

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (The World Bank)

Institutional Development Grant for fighting HIV and AIDS and promoting sexual health amongst males who have sex with males in South Asia Region

Project title: Fighting HIV/AIDS and promoting sexual health amongst males who have sex with males in South Asia

Implementing agency: India Naz Foundation International

IDF Grant No: TF057990

Final Narrative Report

Period: July 2007 - June 2009

Date of report: 15th October 2009



INFI capacity-building workshop

Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AFAO	Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations
amfAR	American Foundation for AIDS Research
APCOM	Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health
API	Asian, Pacific Islanders
APLA	AIDS Project Los Angeles
ASAP	AIDS Society in Asia and Pacific
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
BDS	Blue Diamond Society
BSWS	Bandhu Social Welfare Society
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CoJ	Companions on a Journey
DfID	Department for International Development, UK
EC	European Commission
EJAF	Elton John AIDS Foundation
FHI	Family Health International
FSW	Female Sex Worker
GFATM	Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria
GSK	Glaxo, Smith and Kline
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAS	International AIDS Society
ICAAP	International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific
IDF	Institutional Development Fund
IGB	Interim Governing Board (APCOM)
INFI	India Naz Foundation International
IPPF	International Planned Parenthood Federation
KOR	Khatiz Organisation Rehabilitation
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health
MSM	Males who have sex with males
MSMGF	Global Forum on MSM and HIV
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation
NFI	Naz Foundation International
OSI	Open Society Institute
PSI	Population Services International
SACS	State AIDS Control Society
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
TOP	Targeted Outreach Programme
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organisation

Executive Summary

Providing technical support to MSM networks, groups and organisations towards enabling them to develop as community-based HIV service providers promoting sexual health amongst their constituencies, Naz Foundation International (NFI) has primarily worked in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, with increasing request for such support from these countries, as well as from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar.

The World Bank agreed to provide NFI with a 2 year Institutional Development Fund Grant beginning July 1st 2007 to achieve the following:

- Strengthened technical support capacity
- Developing knowledge management capacity
- Developing Advocacy capacity
- Strengthening financing and management capacity

Funding was channelled through NFI's India partner, India NFI to primarily support the above activities in India and the activities of the regional programme office which implemented the NFI regional work.

Strengthening technical support capacity of INFI

Through strengthening of the Technical Support Unit with staffing and equipment, has enabled INFI to downstream its technical assistance more effectively along with scaling up of this support. During the period of this grant, INFI has conducted 2 India state level training programmes on capacity building for 20 MSM CBOs (80 participants), 321 days of site visits in 6 states providing on-site technical assistance and addressing capacity needs with 43 MSM CBOS provided such assistance, agreements reached with these 6 State AIDS Control Societies to support such technical assistance, and sensitisation programmes conducted for 420 professionals engaged in HIV work (doctors, media persons and NGO staff). INFI has also responded to some 5373 requests for assistance.

NFI, in collaboration with INFI has also conducted 2 regional (South Asia) training of trainers programmes, a total of 18 days and 54 participants.

With the development of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) by NFI and the engagement of NFI through its Chief Executive as the Chair of this institution, NFI has been enabled to significantly strengthen and upstream its advocacy work, with governments, donors, INGOs, national NGOs, and MSM and HIV groups and organisations, not only in South Asia, but also across Asia and the Pacific. This has been possible because both NFI and APCOM share the same advocacy objectives.

It has also led to the deepening engagement of the Regional Office of UNDP in supporting NFI's country activities, including the first national MSM and HIV meeting in Sri Lanka, developing an MSM technical resource team for Pakistan, hosting the India and South Asia meetings in Lucknow, as well as financial resources, input and proposal partner, in the NFI GFATM regional proposal.

NFI's engagement with the Global Forum on MSM and HIV is also having a similar impact in strengthening its advocacy and technical assistance role, providing opportunities to disseminate NFI's work and develop links with MSM and HIV agencies who wish to replicate NFI's model of regional technical assistance in their parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

NFI's support for INFI has also assisted in the development of consensus building among the various state and national MSM networks that in the past has been somewhat acrimonious. This has seen a greater engagement of all these networks in working together to achieve common goals.

INFI now recognised by NACO as the North India Learning Centre on MSM and HIV, and as a national MSM and HIV institution with increased support, while NFI now recognised as a leading institution in Asia and Pacific on MSM and HIV issues, needs and ways forward leading to increased support

Developing knowledge management capacity

Regular work of the Unit includes:

- Classification and cataloguing of books and documents
- Updating library listings
- New documents and resources downloaded
- Web searches
- Checking media for useful reports and articles
- Editing Pukaar (quarterly NFI journal)
- Updating mailing list
- Provide graphic design support for India NFI and other partners needs
- Provide support to library visitors
- Management of NFI website

During this fund period, NFI has developed 8 editions of Pukaar, its quarterly journal, along with producing a range of BCC materials in 7 languages for onward distribution through the website and directly to NFI's country partners, over 20 power point presentations for conference and meetings, 10 reports and essays, as well as complete the NFI MSM CBO Project Monitoring software and user manuals, as well as a book for MSM living with HIV called Living Well with HIV. It has also initiated the development of 2 new key resources on Training of Trainers guide, advocacy and fieldworkers guide.

The strengthened Knowledge Management capacity has enabled the NFI website (www.nfi.net) to greatly improve both in quality and quantity of available documentation, while at the same improving the Knowledge and Resource centre and the NFI website is being acknowledged as a significant global resource on MSM and sexual health issues.

The NFI website is a treasure trove of useful information and has been invaluable in my work

A user's comment

Developing advocacy capacity

Note: NFI focuses on the following areas of advocacy work:

1. *Addressing MSM human rights abuse, stigma and discrimination and promoting social justice*
2. *Promoting good practice in implementing MSM and HIV programming (see Annexe 2)*
3. *Increasing investment (both technical and financial) in MSM and HIV programming*
4. *Rapid scaling up of coverage of MSM and HIV services towards achieving Universal Access*

India NFI

With the enhanced capacity of INFI's advocacy work, it has enabled greater mobilising support for the Delhi High Court petition on reading down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code dealing with "acts against the order of nature"; strengthen some 43 MSM CBOs to advocate at local and state levels on human rights abuse, and rights-based approaches to HIV interventions; and has been integral to the successful completion and submission of the India country proposal to the GFATM in terms of MSM HIV prevention, care and support

At the same it is leading the current debate being held within a range of SACS and NACO in regard to supporting MSM CBOs or so-called composite programming by NGOs to review policy of identifying implementation agencies, successful participation in the NFI South Asia multi-country regional proposal submission for round 9 of the GFATM.

INFI has also been centrally engaged in the MSM community response and support for the Naz India petition to the Delhi High Court on Section 377 of the India Penal Code.

INFI is now recognised as the North India Learning Centre on MSM and HIV by NACO.

International advocacy work

NFI has been engaged in several advocacy initiatives over the past two years, key of which has been its centrality in developing what is increasingly been seen as the leading MSM and HIV advocacy institution in Asia and the Pacific, the Asia and Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM). As a part of its global advocacy on MSM and HIV issues of concern, NFI also engaged with the Global Forum on MSM and HIV.

Further, NFI successfully advocated with all the countries involved in its 7 country Round 9 GFATM submission to endorse the proposal.

This has led NFI to be able to participate in key regional meetings on MSM and HIV as an advocate on these issues, such as the 8th ICAAP in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the XVth International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, Mexico, and the Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Along with these, NFI/APCOM were key technical experts on MSM and HIV at the regional consultations regarding developing a comprehensive HIV service package for MSM and transgenders, organised by WHO, UNDP and UNAIDS, regional consultation on engaging the health sector in the response to MSM and HIV risks and vulnerability organised by WHO and UNDP, as well as the regional forum on engaging police forces in the response to AIDS organised by UNAIDS.

All these activities have increased visibility of NFI at national and international levels, the development of APCOM and its leading advocacy role in Asia and the Pacific, the endorsement of a 7-country South Asia GFATM proposal by all countries included in the proposal, an India country round 9 proposal successfully engaging with MSM CBOs, a consensus statement developed on a comprehensive package of services for MSM and transgenders with UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and ASEAN, and an agreement developed with WHO on developing an MSM and HIV Health Sector Response Standing Committee as a part of APCOM.

Strengthening financing and management capacity

A strategic plan for resource mobilising was developed and implemented which also included a process for developing partnerships with key international NGOs who have MSM and HIV responses as a part of their agendas, where NFI provides technical assistance and support to these INGOs.

Resource mobilising initiatives both in-country and international, continue to be significantly strengthened. The Grant has made it possible for India NFI and NFI to gain support of key influencers such as UNDP and UNAIDS, and with the EU, and GFATM along with the support for APCOM and the Global Forum where back office support was provided by India NFI.

As an outcome of the strategic plan developed by the consultant, NFI is now engaged in continued development of a range of partnerships with INGOs operating in a variety of countries in South Asia as well as elsewhere to provide these international organisations technical assistance, capacity development, consultancies, as well as direct support for implementation work around MSM and HIV programming.

This World Bank support has enabled NFI to engage with the range of partners to develop and submit its GFATM round 9 proposal, to develop and obtain agreement with the European Union for project support, as well as strengthen NFI's technical assistance and resource mobilising for APCOM (NFI's gains 8% fiscal management support for any funding for APCOM).

Each of these contracts will generate income for NFI and its own work. Such partnerships are seen as an effective strategy towards scaling up NFI's own response to MSM and HIV capacity, advocacy and policy development needs. At the same time, INFI is also negotiating to generate its own income within India as well as abroad.

Background

Populations of males who have sex with males¹ (MSM) are at very high risk of contracting HIV in India and other countries of the South Asia region, where growing evidence indicates that the prevalence rate is significantly increasing amongst them;² where, in parts of India, the prevalence of HIV among MSM has reached 15%; and where the odds ratio of contracting the virus can reach some 8 times that of the general population, particularly amongst MSM populations who are already marginalised because of their low income status. But precisely because they are marginalised and socially excluded, these populations have very limited access to appropriate HIV prevention and care and support services. This is also not least due to lack of attention, limited technical capacity, knowledge gaps, chronic under-funding, and poor observance of human rights.

India Naz Foundation International (INFI) has received two years of funding support from the World Bank in support of its activities under IDF Grant TF057990, which it has been implementing since July 2007. The grant is intended to develop “Increased and sustainable capacity of MSM groups in the South Asia Region to promote sexual health and reduce the incidence of HIV – contributing to accelerate progress on the MDG for HIV and AIDS in countries of the region.” India NFI has been able to accomplish tasks as per the timeline described in the Grant proposal and has followed all prescribed procedures. It has undertaken several of the tasks under the Grant in close cooperation with and technical assistance of the Naz Foundation International (NFI) under whose aegis India NFI was set up.

India NFI was established to provide technical and developmental assistance to local sexual health projects working with males who have sex with males in India. India NFI supports knowledge management for the enhancement of evidence and understanding that would promote good practice in service delivery and develop advocacy that can address stigma and discrimination, while promoting increasing investments in MSM and HIV programming. In carrying out these crucial inputs, it would contribute eventually to the increasing coverage that is necessary to reach universal access of all to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services. India NFI also provides NFI with back office and logistical support to work more effectively in the countries of South Asia. India NFI and NFI work closely together to provide technical assistance, knowledge management and advocacy. Beyond this, their collaborative activities also allows the sharing of knowledge and experience within broader regional and global alliances, such as the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health and the Global Forum on MSM and HIV.

The Institutional Development Fund Grant has enabled India NFI to work closely with NFI to strengthen MSM community development and responsiveness to HIV and sexual health needs in the South Asia region, thus contributing to the international goal of “Universal Access”; support requests for information and data on gender and the MSM issues, needs and concerns to help generate the evidence base for programmatic support; continued their work with low income groups of MSM to provide much needed interventions that result in better prevention and better health; work with various stakeholders to develop a more enabling environment for MSM to exist and survive; and finally, leverage funding from other donors and support from the government to highlight the health and social needs of MSM.

The Grant has helped to achieve the following institutional strengthening:

- Strengthening technical support capacity
- Developing knowledge management capacity
- Developing Advocacy capacity
- Strengthening financing and management capacity

¹ While we use the term ‘males who have sex with males’ here it is within the context of understanding that the word ‘man’/‘men’ is socially constructed, whereas the word males indicates the biological framework. It use does not imply that it is an identity term referring to an identifiable community that can be segregated and so labelled. Within the framework of male-to-male sex, there are is range of masculinities, along with diverse sexual and gender identities, communities, networks, and collectives, as well as just behaviours without any sense of affiliation to an identity or community.

² David Wilson, World Bank, presentation to the MSM pre-conference satellite at the XVII International Conference, Mexico City, August 2008

Technical support

Down stream In-country (India) technical support by India NFI

Inputs	July-Dec 2007	Jan-June 2008	July-Dec 2008	Jan-June 2009	Achieved
Recruitment of 2 Technical Support Officers	Recruited	Operational	Operational	Operational	
Equipment purchased to support technical support activities	Purchased	Operational	Operational	Operational	
Visits	43 days	87 days	92 days	99 days	321 days
Response to technical assistance requests	787	1460	1235	1897	5379
Training of Trainers course (1 per year)	1 st course conducted (December 2007)		2 nd course conducted (October 2008)		2

Key achievements

- 2 India state level training programmes for CBOs: 20 CBOs represented, 10 days, 80 participants
- 321 days site visits in 6 states (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal) by Technical Support Officers
- 43 MSM CBOs provided technical assistance and capacity building through on-site training– 320 staff provided training
- Agreements to provide technical assistance and policy support reached with 6 SACS
- INFI office recognised as the North India Learning Centre by NACO
- Active participation in the Round 8/9 GFATM country (India) and South Asia regional proposals
- Development of new MSM CBOs initiated in 6 additional states
- Sensitisation programme conducted with doctors, lawyers, NGOs, and media persons: 420 persons in 6 states
- Rapid response to requests for technical assistance and support through the Technical Support Office (electronic communication): 5373 request for assistance processed including support for report writing, funding proposal, advocacy with SACS/donors, design of brochures, abstracts for ICAAP, presentations.

Impact

INFI Technical Support Unit strengthened to respond to capacity needs and technical assistance requests of INFI partner CBOs providing HIV services and sustained technical assistance provided.

South Asia regional technical support

Currently NFI's country partners are:

- Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), Bangladesh
- India Naz Foundation International (INFI), India
- Blue Diamond Society (BDS), Nepal
- Companions on a Journey (CoJ), Sri Lanka

Along with this is the development of MSM and HIV technical assistance and support being developed in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Why a regional approach?

Whilst some countries (India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) are more developed in terms of service provision, other countries in the region, such as Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives

have much lower coverage, from our experience³. Shared religious beliefs and common social and cultural constructions, means that there are great similarities of behaviour, identity, and discrimination amongst, and against, MSM across South Asia⁴. Due to the strength of stigma and discrimination, many MSM community-based HIV organisations require on-going support to establish and maintain services. Much can be done at a country-level, but often there are insufficient resources at a country-level to provide this.

NFI regional programme provide this additional support through a regional technical assistance programme. For example in Afghanistan, anecdotal evidence suggests the need for the development of HIV services for MSM there, but there is no identified resource able to develop this in-country, something a regional programme could do⁵. A regional approach enables better cross-country learning, providing added value to country-level research, advocacy and capacity development, and improve the ability to address regional issues in a strategic way.

In the case where our MSM and HIV country partners who have their own local MSM and HIV organisation networks, the regional technical assistance programme strengthens their capacity to enhance and share skills, capacity and knowledge. Where such country partners do not exist, we are working towards developing the necessary capacity to strengthen national AIDS programmes to respond effectively, and appropriately to the sexual health needs of MSM in their countries, whilst also working towards developing country partners to become a part of SAMAN (South Asia MSM and AIDS Network). Along with this we want to strengthen sharing of knowledge, good practice, advocacy and skills across the various countries, and deal with cross-country issues, through regional coordination and supporting regional initiatives.

One of the main areas of work we are developing, is to enhance the capacity of our country partners to provide technical assistance and support to local MSM community-led initiatives in their countries, supporting in-country efforts to develop knowledge, policies, and practice that enhance the delivery of appropriate HIV services for MSM. In line with the Delhi Declaration of Collaboration⁶, we believe supporting community based responses to HIV and MSM is important, and that the involvement of MSM in policy making on issues relevant to HIV and MSM is also important. We believe that addressing stigma and discrimination is vital, if countries in South Asia are to provide universal access to HIV services for MSM there⁷.

The NFI South Asia Regional Technical Support Programme provides a regional approach in South Asia to the issues of MSM and sexual health with regard to strengthening participation in service delivery by capacity building; address stigma and discrimination at institutional levels by policy development; advance knowledge generation and management; and promote increased investment and scale up coverage makes strategic sense, where replication of good practices becomes possible in the context of shared contexts of male-male sexualities and practices. Further it makes strategic sense for up-streaming advocacy and policy development, while engaging in national and regional bodies towards improving lives of MSM and provide support towards a movement to universal access.

This regional work takes place through NFI, which draws upon the expertise of its staff in the South Asia regional office who are engaged with this project, but not funded out of its proceeds. The organic collaboration possible between the India NFI, NFI, and its South Asia regional office adds great value to the work that has been funded in the region through this Grant.

NFI was also involved in developing the South Asia multi-country Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria Round 9 proposal (initiated as a Round 8 proposal but which was delayed to Round 9) which required constant engagement with its proposal partners, which included the four country partners

³ Experience of members of the South Asian MSM and AIDS Network

⁴ The Naz Foundation International has documented much of this – more information can be found on their website: <http://www.nfi.net>

⁵ Information from the Naz Foundation International

⁶ Agreed on 26th September 2006, by attendees at Risks and Responsibilities, a Male Sexual Health and HIV in Asia And The Pacific International Consultation.

⁷ In line with the above footnote.

(Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka), UNDP and PSI Nepal. Further as the regional proposal included Afghanistan, Bhutan and Pakistan, where currently NFI does not have country partners, discussions were also held with their National AIDS Programmes to develop and design their specific components in the final proposal.

This also required visits to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to carry these discussions forward, meeting with NFI's country partners, and with each of the GFATM Country Coordinating Mechanism, UNAIDS Country Coordinators, along with other key stakeholders. In regard to Bhutan, discussions were conducted via email and telephone.

During these visits and discussions there were also negotiations with the CCMS to finally obtain their endorsements, which all 7 countries in the proposal gave. NFI was able to submit the final proposal by the GFATM deadline of 31st May 2009. *Please see report section Resource Mobilising below.*

In addition, NFI Regional Office conducted 2 regional training of trainers programmes involving key representatives from its country partners, with a total of 18 days, and 27 participants to each of these. Along with this the Regional office also organised 2 regional meetings in regard to:

- a. UNAIDS Action Framework on MSM and transgenders
- b. Country partners engagement with APCOM

With this was two training programmes for Bandhu Social Welfare Society in Bangladesh, work with Companion on a Journey in Sri Lanka to review and strategies its development to respond to the HIV and sexual health needs of MSM in the country, and conduct a situational assessment on risk and vulnerability of MSM in Afghanistan. In Pakistan, NFI provided capacity training for implementing partners of FHI Pakistan in regard to MSM and HIV services in the country, while in regard to INFI in India, NFI provided a range of capacity-building workshops for INFI staff, as well as support INFI in implementing the new European Union supported project Supporting the scale up of HIV services for MSM in India, initiated in January 2009.

The second major activity conducted by NFI has been its technical support and assistance programme for the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health, an advocacy institution to promote increasing investment in MSM and HIV programming, rapid scaling up coverage of MSM and HIV services, increasing strategic information to inform these services, and addressing legal barriers to effective HIV interventions for MSM, along with challenging stigma and discrimination focused on MSM. NFI not only provides technical assistance to APCOM, but fiscal management, while currently hosting the APCOM Secretariat at its Regional Office in Lucknow.

A key development activity that involved a significant amount of time was the process of engagement of APCOM with the 9th ICAAP to be held between 9-13 August 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. APCOM plans to host a one-day pre-conference as well as a number of activities during the conference itself. Along with this was the hosting of the 3rd Governing Board meeting of APCOM held in February 2009, which included representatives from India and Bangladesh. *Please see report section International Advocacy below.*

Impact

The development of the South Asia MSM and AIDS Network that engages NFI with its country partners as a regional framework, along with the development of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM) and the engagement of NFI, through its Chief Executive as the Chair of this institution, has enabled NFI to significantly strengthen and upstream its advocacy work, with governments, donors, INGOs, national NGOs, and MSM and HIV groups and organisations, not only in South Asia, but also across Asia and the Pacific. This has been possible because NFI, SAMAN and APCOM all share the same advocacy objectives.

It has also led to the deepening engagement of the Regional Office of UNDP in supporting NFI's country activities, including the first national MSM and HIV meeting in Sri Lanka, developing an MSM technical resource team for Pakistan, hosting the India and South Asia meetings in Lucknow, as well as financial resources and input into the NFI GFATM regional proposal.

NFI's engagement with the Global Forum on MSM and HIV is also having a similar impact in strengthening its advocacy and technical assistance role, providing opportunities to disseminate NFI's work and develop links with MSM and HIV agencies who wish to replicate NFI's model of regional technical assistance in their parts of the world, including sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.

NFI's support for INFI has also assisted in the development of consensus building among the various state and national MSM networks, which in the past have been somewhat acrimonious. This has seen a greater engagement of all these networks in working together to achieve common goals.

Knowledge management

Inputs	July-Dec 2007		Jan-Jun 2008		Jul-Dec 2008		Jan-Jun 2009		Total	
Recruitment of Knowledge Management Officer	Recruited		Operational		Operational		Operational			
Website consultant	Recruited and initiate local website management and redesign of the website		New design of website uploaded and continued website management		Continued website management		Continued website management			
Equipment to upgrade knowledge management unit	Purchased		Operational		Operational		Operational			
Response to requests for knowledge management support	Internal	125	Internal	244	Internal	208	Internal	321	Internal	898
	(NFI partners)	52	NFI partners	162	NFI partners	194	NFI partners	197	NFI partners	605
	Others	211	Others	319	Others	420	Others	423	Others	1328

During this reporting period the Knowledge Management Unit moved into enhanced premises (at the same address), which provides a better environment for both managing the resources and library as well as for users. This was possible because of funds from a European Union supported project.

Regular work of the Unit includes:

- Classification and cataloguing of books and documents
- Updating library listings
- New documents and resources downloaded
- Web searches
- Checking media for useful reports and articles
- Editing Pukaar (quarterly NFI journal)
- Updating mailing list
- Provide graphic design support for India NFI and other partners needs
- Provide support to library visitors
- Management of NFI website

Website development and management

The new website design and accessibility was uploaded in June 2008, significantly enhancing visibility and access to documentation. Regular uploads of new documents have been done, with additional information on APCOM and other issues.

Website activities during the 2-year grant period:

Visits	Pages accessed	Files downloaded	Hits
324,437	1,735,719	618,079	1,723,2006

There has been a 24% increase in pages accessed and 22% increase in the number of files downloaded. Further library management software has also been developed to manage the books (1454), documents (1547), and some 5000 e-documents that are currently in the knowledge unit.

During the 2-year grant period:

- Eight editions of Pukaar developed and disseminated
- Eleven posters as BCC materials produced in 7 languages
- Two booklets on sexual health and wellbeing (TB, cancers)
- Website directory for partners
- Two Flyers on MSM and STIs
- Seven reports
- Three essays
- One Briefing paper
- Twenty powerpoint presentations
- Computerised MSM CBO Project Monitoring System
- Users manual for the PMS
- MSM and Living Well with HIV Book (currently under review)

Development initiated:

- Facilitators Guide to the MSM Training of Trainers Course
- MSM Fieldworkers Handbook
- Advocacy Handbook

Impact

The NFI website is a treasure trove of useful information, and has been invaluable in my work – a user's comment.

While we continue to explore broader dissemination of our website information, the new look and visuality of the website, along with a wider knowledge of its existence, and the significant scale up of documentation being uploaded, will increase use of the website.

At the same time the response to the specific BCC needs of INFI partners has significantly strengthened. Developing new BCC materials and other resources has greatly increased.



The refurbished library and resource centre

Advocacy development

India NFI and NFI focus on the following areas of advocacy work:

1. Addressing MSM human rights abuse, stigma and discrimination and promoting social justice
2. Promoting good practice in implementing MSM and HIV programming
3. Increasing investment (both technical and financial) in MSM and HIV programming
4. Rapid scaling up of coverage of MSM and HIV services towards achieving Universal Access

Inputs	July-Dec 2007	Jan-June 2008	Jul-Dec 2008	Jan-Jun 2009	Total
Recruitment of consultant	Recruited	Operational	Operational	Operational	
Five visits per year 60 days	19 advocacy events	27 advocacy events	22 advocacy events		68 advocacy events
60 days of visits	43 days	87 days	150 days		280 days
National meeting per years		Delayed till September 2008	December 2008 (difficulties in getting key people together)	June 2009	2
Equipment	Purchased	Operational	Operational	Operational	

India NFI advocacy

Key meetings have now been held with the State AIDS Control Societies in 14 key states. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal regarding provision of financial support to MSM HIV CBOs in their states, provision of technical assistance to both these CBOs and the SACS, and a range of policy issues of concern, including Section 377, criteria of selection of CBOs/NGOs for funding, the differences between composite and CBO programming, harassment of field staff by officials, and quality of service provision by VCT centres, along with scaling up MSM HIV interventions in their states.

Two-day training workshops on advocacy and human rights issues conducted for 17 MSM CBOs: total number of participants 180.

During this period 10 meetings held with NACO. Issues include

- Support for MSM HIV CBOs at state level, and concerns regarding funding criteria as determined by the state
- Level of coverage
- Monitoring data to be collected overwhelming administrative capacity of these CBOs
- Input into the GFATM Round 9 country proposal (3 meetings)
- Section 377 and the Delhi High Court appeal
- Policy development regarding local police and MSM HIV interventions by CBOs
- Implementation of NACP III

INFI also actively participated in key advocacy events regarding microbicides, with a specific focus on rectal microbicides research, along with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative highlighting the needs of MSM, and was engaged in a number of interventions with a range of media, and the provision of media training on MSM and HIV issues.

3 national meetings for MSM CBOs towards consensus building on:

- UNAIDS Strategic Framework document
- Engagement with the APCOM election process
- UNDP's Gender Guidelines

Discussions initiated with UNAIDS, UNDP, UPSACS, and Uttar Pradesh police to holding a seminar on engaging with police forces to support MSM and HIV interventions as a pilot. This will be held in early 2010. Should this be successful it will be replicated in other States.

Working with MSM CBOs, and a range of MSM HIV networks towards developing the India Rounds 8 country proposal (Round 8 was given a category 3 by the GFATM TRP. Following amendments it was re-submitted as round 9) on the HIV component. (It needs to be noted that the India GFATM Round 9 country proposal for HIV received a Category 2B from the GFATM TRP).

Working with MSM CBOs in India to participate actively in the NFI South Asia regional proposal on MSM and HIV to the GFATM Round 9.

Impact

- Mobilising support for the Delhi High Court petition on reading down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code dealing with “acts against the order of nature”
- Strengthen MSM CBOs to advocate at local and state levels on human rights abuse, and rights-based approaches to HIV interventions
- Successful completion and submission of the India country proposal to the GFATM in terms of MSM HIV prevention, care and support
- Current debate being held within SACS and NACO in regard to supporting MSM CBOs or so-called composite programming by NGOs to review policy of identifying implementation agencies
- Successful participation in the NFI South Asia multi-country regional proposal submission for round 9 of the GFATM.
- INFI is recognised as the North India Learning Centre on MSM and HIV by NACO.

International advocacy work

With back office support of India NFI and the knowledge management unit, NFI was able to undertake visits to conduct advocacy work in South Asia and elsewhere.

Support for the NFI multi-country regional MSM proposal for round 9 of the GFATM

With the support of OSI, UNDP and UNAIDS, NFI was able to successfully develop a multi-country regional proposal for Round 9 of GFATM with engagement of its partners in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, along with UNDP and PSI Nepal which was submitted on time. (As of the date of writing this report, this proposal has received a Category 2A from the TRP of the GFATM).

To support the submission process, NFI conducted a range of visits to Kabul (Afghanistan), Dhaka (Bangladesh), New Delhi (India), Kathmandu (Nepal), Islamabad (Pakistan) and Colombo (Sri Lanka) to advocate for the endorsement of the NFI led multi-country regional GFATM round 9 proposal. Discussions were also held with the appropriate Bhutan stakeholders for this. This direct engagement with each of the CCMs, UNDP and UNAIDS Country Coordinators was essential to ensure such endorsements. All countries endorsed this multi-country proposal.

This also involved on going discussions with UNAIDS Regional Support Team in Bangkok, and the UCCs in South Asia on a range of issues affecting MSM, including technical assistance for the NFI regional proposal for round 8 of the GFATM, as well as for APCOM work. Along with this was the on going discussions with UNDP in role as one of the co-sponsor of UNAIDS that has taken on the leadership role on MSM and HIV. These discussions also involve the development of the gender guidance notes for National AIDS Programmes that will include “sexual minorities”, and the UNDP advocacy and policy development component of the regional proposal for round 9 of GFATM, as well as global and regional staffing focusing on MSM and HIV issues. Further UNDP is now willing to support a range of NFI/APCOM initiatives in each country in the South Asia region.

APCOM and the Global Forum on MSM and HIV

While India NFI's advocacy work involves down-streaming and up-streaming advocacy work in India itself, this is also supported by the up-streaming of NFI's advocacy through regional and global initiatives. NFI's lead role in providing technical assistance and support to the development of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual (APCOM), as well as supporting the Global Forum on MSM and HIV through providing inputs and active participation in its Steering Committee. NFI is represented on the Board of APCOM as well as on the Steering Committee of MSMGF.

APCOM is a coalition of community-sector, donors, and government sector, and UNDP, UNESCO and UNAIDS in advocacy on key India NFI/NFI goals and objectives, namely

- Increasing investment (technical and financial) for MSM and HIV services
- Rapid scaling up of HIV services coverage for MSM across the countries of the region (including South Asia)
- Bridging the knowledge gaps that affect MSM and HIV programming (socio-ethnographic, behavioural and epidemiological)
- Addressing stigma, discrimination and criminalisation

The Global Forum on MSM and HIV was developed to follow the same goals as NFI and APCOM. In place of being a coalition of different stakeholders, is made up of technical experts on MSM and HIV programming from different regions across the globe, including NFI.

APCOM: www.msmasia.org

Global Forum: www.msmandhiv.org

Management of the Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM)

Provided management and technical assistance to APCOM. This involved:

- Management of APCOM development and its Secretariat
- Development work and resource mobilising for APCOM engagement with the 9th ICAAP to be held in Bali, Indonesia, August 2009, along with mobilising resources for APCOM itself
- Advocacy with the LOC of the 9th ICAAP to support APCOM's engagement in the conference
- Resource mobilising advocacy with a range of donors to support this engagement
- Engagement of key speakers with global and regional influence to be a part of APCOM's engagement in the 9th ICAAP
- Technical expertise provided to the WHO/UNDP meetings on engaging with the health sector and consensus consultation on developing a comprehensive package of HIV services for MSM

Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF)

- As a representative on the Steering Committee of the Global Forum am regularly involved in a range of email and teleconference communications in developing a proposal and activities to promote the goals and objectives of the Global Forum.
- Participated in the Steering Committee Meetings

A range of advocacy meetings with a range of international agencies to strongly argue for the key objectives of NFI and APCOM, that is rapid scale up of MSM and HIV services, increased investment on MSM and HIV services, addressing stigma, discrimination and illegality, and developing more knowledge on issues, needs and concerns of MSM in relation to HIV and sexual health. These include:

DFID

Hivos

OSI

SIDA

UNAIDS

UNDP

UNESCO

USAID

World Bank

WHO

International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and the International AIDS Conference

NFI, through APCOM, was strongly engaged with the 8th ICAAP, held in Colombo Sri Lanka, July 2008, and the development of engagement for the 9th ICAAP, to be held in Bali Indonesia, August 2009, where at the 8th ICAAP, APCOM was launched, and at the upcoming 9th ICAAP, APCOM will be hosting a one-day pre-conference MSM satellite, along with a number of satellites, a symposium and several caucus meetings.

Further NFI and APCOM were strongly represented at the XVI International AIDS Conference, held in Mexico City, Mexico, July 2008.

International meetings

Beyond this, NFI (through Shivananda Khan, its Chief Executive) was engaged in several key meetings at the international levels. These include:

- Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality
- Regional Asia and Pacific Consultation on the Health Sector Response to Men who have sex with men HIV/AIDS epidemic – WPRO – UNDP – UNAIDS
- Regional forum on engaging police forces in the AIDS response in Asia and the Pacific – UNAIDS
- Regional consensus meeting on developing a comprehensive package of services to reduce HIV among men who have sex with men and transgender populations
- Donors briefing on the implications for MSM of the Independent Commission on AIDS in Asia's 2008 report

Impact

- Increased visibility of NFI at national and international levels
- The development of APCOM and its leading advocacy role in Asia and the Pacific
- A 7-country South Asia GFATM proposal successfully endorsed by all countries.
- An India country round 9 proposal successful engaging with MSM CBOs
- Consensus statement developed on a comprehensive package of services for MSM and transgenders with UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and ASEAN.
- Agreement developed with WHO on developing an MSM and HIV Health Sector Response Standing Committee as a part of APCOM.

Resource mobilising

Global Fund for AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, Round 9

The submission of the final draft of the NFI led multi-country proposal for round 9 of the GFATM along with the endorsement of all 7 countries of the proposal, where the proposal had a range of external reviews. Total budget submission if \$45 million USD. (as of the date of this report, it is believed that this proposal has received a Category 2A from the TRP of the GFATM). It needs to be noted that NFI mobilising some \$250,000 US to develop this proposal from OSI, UNAIDS, and UNDP including in-kind support from PSI and NFI. This proposal focuses on community strengthening in the response to HIV. In this proposal there is \$1 million for INFI.

Asia Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health

NFI raised some \$250,000 US to support APCOM over a three year period through Hivos and UNAIDS.

A total of some \$160,000 had also been raised from a range of donors including Hivos, OSI, Pact, FHI, World Bank, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO to support the APCOM one day pre-conference MSM forum at the 9th ICAAP, along with other activities during the conference itself.

European Commission

An agreement reached with the European Union for 75% funding support of the INFI/NFI India project: *Supporting the scale-up of HIV services for male-who-have-sex-with-males (MSM) in India, by strengthening the capacity of community-based organisations of MSM, and others to address MSM and HIV issues.* Total amount for 3 years is 1 million Euros.

Others

Continued discussions with the Futures Group on accessing NFI technical assistance for their work in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Contracts are under development, but will generate some \$300,000 for NFI over a period of 3 years. Implementation is envisaged in 2010

Agreement reached with NACO on INFI in Lucknow as a North India learning centre. Funding would be \$52,000 per year. To be implemented in 2010

Contract signed with FHI ARO for technical assistance on MSM programming in Pakistan, value \$250,000 per year for 3 years. This will be implemented in 2010

Impact

Resource mobilising initiatives both in-country and international, continue to be significantly strengthened. The Grant has made it possible for India NFI and NFI to gain support of key influencers such as UNDP and UNAIDS, and with the EU, and GFATM along with the support for APCOM and the Global Forum where back office support was provided by India NFI.

As an outcome of the strategic plan developed by the consultant, NFI is now engaged in continued development of a range of partnerships with INGOs operating in a variety of countries in South Asia as well as elsewhere to provide these international organisations technical assistance, capacity development, consultancies, as well as direct support for implementation work around MSM and HIV programming.

This World Bank support has enabled NFI to engage with the range of partners to develop and submit its GFATM round 9 proposal, to develop and obtain agreement with the European Union for project support, as well as strengthen NFI's technical assistance and resource mobilising for APCOM (NFI's gains 8% fiscal management support for any funding for APCOM).

Each of these contracts will generate income for NFI and its own work. Such partnerships are seen as an effective strategy towards scaling up NFI's own response to MSM and HIV capacity, advocacy and policy development needs. At the same time, INFI is also negotiating to generate its own income within India as well as abroad.

Final comment

The International Development Fund has been central to, and invaluable, to INFI and NFI to strengthen both institutions towards fulfilling their objectives of increasing investment in MSM and HIV programming, scaling up the response to MSM and HIV through strengthening MSM CBOs as central partners in national efforts, enhancing advocacy initiatives around addressing stigma, discrimination and illegality which disempowers MSM to address their HIV and sexual health needs, along with improving the knowledge base so inform evidence based MSM and HIV interventions,