Model

MSM’s intervention on HIV/AIDS in Ho Chi Minh city

Lê Cao Dűng
AIDS Committee HCMC
Project description

- **Partnership:** HCMC AIDS Committee, Binh Thanh DHC and FHI
- **Funding agency:** USAID/USG
- **Project time:**
- **Goal:** To reduce HIV transmission among MSM and their sexual partners in HCMC
Project description (Cont.)

- Objectives:
  - Raise AIDS awareness among MSM
  - Increase safer sexual behaviors among MSM and their sexual partners
  - Increase access to “MSM-friendly” services for STI, VCT and HIV care and treatment
Strategic approaches

• Implementation of community peer outreach activities
• Establishment and operation of drop-in center services and activities
• Increase of access to “MSM-friendly” services for STI, VCT and HIV care and treatment through integrated and linked services
• Improvement of availability and use of condoms and water-based lubricants
• Capacity building for MSM to manage the program
Community outreach activities

- **Outreach activities**: done by 25 peer outreach workers (POWs) and supervised by 4 health educators (HEs)
- **Sites**: cafes, road-side bars, sauna parlors, parks, streets, discotheques, cinemas, swimming pools, etc.
- **Contents**: friendship building, education and awareness, IEC materials distribution, condom and lube distribution and referrals to the drop-in center and supportive services
- **Coverage to date**: 17 out of 24 districts with 35 sites
Drop-in center services and activities

- Counseling services: HIV/AIDS/STIs and psychosexual health
- Information: mini-library, topic talks, IEC materials, etc.
- Referrals to integrated and linked services for VCT, STI, OI/ART, home-based care and peer support groups
- Edutainment activities
- Weekly/monthly meetings with POWs
Counseling in drop-in center
Edutainment activities in drop-in center

Thi hát karaoke và trả lời câu hỏi về kiến thức HIV/AIDS/STIs

BÌNH THÀNH HEALTH CENTER
Community advocacy activities

• Organization workshop to implement the project

• Opening of the Blue Sky club

BÌNH THÀNH HEALTH CENTER
Community advocacy activities (Cont.)

• Organizing edutainment activities in the community
Community advocacy activities (Cont.)

• Participate in the “Performance and HIV/AIDS knowledge” competition with other peer educator groups
Community advocacy activities (Cont.)

• Participate in World AIDS Day. (WAD)
Support access services

• Survey and identify “user-friendly” clinics.
• Select “friendly” services on STI, VCT, care and treatment on HIV/AIDS for referral.
• Support training for sensitive service sites for MSM.
• Supply information on “friendly” services to peer educators.
• Organize regular meetings with referral services.
Integrated and linked services

Peer outreach activities
- Friendship building
- Education and awareness
- IEC materials distribution
- Condom and lube distribution
- Referrals

Drop-in center services
- Socializing
- Psychosexual counseling
- Information
- Edutainment activities
- Referrals

Integrated and linked services
- STI clinics
- VCT sites
- Outpatient clinics for OI/ART
- Home-based care services
- PLWHA peer support groups

BIÊN THÁNH HEALTH CENTER

Family Health International

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Refferal card form
Capacity building

• Training on management and monitor project activities for club staff.
• Training on program management for project officers.
• Basic and refresher training for peer educators.
Capacity building

- Training on VCT and counselling skill for health educators and counsellors.
- Training on psychological counselling skill and sexual health for health educators and counsellors.
- Training on capacity reinforcement for PLWHAs.
- Training on sensitive matters of MSM for referral services
- Training on Clinical management guide for sexual health care of MSM and transgender people for STI doctors.
- Other training.
PROMOTION ACTIVITIES FOR USING CONDOM AND LUBRICANT
(International DKT)

- Quarterly meeting with DKT in HCMC.
- Monitoring activities at site sales.
- Training for traditional and non-traditional site sales.
- Training on male and female condoms, lubricant for project peer educators.
- Distributing condoms and lubricants to outreach sites in HCMC.
Achievements  (May 04 - Oct 05)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of MSM reached</td>
<td>5,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Number of MSM reached by outreach</td>
<td>4,173</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Number of MSM reached by drop-in center</td>
<td>1,544</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of MSM referred to supportive services</td>
<td>900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of IEC materials distributed</td>
<td>25,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of condoms distributed</td>
<td>39,646</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total number of lubricant sachets distributed</td>
<td>11,473</td>
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ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

1. Advantages:
   - Getting technical support from HCMC PAC and FHI.
   - Getting legal support from the People’s Committee and HCMC PAC
   - Getting agreement from local government authorities, project site unions. (Bình Thạnh Health Center)
   - Active and creative staff.
   - Getting active support and participation of peer educators and volunteers.
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES (cont.)

2. Disadvantages:
   - Very difficult to access the “hidden” MSM.
   - Lack of sympathy for MSM in the community.
Future directions

- Expand the coverage of outreach activities
- Improve the quality of the drop-in center services & activities
- Strengthen linkages with supportive services supported by FHI and others in HCMC
- Provide training on:
  - sensitization for service providers (Aug 05)
  - clinical management guidelines for sexual health care of TG/MSM for STI physicians (Nov 05)
  - psychosexual counseling for HEs/counselors (Nov 05)
Future directions (cont.)

• Provide training and mentoring for the staff of MSM interventions supported by FHI and others in the country

• Evaluate the effectiveness of the MSM intervention in HCMC to highlight lessons learned for scaling-up
Thank you!