

The Purple Sky Network

Regional Coordinating Secretariat (RCS)

HIV Interventions for MSM in the
Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS)

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Therapeutics Research • Education • AIDS Training

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Support



U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
(CDC)/Global AIDS Program (GAP) Asia Regional
Program



U.S. Agency for International Development
(USAID)/Regional Development Mission/Asia
(RDM/A)



PEPFAR



Family Health International (FHI)/Asia Regional
Program



The Foundation for AIDS Research

Objectives of Presentation

- Background and context
 - MSM in Greater Mekong Sub-region
- Regional Coordinating Secretariat
 - Process
 - Structure
 - Achievements



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How it started

- U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC)/Global AIDS Program (GAP) Asia Regional Program
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Regional Development Mission/Asia (RDM/A)
- Family Health International (FHI)/Asia Regional Program
- UNESCO
- Regional Approach

First Meeting

- Objectives
 - Define minimum package
 - Develop strategies
- Participants
- Mapping
- Data
- Two year vision



Second Meeting

- Advocacy
- Government, civil society
- Data
- Best practices
- Country group work
- Confirmed two year vision



Second Meeting Conclusions

- **Country Level**
 - Form working group and participate in regional coordination
- **Regional Level**
 - Expand the Technical Committee into a Regional Coordination Board (RCB) and create a regional coordinating secretariat (RCS)

Regional Coordination Board

- Includes in-country representatives from working groups
- Oversees Regional Coordinating Secretariat

Regional Coordinating Secretariat

Goal

To enhance and strengthen the capacity of the regional and in-country MSM working groups in developing and advocating for appropriate and effective programs, services and policies for reducing HIV and STI transmission among MSM in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

Objectives

- To provide leadership and support to in-country working groups
- To facilitate working groups activities that aim to achieve the specific two-year vision and work plans



RCS Responsibilities

- Operation & Administrative Support
 - Establish mission and principles of the RCS
 - Recruitment of a program coordinator
 - Set up and manage day-to-day operations
 - Create policies, procedures and monitoring systems for the RCS

Technical Support

- Facilitate, establish and strengthen in-country working groups
- Development of working group structure
- Facilitate development of regional and country work plans with the RCB and WGs
- Monitor progress
- Coordinate regular Regional Coordination Board meetings

Network Development & Maintenance Support

- Maintain regular contact with working groups
- Guide, support and encourage full participation
- Develop effective communication mechanisms
- Improve information sharing among the network
- Organize regular meetings; 1 regional and 4 in-country annually

Mission Statement

“The Regional Coordinating Secretariat is dedicated to uniting and supporting local efforts to address HIV/AIDS among MSM in the Greater Mekong Subregion.”



Successes of The Purple Sky Network

- MSM now in every national AIDS plan in the GMS except China, progress there also
- Working groups including GOs and NGOs in all countries
- Opportunity for sharing
- Possible model for other sub-regions
- Regional Network Meeting

Challenges

- Lack of Data
- Different political circumstances
- Government buy-in
- Level of CBOs and NGOs engagement and human resource capacity
- Linguistic barriers

Key Lessons Learned

- Regional approach helpful for stigmatized populations
- Donor, government and non-government participation important
- Data is important but don't wait for "enough"
- Coordination, facilitation component
- Structured response necessary for action

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Thank you!

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