Regional Coordinating Secretariat (RCS)

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

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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
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
Purple Sky Network

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
Thank you!