NEWSFILE

(Publication of the Advisory Council on AIDS, Hong Kong)

Editorial Board

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Vol 17, no.11 - November 2010 (issue no.203)

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Action Planning Meeting from 7-9 December 2010

The Action Planning Meeting of MSM and **Populations** Multi-City Transgender Initiative organized by United States Agency for International Development, United Nations Development Programme, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Asia Pacific Coalition on Males Sexual Health, World Health Organization, Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/ADIS will be held in HK from 7-9 December 2010 with the participating cities of Bangkok, Chengdu, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, Manila and Yangon. The Department of Health of HKSAR is the resource city to host the meeting.

Background

Men who have sex with men (MSM) in the Asia region are facing a severe and rapidly growing HIV epidemic. MSM in Asia are 19 times more likely to be infected with HIV than the general population. Despite increasing initiatives to implement targeted interventions reaching MSM and Transgender (TG) populations in this

region, the proportion of MSM and TG populations reached by these interventions is still low

In response to the recommendations of a 2008 global consultation on prevention and treatment of HIV and other STIs among MSM and TG populations, the World Health Organization Regional Office of the Western Pacific led the regional consultation on health sector response to HIV among MSM in Hong Kong in collaboration with UNDP, UNAIDS and the Department of Health in Hong Kong.

Following this regional consultation, the "Regional Consensus Meeting on Developing a Comprehensive Package of Services to Reduce HIV among MSM and TG Populations in Asia and the Pacific" was convened to review and endorse a regional framework defining a comprehensive package of services including programs to support HIV prevention, treatment, support and care, enabling environment and strategic information.

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More about Action Planning Meeting from 7-9 December 2010

To follow up the regional stakeholder defining for regional process a framework on MSM and HIV, the Steering Committee set for itself the goal of supporting key cities in interpreting and applying the regional framework at the local implementation level, with a focus on the behavior change aspects. The Steering Committee decided to support a consultative process at the city level in multiple cities in the region and to include reviewing the city level responses to HIV among MSM and TG.

Overall Goal

The ultimate goal of the project is to contribute to more effective HIV responses among MSM and TG in participating cities in the Asia region. Due to existing strong multi-sector partnerships in HIV responses for MSM populations, Hong Kong and Singapore have been identified as resource cities to present their good practices at the meeting. During the three-day Meeting, discussion amongst participants would be encouraged through participatory small group work. such, plenary As

presentations would be kept at a minimum. A limited number of resource persons/presenters would be invited from other cities.

Outputs

- 1. A consensus on strategic behavioral change strategies and prioritized action plans for HIV prevention amongst MSM in the participating cities;
- 2. a meeting report developed and circulated to all participants for comments before finalization and broader dissemination;

- 3. directions for further actions at city level and a platform for the broader Asia regional cities meeting which will be held in 2011; and
- 4. presentation of the preliminary results of the meeting at the 10th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific to be held for the period 26 to 30 August 2011 in Busan, Korea

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A Summary of the Eighteenth CFA Meeting held on 17 June 2010



(I) Update on Development of the Third Set of UNAIDS Core Indicators for Monitoring Hong Kong's AIDS Programme

The Forum reviewed the results of 25 UNGASS data indicators as well as Part B of the National Composite Policy Index (NCPI) questionnaire for which AIDS Concern had served as technical coordinator and formed a working group.

Members suggested:

- (i) For indicator 7(Percentage of women and men aged 15-49 who received an HIV test in the last 12 months and who know the results) to replace the word "irrelevant" by "less significant".
- (ii) For indicator 20(Percentage of injecting drug users who reported the use of a condom at last sexual intercourse) to ask respondents if they had used condom at the last sexual intercourse (instead of last year) in the preceding month (instead of last year) at the next Street Addicts Survey.

Members also voiced the following concerns:

- (i) With reference to indicator 11(Percentage of schools that provided life skills-based HIV education within the last academic year) to reflect to ACA that the Education Bureau should consider surveying schools to determine whether they conducted life skills-based HIV education.
- (ii) With reference to item 3b. of Part B of NCPI on the extent to which services provided by civil society are included in the national AIDS budget, the zero rating may be inaccurate as it did not reflect the funding by the government–funded AIDS Trust Fund.
- (iii) With reference to item 4c. of Part B of NCPI on the extent to which civil society was included in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts at local level, the zero rating may be misleading as it did not take into account the involvement of NGOs in M&E activities such as the PRISM and CRISP surveys.

(II) Report Back of the High Level Dialogue organized by UNDP, APCOM and CCPL of HKU in Hong Kong on 17 May 2010

Members were briefed on the background, objectives and highlights of the Meeting, which examined the barriers to HIV prevention from the legal and human rights perspectives. It was noted that many national HIV policies now accord a priority to MSM but the legal environment remains repressive, often resulting in abuse and human right violations. Punitive

laws and police practices on MSM and transgender persons lead to harassment of outreach workers, confiscation of condoms as evidence of illegality, censorship of HIV materials, and police raids on HIV education events.

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more about the Eighteenth CFA Meeting

(III) Revised Draft of the Quality Assurance Guidelines on Prevention of HIV/ AIDS through Peer Education Programme in Community Settings

The Forum went through the third draft of the quality assurance guidelines and noted that:

- the revised guidelines were more practical and user-friendly with the theoretical parts trimmed down;
- the guidelines set out principles and minimum standards for reference, rather than detailed and restrictive requirements for accreditation;
- actual experiences of NGOs serving specific target groups were incorporated;
- real-life examples or case studies could be uploaded on the website and added from time to time; and
- the English and Chinese versions of the guidelines would be finalized at the next CFA meeting scheduled for 16 September 2010.



(IV) Proposed Conference for Strategic Review and Planning

The Forum was introduced to the new term of office-bearers of the Hong Kong Coalition of AIDS Service Organizations (HKCASO), most of whom were also CFA members. There was general consensus that community and stakeholder input was essential to the process of reviewing the current situation and planning the

recommended strategies for 2012-16. It was proposed that a conference be jointly held by CFA and HKCASO around the time of World AIDS Day 2010, and details would be further worked out by the Secretariat in consultation with HKCASO.



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