging the entertainment and establishment owners to get involved for the 100% condom use policy, displaying the condom and education activities in places for MSM and TG
7. Stop the punishment, harassment and offense against MSM and TG because of their situation and behavioral differed from others people.

- **Addressed speech remarks by H.E Mrs Mak Vann Sitha, Vice-Chair of PP Municipal**

H.E Mrs Mak Vann Sitha expressed that, the current HIV/AIDS prevalence has been decreased comparing to the previous years but the expenses for treatment has been increased then it is still a main issues for Cambodia to have to strengthen the strategy and mechanism to combating HIV/AIDS especially focusing on the most at risk population and young people because of their sexual behavioral.



She added that, in mandatory as local authority and chief of Municipal AIDS Committee of Phnom Penh, she strongly supports and participates in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Lastly, she would ask the HIV/AIDS Committee at Khans and Sangkats Level to more actively perform their work in promoting condom use in places in term of entertainment establishments and public places.

- **Addressed speech and opening remarks by H.E Ieng Mouly, Senior Minister and Chairman of NAA**



H.E Ieng Mouly, who is a really enthusing person stressed that, this is an important meeting to support the HIV/AIDS sector toward MSM and TG people. He highlighted that, HIV prevalence was decreased from 1.7 percent in 1998 to 0.7 percent in 2013, but we must be careful with our success if we do not care about that, the HIV/AIDS will come back to Cambodia again and we will not be able to control the situation. In the recent survey, Bros Khmer 2010 showed that the HIV prevalence among MSM and TG people is 2.1 percent that we all must pay much attention.

On the policies of Royal Government of Cambodia, there are 7 points to investing and combating the HIV/AIDS in Cambodia for 2014-2018:

1. National AIDS Authority must continue collaboration with ministries, development partners, civil society organization and relevant stakeholders to boosting and encouraging the 100% condom use among most at risk population.
2. Integrating HIV/AIDS and Maternal Health into the Safety Commune and Village Policy
3. National AIDS Authority, Ministry of Health, relevant ministries, development partners, civil society organization and relevant stakeholders must work together to do mapping and addressing the geography, number of PLHIV and most at risk population.

4. National AIDS Authority must push to AIDS Committee at provincial, district and commune level to be activated. Ministry of Health must advise to Provincial Health Department in each province to work closely with PAC/PAS/PAO, and PAC/PAS/PAO must strengthen the partnership with civil society organization which implementing in their areas.
5. National AIDS Authority, National Authority for Combating Drug, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and relevant ministries must work together to provide the safe space for MARPs including MSM and TG, EWs and PWID to access comprehensive services.
6. National AIDS Authority must collaborate with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and relevant stakeholders to increasing the education to young people in term of prevention from HIV/AIDS, STI and Drugs.
7. National AIDS Authority is responding to coordinate and follow up in HIV/AIDS response as stated in the NSP 2014-2018, based on the indication of Royal Government of Cambodia through Rehabilitation and Development Committee of Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC).

B. Presentation on MSM and TG Situation in Cambodia

Moderator, H.E Dr Teng Kunthy, Secretary General, NAA

H.E Dr. Teng Kunthy, who is secretary general of NAA and a chair of the meeting stated, “based on the national survey in 2010 showed that, the HIV prevalence among general people aged is 0.8 % especially for most at risk population (MARPs) including Entertainment Workers (EWs), Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Injected Drug Users (IDUs) to be high and there is a general consensus that there is a real risk of a second wave of new infections within these groups. In addition, the HIV prevalence among MSM group is 2.1% reference to the currently survey of Bros Khmer which was conducted by FHI360.



In recent cases, MSM and TG are facing many problems including HIV/AIDS Transmission, stigma and discrimination, self-esteem and others challenges, and the National AIDS Authority (NAA) and civil society organizations have been continuing their efforts to fight these issues. Besides, it is to apply to the zero strategies of the Cambodian Government which declared with

United Nation in order to achieve the Zero to discrimination, Zero to death and Zero to new infection by encourage the MARPs and PLHA access the treatment and care services on time.

The presentation mostly focused on the definition of MSM. Men who have sex with Men (MSM) as we all know as homosexual that having sex with the same gender (man having sex with man) but sometime they also have with different gender (man having sex with woman). Regarding to the historical of MSM, he demonstrated that it has been for a long time because there have been the classic rock that described the homosexual in France. There also have been in Egypt and picture of homosexual (man having with man) and bi-sexual (man having sex with man and woman).

C. Voice of MSM and TG Community, National MSM and TG Network –BC

Ms. Cindy who is a representative of MSM community spoke out about his own story related to stigma and discrimination and also a real life of MSM and TG community, she highlighted about issues which are happening to MSM and TG in term of stigma and discrimination from family, friend and society. Moreover, they have many partners in having sex that being a main cause to face the HIV/AIDS and STIs transmission. Therefore, she made the suggestions to government, NGOs and relevant stakeholders to support and to reduce stigma and discrimination to MSM and TG then encouraging them to access quality health services.



D. Presentation on Boosted CoPCT, KHANA

Moderator, Dr Ny Socheat, Senior Technical Officer, MARPs

Dr. Ny Socheat started with the 3 Zero Strategies of UNAIDS including zero HIV new infection, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Cambodia is also taking a lead in order to achieve Cambodia 3.0 specifically HIV new infections in Cambodia, the new innovative and new strategies. The main objective of the Boosted CoPCT is to improve health status of most at risk people with HIV/AIDS transmission especially among the sub-group below:

People who injecting drug or People who use drug (PWID/PWUD)

- Entertainment Workers
- Men who having sex with Men
- Transgender people
- Partners and their clients

The package services of Boosted CoPCT among MARPs:



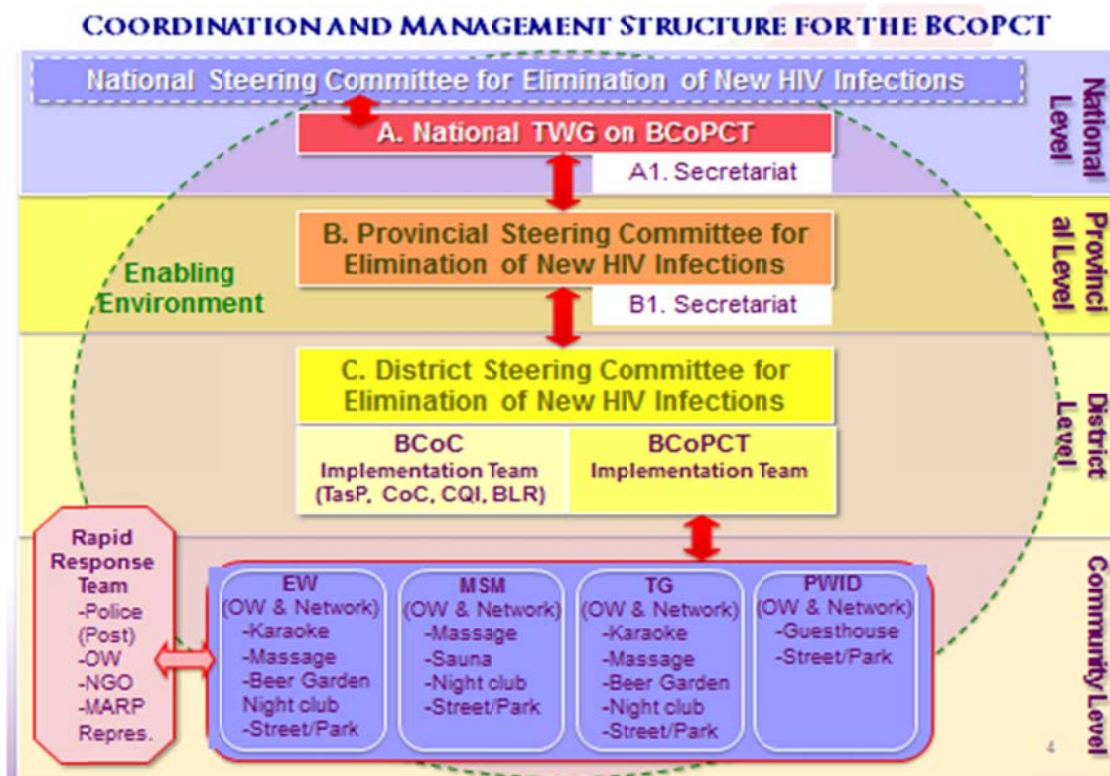
Core services:

1. Behavioral Communication Change (BCC)
2. Condoms and lubricants
3. STI Testing/checking up
4. VCCT Testing at health services centers/clinics

Additional services

5. Needle and Syringe Programs
6. Methadone Maintenance Therapy (MMT)
7. Pre-ART/ART
8. Family Planning and joint-response of referral hospital
9. Psychological and Social Support Services

Coordination and Management Structure for the Boosted CoPCT



The core-activities in outreach/education sessions:

- Face to face education and group education
- Referral to access STI and VCCT

- TG club including vocational training skills
- Condom delivery and social marketing
- Psychological support
- Strategic information
- New innovative

Key Strategies and activities of Prevention, care and treatment:

1. Increasing the findings for HIV/AIDS new infections
2. Early rolling for Pre-ART Treatment
3. Early taking ART (350<CD4<500)
4. Eliminating the services dropped-out and increasing the patients in care and treatment system

E. Presentation on Package Services for TG from Flagship, FHI360

Moderator, Mr. Phal Sophat, MSM and TG Advisor, FHI360

The moderator started with vision of flagship project which is to support the prevention, care and treatment among MSM and TG people in Cambodia. With this regards, there are two objectives in order to accomplish the goal:

- To improve the health situation of MSM and TG
- To reduce HIV/AIDS Transmission and STI among MSM, TG and their partners

Services Features: OW will be received a monthly stipend 60 USD per month (Based on SoP) with responding aggregated target group between 50 to 100 people. The packages services have been covered by Flagship are:

- Prevention
- Commodities
- Enabling environment
- Capacity building



The deliverable materials for OW to be used in field including Flagship uniform, Flagship t-shirt, scarf, condoms, leaflets, posters and other materials.

The core-activities in outreach/education sessions:

- Face to face education and group education
- Referral to access STI and VCCT

- TG club including vocational training skills
- Condom delivery and social marketing
- Psychological support
- Strategic information
- New innovative

The main strategies/activities which are the inside Boosted CoPCT in order to contribute to achieve the zero HIV new infection would be:

- Increasing the MARPs (MSM, TG, EW, PWUD/PWID) access to care and treatment
- Strengthening the capability of Outreach Worker (OW), OW will be selected to become the Lay Counselor
- Increasing the number of MARPs to access VCCT and STI

Main activities included to reduce HIV risk behaviors and transmission:

- Provide training to OWs on HIV test and counseling (figure prick)
- Conduct regularly meeting to up-date on issues and good practices
- Improve works of NGOs, ODs and PHDs in order to enhance the outreach and testing services
- Keep regular referral MARPs access to FHC for VCCT, STI and Condom
- Integrated HIV/AIDS and SHR
- Strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention, reducing sexual partners, alcohols and drugs

F. Presentation on achievement of MHSS in 2013

Moderator, Mr Dork Pagna, Executive Director of MHSS

Mr Pagna started with current donors who have been supporting to MHSS, USAID and Global Fund which are the main donors through KHANA, FHI360 and PSK. There are 9 provinces where have been covered and implemented by MHSS, those are Phnom Penh, Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Pailin, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Prey Veng. The target group also have been classified as 7419 MSM, 563 TG, 541 PWUD and 1400 EW.

In Phnom Peng, MHSS is implementing in 2 Khans, Chamkarmorn and Daun Penh with the target group is around 1162 MSM.

Below figures are showed the results of MHSS implemented:

Figure 1: Number of MSM and TG received the educations

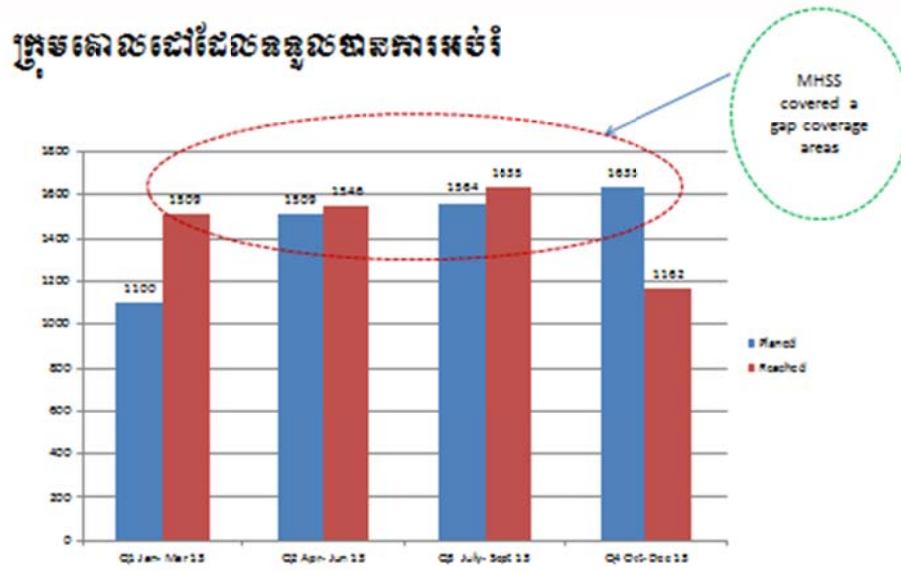
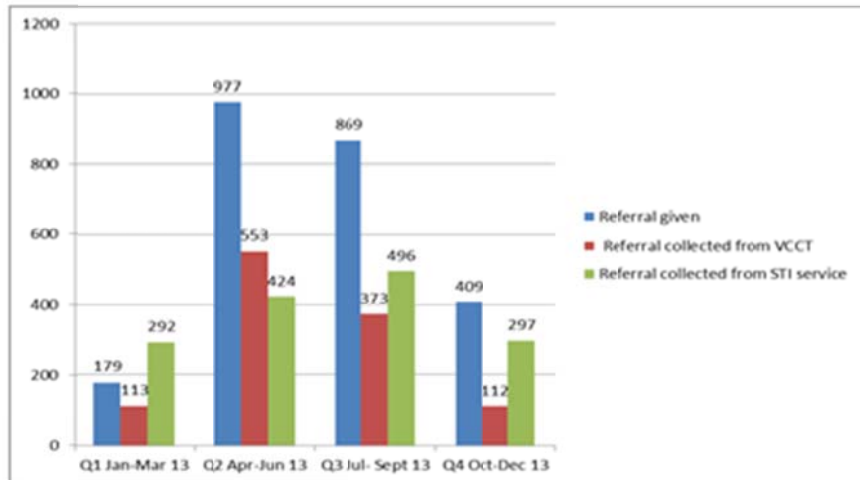


Figure 2: Number of MSM and TG got the VCCT and STI Testing

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V. Contributions and Commitment from Stakeholders

Moderator, H.E Dr Teng Kunthy, Secretary General of NAA,

1. In his position of the Secretary General of National AIDS Authority and Chairman of the National MSM and TG Technical Working Group, H.E Teng Kunthy strongly support the Intervention and Programs where addressing the priority as MSM and TG response. In the meaning time, he would also ask the participants who are mostly from the local authority to being close cooperation with the implementing organization in their areas.

He added, the stigma and discrimination will be seriously, if it is still coming from the local authority especially the local police. Therefore, we have to work together in order to reduce stigma and discrimination against MSM and TG in community as well as to contribute in achieving the 3 Zero Strategy of the Royal Cambodian Government.

2. A representative, who is a Vice-Chair of Khan Daun Penh expressed her remarks after the meeting that, this meeting is really important and she can understand about the issues and needs of MSM and TG in her location and whole Phnom Penh in term of stigma and discrimination, HIV/AIDS infection and so on. But she is still concerning about the behaviors of MSM and TG individual related selling sex. The local authorities do not prohibit for their occupation as sex work but all of them must respect the



law of the country. She would suggest to all organizations that are implementing their activities in Phnom Penh should inform and report to local authorities and local police then they can intervene in case there are some issues they can help. In the final, she is really opening for NGOs working on MSM and TG to closely cooperate in order to fight HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.

3. A policeman, who is on behalf of the local police in Phnom Penh, also expressed his feeling in participating in the meeting. MSM and TG is a different gender in Cambodian Society and it is



easy to affect the society. He recognized himself that he is one who stigmatized MSM and TG even some of them are a good people like others. But after attending this meeting and seeing the strategic plan of the government, he would promise to work closely with civil society organization in order to achieve the 3 Zero Strategy of the Royal Cambodian Government. He also suggested to individual MSM and TG, NGOs and Networks, please report the cases related to MSM and TG directly to local police then they can help on time.

VI. Recommendations

- NAA and NGOs should conduct the Sensitize Workshop or Events on reducing stigma and discrimination against MSM and TG with the community and relevant stakeholder's especially local police and authorities.
- Good cooperation in strengthening and expanding the condom contribution
- Providing the legal support to MSM and TG Community
- Developing the controlling system between NGOs and Local Authorities
- MSM and TG Local NGOs and Network must keep in touch with both technical and financial donors to prepare the events or campaigns to advocate for the supports.
- MSM and TG Local NGOs and Network must be good relationship and collaboration with local authorities and local police in order to mutual understanding and sharing information.
- The high level meeting should be spread to the provinces where the MSM and TG voices are not heard.
- Donors should expand the financial package to more support on vocational training skills

Annex (Agenda)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activities/Topics</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
7.30 – 8.00	Registration	MHSS
8:00 – 8:05	National Anthem	MC
8.05 – 8.10	Addressing remark by Executive Director of MHSS	Dork Panga
8.10 – 8.15	Addressing remark by Representative of the Flagship Consortium Project / KHANA	Choub Sok Cham Reun
8.15 – 8.20	Addressing remark by Deputy-Chair of Phnom Penh Municipal and Chair of the Municipal AIDS Committee	H.E Mrs. Mak Vansitha
8.20 – 8.35	Welcome and Opening Remark by Senior Minister and Chairman of National AIDS Authority,	H.E Ieng Moly
8.35 – 9.20	Presentation on MSM and TG Situation in Cambodia, NAA	H.E Dr Teng Kunthy
9.20 – 9:30	Voices of MSM and TG Community, BC	Ms Cindy
9:30 – 10:00	Presentation on Boosted CoPCT, KHANA	Dr Ny Socheat
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break	Hotel
10.15 – 10.45	Presentation on Package Services for MSM and TG, FHI360	Mr. Phal Sophat
10.45 – 11.30	Presentation on Achievements of MHSS in 2013	Dork Panga
11:30 – 11:50	Contributions and Commitment from Stakeholders	Participants
11.50 – 12-00	Wrap up and Closing	H.E Dr Teng Kunthy
12.00 -	Solidarity Lunch	Hotel