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Report: "Up to 50% of new HIV infections caused by male to male sex in 2020 if interventions are not scaled up"

By Jan W. de Lind van Wijngaarden, UNESCO Bangkok

The independent Commission on AIDS in Asia was set up in June 2006 and given an 18-month mandate to study the realities and impact of AIDS in Asia and to recommend strategies for a stronger response to HIV and AIDS. The Commission's work was finally supported by UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP and ADB. Three dozen research papers were commissioned, and 600 individuals and community organizations were interviewed. Important work was conducted in the field of modeling and projecting the likely future course of the epidemic, based on an adapted version of the Asian Epidemic Model.

Although there is considerable variation in the shape and severity of AIDS epidemic across countries in the Asia region, they share important characteristics. Their most profound simi-

larity is that all of them are driven by three key behaviors which are responsible for at least 75% of all HIV infections in the region. These behaviors are:

1. unprotected sex in the context of sex work;
2. unsafe injecting drug use;
3. unprotected (mainly anal) sex between men with multiple partners.

Due to the small per-contact transmission probability in vaginal sex and the relatively low density of (hetero) sexual networks, HIV epidemics in Asia are highly unlikely to sustain themselves in the 'general population' independently of commercial sex, drug injecting and sex between men. This means that drastically expanded and improved prevention efforts focusing on people engaging in these three behaviors will likely bring the epidemic under control.

An important conclusion of the modeling section of the report shows that by 2020, up to 50% of all new

HIV infections could occur via male to male sex. If this is compared to the level of funding currently invested in HIV programming for MSM, it is obvious that coverage on reducing HIV transmission among people engaging in injection drug use, sex work, and male-to-male sex is still far too low to contain the epidemic, let alone turn it around.

Only 34% of Asian people engaged in sex work, 2% of people injecting drugs and 5% of men having sex with men were reached with prevention services as of 2005.

These levels need to reach 60-80% in order to halt and start to reverse the HIV epidemic.

The Commission also notes that coordination, collaboration and relationship are lagging behind, with some notable exceptions.

The report can be found online at: http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/20080326_report_commission_aids_en.pdf

THAILAND: National Health Security Office Grants 23 Million Baht to local NGOs and CBOs for work on MSM and HIV/AIDS for MSM

By Rapeepun Jommaroeng, Thailand correspondent

The Thai National Health Security Office (NHSO) has granted a budget of 23 million baht (about 700,000 US\$) to 20 organizations working with MSM, including nongovernmental organizations and community-based organizations in

9 provinces (Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen, Phuket, Chonburi (Pattaya), Udon Thani, Ubon Ratchathani, Nakhonratchasima, Pattalung). The funding is expected to strengthen on outreach and service delivering programs for MSM. The Health Research Institute is re-

sponsible for all funding received from NHSO, and Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand is the sub-recipient for the MSM cluster. It is a one-year project starting from July 2008. It is expected that additional funding in later years will follow if this project is implemented successfully.

Perspective: MSM policy implementation in Cambodia



H.E. Dr. Teng Kunthy
Secretary-general
National AIDS Authority (NAA) of the
Royal Kingdom of
Cambodia

Can HIV be transmitted by mosquitoes? No. HIV can not survive for long outside the human body. Besides, mosquitoes do not inject blood into another human being.— they suck and ‘eat it’ The ‘H’ in HIV stands for ‘Human’, meaning that the virus can live only in the human body.

By HE H.E. Dr. Teng Kunthy,
Cambodia

In Cambodia, the general population has been using the word “katoey” to describe males who behave like females (and vice versa). Recently, a new term- “MSM” (men who have sex with men) has been used by public health and social workers. This denotes the fact that the MSM population in Cambodia is revealing itself at a steady rate.

Based on an estimate conducted by KHANA in 2007, there are about 20 000 MSM in Cambodia. However, the real figure could be greater than the estimate as many MSM could be hidden within the general population. For example, it is difficult to distinguish the short-haired MSM from straight men.

MSM is a vulnerable group to Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Based on the HIV and STI Sentinel Surveillance Survey, 8.7% of MSM in Phnom Penh and 0.8% of MSM in Battambang and Siem Reap cities have HIV. The prevalence of STI among MSM in Phnom Penh is 9.7% as compared to 7.4% in Battambang and Siem Reap cities.

MSM engaging in high-risk behavior contribute to the spread of STIs and HIV. The consistent use of condoms is low, especially in provincial areas. 45% of Phnom Penh MSM and 84% of provincial MSM had unprotected anal sex in the past month. MSM also tend to have multiple sex partners. It must be said the rate of STIs and HIV among MSM in Cambodia is lower as compared to neighboring countries such as Thailand, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The government of Cambodia, especially Prime Minister

Sam Dech Hun Sen publicly supports MSM. The government shows its support by providing job opportunities for them, not discriminating or stigmatizing them; and allowing the establishment of MSM networks, meetings and conferences. Furthermore, the Ministry of Information has approved the broadcasting of MSM programs on national television. In Cambodia, although there is no law against same sex marriage, only a small number of MSM and lesbians have obtained marriage certificates from local authorities.

NAA understands that MSM are vulnerable to STIs and more effort has to be channeled into the prevention, treatment and medical care of STIs. Last year, NAA created the MSM working group chaired by the NAA secretariat to coordinate the response to the needs of MSM. NAA played the coordinating role in developing a National Strategic Framework and National Operational Plan that has clear indicators for implementation, which NAA will monitor. One of NAA’s top priorities is to develop a proposal for submission to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM).

NAA faces many obstacles in its work on MSM. The definition for sub-groups within the MSM community is not clearly defined. There are MSM who have not come out with their sexual orientation and are still hidden within the society. This makes it difficult to estimate the actual size of the MSM population in Cambodia, which leads to bias in using the population size as a denominator of the prevalence of MSM. Funds are lacking for the implementation of the National Strategic Framework and the National Operational Plan for HIV

among MSM. The technical knowledge for work in the area of MSM is limited and it is difficult to obtain information on their behavior. Furthermore, only a small number of organizations are interested in working on MSM related issues and no policy on MSM has been implemented.

The survey and surveillance has generated a wealth of information, which can be used for advocacy toward strategic and operational planning and resource mobilization.

NAA plays a leading role to advocate for expanded responses to MSM in Cambodia. The civil society, United Nations and donor community participate and contribute actively to support the NAA’s initiative. However, information and donor community communication (IEC) for MSM seems to be promoting MSM rather than advocating safety and responsibility to MSM.

These are NAA’s goals for the future:

- Generate more evidence-based information on MSM regarding their behavior and practices;
- Clearly define the term MSM and adapt it to Cambodian context;
- Develop MSM related policies;
- Resource mobilization to fulfill the implementation of the MSM strategic plan and operational plan;
- Capture the population size of MSM and Strengthening the M&E on MSM;

With our sustained efforts and with the support of the government, our community and other organizations, we are confident that we will attain all our goals.

LAOS: LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY RELEASES FIRST EVER HIV PREVALENCE AND RISK BEHAVIOR DATA AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) IN VIENTIANE

By Jan W de Lind van Wijngaarden, UNESCO Bangkok

VIENTIANE, LAO PDR, May 02, 2008 - The Government of Lao PDR officially announced the results of the first-ever assessment of HIV prevalence and risk behaviors among men who have sex with men in Vientiane. The study was conducted in 2007 by the Center for HIV/AIDS and STIs- Ministry of Health together with Burnet Institute, with technical support of the CDC-GAP regional program; other international NGOs and MSM groups were also involved. It shows that 5.6% of MSM are infected with HIV; this is more than 50 times higher than the HIV prevalence among the general adult population, which is estimated to be 0.1%. The dissemination meeting was chaired by the Vice-

Minister of Public Health. There were few surprises at the meeting as the data was already widely known among health professionals, and the Center for HIV, AIDS and STI (CHAS) had organized a consensus meeting with the CBO, NGO, and INGO community to present preliminary results a few months earlier.

The most important facts that came from the study, in which 540 MSM (including transgenders) participated: 30 out of 540 MSM were HIV infected, giving an HIV prevalence of 5.6%. Reported key behaviors in the past 3 months: sex with a women 39.5%; consistent condom use with steady and casual sexual partners 14.4% and 24.2%, respectively; condom use during commercial sex 33.0%; reported drug use 21.1% (injecting drug use 0.7%) and self-reported his-

tory of STI (ever) of 42.2%.

"This data implies that there are ideal circumstances for a serious HIV epidemic among MSM in Vientiane. These data are of extreme importance to the Lao PDR. There is still time to prevent this epidemic, but the window of opportunity is closing rapidly," according to a public health expert present at the meeting.

The data also suggests that a large majority of all HIV infections in Lao PDR is caused by male to male transmission, warranting much larger investments in prevention, care and treatment programming for MSM.

Detailed results of the study were presented in a poster presentation at the AIDS conference in Mexico in August. (Source: MSM-Asia)

Can HIV be transmitted by kissing or hugging? No, because no potentially infected body fluids are transmitted this way.

CHINA: Global Fund Scales Up HIV Response in Guangxi

By Guangxi correspondent

On 21st June 2008, the Global Fund Guangxi Project conducted a consultation meeting for MSM programs in Guangxi. Following Nanning and Liuzhou, three new cit-

ies, including Guilin, Baise and Beihai participated in HIV testing and prevention programs for MSM under the support of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control. The

consultation meeting allowed different MSM working groups, business managers and owners to share their experience and learn from each other. They also discussed challenges and issues in their programs.

CHINA: Gay Groups in Kunming advocate for Homosexual Marriage Law

By Kunming correspondent

The MSM organization *Yunnan Red Plateau Center* launched a signature collection drive on March 8 2008 to push for a law allowing homosexuals to get married. The organizations Colorful Sky Work Group, Spring Rain Work Group, Rainbow Sky Work Group, Common Language Club (lesbian group) and Yunnan Parallel-Sky Work Group also participated. It took place at Spring Rain Work Group Center. All staff

and volunteers signed their names. Several supporters wrote their wishes for the success of the marriage proposal on the banner. After visiting Spring Rain Work Group, they moved to Blue Zoo Bar, the owner took the lead by signing his name when the signature collecting team arrived there, which stimulated the workers in the bar to sign their names as well. The host called on gay clients to strive for their own rights and to fight for themselves. Some gay men signed

their friends' names on their behalves. A total of 600 people signed their names on the banner eventually.



Exhibit at the center for Beijing Gay Culture



Preparation for the parade



Party after the parade

CHINA: Gay Men Marched in Dali

By Dali correspondent

On March 15 of each Chinese lunar year, people from all over come out of their homes early for the early spring sunshine. People gathered at Zhonghe Peak of the Mount Diancangshan located at the west suburb of the ancient town of Dali to participate in the well-known traditional fair -the March Fair. We, gay people, certainly would not miss such a good opportunity. Our friends in the neighborhood and across China came to Dali, inviting their friends from across the places to celebrate our common ethnic festival. In the early morning of April 20, more than 30 gay

men took part in the opening ceremony for the March Fair, which was organized by Dali Good Friends, where thousands of Bai ethnic people and other ethnic people from local areas celebrated in the racecourse while all Chinese nationals embraced the coming of 29 Olympic Games. This year's March Fair greeted the 100-day countdown for the Beijing Olympic Games. The idea of Olympic, "Higher, Faster, and Stronger" inspired all ethnic people across China and us, gay people, as well.

The ceremony came to an end when it became noon, but everyone was excited and

was unwilling to leave. In the afternoon, we organized a lot of recreational activities in Dali Good Friends' Bar. Within these activities, various types of knowledge were included, while people also enjoyed participating in these activities. Finally, the night came so soon, we were expecting for various kinds of performances. In the clapping and hilarious cheers all of our friends enjoyed themselves and you would find that they came back from their houses with costumes and fancy looks.

Vietnam: Vietnamizing a toolkit on MSM stigma and discrimination

By Vietnamese correspondent

Despite all efforts, stigma and discrimination remain the biggest challenge for any programs targeting MSM, let alone scaling up these programs. Stigma and discrimination against MSM contributes to societal denial and prejudice, resulting in inadequate attention among policy and decision makers to formulate and to provide MSM-friendly policies, programs and services. Even where services are offered, MSM sometimes hesitate to receive them due to self-stigma.

Since March 2008, the Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS) of Vietnam

started the adaptation of a toolkit developed by the module on MSM stigma and discrimination. This module is part of a toolkit developed by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW) and the Academy for Educational Development (AED), entitled "Understanding and Challenging HIV Stigma Toolkit." ISDS adapted this toolkit to the Vietnamese context. The adaptation of the module has financially supported by PEP-FAR through UNAIDS.

Two consultation workshops were organized, attended by community representatives in the northern and southern regions of the country in

March and April 2008. MSM community representatives were actively involved in giving inputs to the adapted toolkit and ensuring that it reflects the actual context in Vietnam.

The adapted version was pre-tested with the target population in July 2008. The adaptation of the MSM stigma and discrimination toolkit was highly appreciated by MSM community as well as those working with the community. It was expected that this simple and Vietnam-specific toolkit will be officially launched shortly.

Vietnam: Making better environment for talking about MSM issues on the internet

By Vietnamese correspondent

Under the contract between FHI and T&A company, <http://adamzone.com.vn>, a blog opened for all in-country and overseas Vietnamese MSM

to share ideas, interests and information. FHI and T&A organized the opening ceremony in Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh and Can Tho, which are cities with a large number of members of existing male

health and HIV prevention groups. The blog is considered as one of the most effective channels for communicating MSM and HIV issues in Vietnam.

CAMBODIA: First MSM Population Size Estimation conducted

By Cambodian correspondent

Following the National MSM Strategic Framework and its 3-year Operational Plan, a MSM Population Size Estimation was conducted in collaboration with partners including KHANA, FHI and PACT Cam-

bodia, supported and led by the National AIDS Authority (NAA). The National MSM Population Size Estimation began in June and finished at the end of July 2008. Technical support was provided by FHI Cambodia. The size estimation was conducted in

urban areas of 5 cities (Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap, Beanteay Meanchey, and Kampong Cham). The results of this survey were planned to be disseminated soon.

VIETNAM: Rising HIV prevalence among MSM

By Vietnamese correspondent

There is new evidence that HIV prevalence among MSM is increasing in Vietnam. The recent HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS 2005 - 2006) reported that HIV prevalence is 9.4 and 5.3 percent among MSM in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities respectively.

Growing attention has been given to MSM in Vietnam. The Directive 54 of the Party Secretariat identifies MSM as one of the vulnerable groups for which HIV intervention programs are needed. There is a very small number of HIV prevention activities targeting MSM, and a national MSM Working Group has been established. Recently, provincial MSM working groups have been established as well to

carry out advocacy work and improve coordination, planning and information sharing. FHI and some other organizations have initiated projects to provide direct assistance to MSM in Hanoi, Hai Phong, Khanh Hoa, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho. The key intervention activities include setting up and promoting drop-in centers, condom and lubricant promotion, peer education and outreach.

CHINA: Boy Lake Community Launched Monthly Gay Film Activity

By Guangxi correspondent

In April 2008, Boy Lake Community - a gay community formed by university students in Guangxi— screened a Thai gay film at the Guangxi CDC building. The film entitled *Rak haeng Siam* or “Love of

Siam” was shown there. 15 people from the MSM community watched together with Guangxi CDC officials. In May 2008, another gay movie session was conducted inside the Green-city Rainbow MSM drop-in Center with the support of other MSM work-

groups. The clients who came for VCT services joined and watched a documentary-style film called *Whispers and Moans*. One or two gay-related films are shown each month according to the community’s needs.

THAILAND: Rainbow Sky and the Thai Network of People with Sexual Diversity file petition to the Thai Red Cross Society not to discriminate gay and transgenders in blood donation

By Rapeepun Jommaroeng, Thailand correspondent

On June 14, Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, together with the Thai Network of People with Sexual Diversity, filed a petition to the Thai Red Cross Society urging the National Blood Center not to discriminate against gays

and transgenders wanting to donate blood. The petition was handed over to the director of the Thai Red Cross National Blood Centre. Since several years gay men and transgender people have been banned from blood donations at the Thai Red Cross Society, which claims that they are a high-risk

population. The claim is not acceptable to the community since the Thai Red Cross Society has to ensure blood safety as a standard procedure, which means they need to check all donated blood for diseases anyway. HIV transmission is linked to risk behaviors, not to sexual identities, the petition said.

Is homosexuality

unnatural?

No. Homosexuality has been part of all human

societies and all cultures-evidence

has shown that is thousands of years old. If

homosexuality were uncommon or

unnatural, there would not be so many of us!

Homosexuality has also been reported between animals.

It has been relatively recent that scientists

started to realize that homosexuality is not a ‘mental

disorder’ as some of them has though before—the World

Health Organization has now officially

declassified homosexuality as such.

FEATURE: The history of condoms - Where and when were condoms first used?

The first kind of condom used in our world was made of linen cloth sheaths

“Mr Condom was a doctor in the time of Charles II. It is believed that he invented the device to help the king to prevent the birth of more illegitimate children.”



Condoms in the 17th century, made of animal intestines



Condoms nowadays



Beihai beach

Condoms have played a significant role to prevent several sexually-transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS and Syphilis, but not many people know how long have there been condoms with mankind.

The use of condoms can be traced back several thousand years. It is known that around 1000 BC the ancient Egyptians used a linen sheath for protection against disease.

The earliest evidence of condom use in Europe comes from scenes in cave paintings at Combarelles in France.

There is also some evidence that some form of condom was used in imperial Rome.

The syphilis epidemic that spread across Europe gave rise to the first published account of the condom.

Gabrielle Fallopius described a sheath of linen he claimed to have invented to protect men against syphilis.

Having been found useful for prevention of infection, it was only later that the usefulness of the condom for the prevention of pregnancy was recognized.

Later in the 1500s, one of the first improvements to the condom was made, when the linen cloth sheaths were sometimes soaked in a chemical solution and then allowed to dry prior to use.

These were the first spermicides on condoms.

The first published use of the world 'condom' was in a 1706 poem. It has also been suggested that Condom was a doctor in the time of Charles II.

It is believed that he invented the device to help the king to prevent the birth of more illegitimate children.

Even the most famous lover

of all, Casanova, was using the condom as a birth control as well as against infection.

Condoms made out of animal intestines began to be available. However, they were quite expensive and the unfortunate result was that they were often reused.

This type of condom was described at the time as "an armor against pleasure, and a cobweb against infection".

In the second half of the 1700's, a trade in handmade condoms thrived in London (UK) and some shops where producing handbills and advertisements of condoms.

The use of condoms was affected by technological, economic and social development in Europe and the US in the 1800s.

Condom manufacturing was revolutionized by the discovery of rubber vulcanization by Goodyear (founder of the tire company) and Hancock.

This meant that it was possible to mass produce rubber goods including condoms quickly and cheaply.

Vulcanization is a process which turns the rubber into a strong elastic material.

In 1861, the first advertisement for condoms was published in an American newspaper when The New York Times printed an ad. for 'Dr. Power's French Preventatives.'

In 1873, the Comstock Law was passed. Named after Anthony Comstock, the Comstock Law made illegal the advertising of any sort of birth control, and it also allowed the postal service to confiscate condoms sold through the mail.

Until the 1920s, most condoms were manufactured by hand-dipping from rubber

cement. These kinds of condoms aged quickly and the quality was doubtful.

In 1919, Frederick Killian initiated hand-dipping from natural rubber latex in Ohio, USA. The latex condoms had the advantage of ageing less quickly and being thinner and odorless.

These new type of condoms enjoyed a great expansion of sales. By the mid-1930s, the fifteen largest makers in the U.S. were producing 1.5 million condoms a day.

In 1957, the very first lubricated condom was launched in the UK by Durex.

From the early 1960s, the use of condoms as a contraceptive device declined as the pill, the coil and sterilization became more popular.

The use of the condom increased strikingly in many countries following the recognition of HIV/AIDS in the 1980's.

Condoms also became available in pubs, bars, grocery stores and supermarkets.

The female condom has been available in Europe since 1992 and it was approved in 1993 by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In 1994, the world's first polyurethane condom for men was launched in the US.

The 1990s also saw the introduction of colored and flavored condoms.

In more recent years, improved technology has enabled the thickness of the condom to decrease.

Also, condom manufacturers have recognized that one size of condom does not fit all.

You can now find condoms that are different shapes, widths and lengths.

Source: www.avert.com

CHINA: MSM Workshop in Beihai

By Beihai correspondent

On June 15, 2008, Nanning Green-city Rainbow drop-in center brought more than 50 MSM to Beihai beach. The Left-hand Sky MSM Workgroup in

Beihai took part in it. The participants learned about HIV/AIDS prevention through interesting activities.

Many of them positively acknowledged such interactive

and participatory sessions and looked forward to more of this kind.

Faces of Purple Sky Network members



Tieng Ly or Anter Nita, 29, is living in Sihanouk Ville, Cambodia

Nita is the director of Community United for Development (CUD) and has been working for MSM and TG in Sihanouk Ville for more than 5 years. She thinks that if MSM and TG are accepted in the workplace, this could help reduce stigma and discrimination in their families and communities. Being accepted can also help reduce risk of HIV/AIDS and STIs because they will not be prevented to get access to prevention information by stigma and discrimination.

You can reach Nita by email: cud_shv@yahoo.com



Danai Lingjongrat or Meow, 29, is living in Bangkok, Thailand

Meow is the director of Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand. He has been involved in MSM and TG work for more than 5 years. He believes that if we work together, we will be strong and visible in the society and can achieve anything, including controlling

the epidemic of HIV/AIDS.

You can reach Meow by email: danai@fasiroong.org



Anan Bouapha, 21, is living in Vientiane, Laos PDR.

Up until very recently, Anan was the MSM peer education project coordinator with Burnet Institute and has been involved in MSM work for more than 3 years. He thinks that the situation for MSM in Laos has improved and people from the MSM community are very dedicated. He hopes to see more development on HIV prevention efforts and treatment, as well as progress on other related human right issues. You can reach Anan at ananaay1@gmail.com



Aung Myo Htut or Addy Chen, 27, is living in Yangon, Myanmar

Addy has recently moved to Bangkok for his new job with APN+ as project officer for positive MSM. He has been working in this area for more than 3 years and helped es-

tablish the National MSM network in Myanmar. As an MSM openly living with HIV, Addy wants to see the community as one, no discrimination between positive and negative people and wants to see access for all for MSM not only to prevention services but also to life-saving antiretroviral treatment

You can reach Addy by email: addy@apnplus.org



Li Jin Yong, 37, is living in Kun Ming, China

Jin Yong has been involved in MSM work since 2002 with the Yunan Red Plateau Center. He thinks that MSM work should be done by the involvement MSM themselves in order to have a greater impact. However it is also very important to work together with the government and obtain government support.

You can reach Jin Yong by email: ynredplateau@hotmail.com



Nguyen Hung Cuong, 40, is living in Nha Trang Khanh Hoa, Vietnam

Sexuality is the expression of sexual desire between human beings. It can include sexual acts, sexual identities, sexual meanings, norms and values related to sex and sexual relationship.

Hung Cuong is the manager of Muon Sac Mau group under the health education and communications center in Nha Trang Khanh Hoa province since 2002. He is the founder of this group.

He is working for HIV/AIDS prevention and education for MSM, while promoting anti-discrimination against MSM.

He hopes that one day, there will be no more discrimination against MSM. Meanwhile, the Vietnamese government is very supportive to make this happened.

Website—coming soon



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Purple Sky Network is the network of governmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations and international organizations working with men who have sex with men and transgenders in the Greater Mekong sub-region, including Cambodia, China (Guangxi and Yunan provinces), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



Vietnam: Scaling up a model of male health and HIV/AIDS prevention clubs

By Vietnamese correspondent

Under the support of USAID and FHI, a new project for MSM in Da Nang started running in April 2008. The objectives were to involve MSM to communicate with their peers on HIV/STI and safe sexual practices, conducting communication and advocacy about MSM with the local authorities and people and referring their peers to better quality

HIV/STI services that includes care and treatment. Da Nang club is the fifth project site for MSM in Vietnam and it will contribute to expand efforts for preventing HIV/STI in MSM especially in the central area of Vietnam.

Besides USAID and FHI supported projects, MSM in Ha Noi established some self-help groups. With the technical support of ISDS, Green Pine started its

activities in 2008. The aim of group is to make support for MSM, sex workers on HIV/STI prevention available by networking and providing information, linkage to services and access to international and local NGOs for further funding and technical support.