



MSMGF Quarterly Report
Fourth Quarter: October – December
2013

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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

The Speaking Out Initiative

Speaking Out: Honduras / Central America

This quarter, the Policy Team worked with Asociacion Kukulcan, a local MSM partner organization based in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to coordinate a three-day follow-up training to: 1) properly train LGBT staff on how to document human rights violations; 2) draft regional tools and forms that all LGBT organizations can use in order to unify and systematize information; 3) create a regional database that can house documentation of all human rights violations recorded by the participating organizations; and, 4) draft a document that compiles these cases and present it to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights. This training was scheduled to take place in December, however, Asociacion Kukulcan rescheduled the training to take place in February 2014.

Speaking Out: Cambodia

During the third quarter of 2013, the MSMGF's consultant responsible for adaptation and trainings of Speaking out in Cambodia has worked on finalizing both the English and the Khmer adaptations for Cambodia. The consultant incorporated feedback and recommendations from the August Phnom Penh training into the existing draft, and the final PDF versions of the training will be ready to print in early 2014.

Speaking Out: Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

Lebanon

The MSMGF has partnered with the MARSA Sexual Health Center in Beirut to help develop, finance, and implement a Speaking Out breakthrough initiative entitled "Engaging Legal Decision Makers in Advocacy for Sexual Minorities in Lebanon." For this breakthrough initiative, MARSA will also be working with the Lebanese LGBT organization Helem and a renowned Lebanese human rights lawyer. In October, the MSMGF contracted with MARSA to undertake this breakthrough initiative, which will be implemented and completed in 2014.

Another breakthrough initiative contract was signed with MARSA and the MSMGF Policy Team in late December 2013, entitled "Homosexuality is not a Disease and by that NOT subject to Treatment," with the aim to promote the sexual health rights of MSM among psychology students in Lebanon. By conducting this action, MARSA aims to: engage these key players; lessen stigma within the healthcare system; acquire more partners in fighting criminalization of homosexual acts; and improve quality of life and well-being of populations with alternative sexualities in Lebanon.

Morocco

The MSMGF signed a contract with Speaking Out partner organization Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (ALCS) in early December to sponsor the implementation of a Speaking Out breakthrough initiatives to convene human rights defenders and other civil society stakeholders along with representatives from UNAIDS, the Global Fund, and the Moroccan government (Ministry of Health) in a national stakeholder meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to debate the Ministry of Health's guidelines of MSM and HIV, as well as to disseminate and discuss the finalized adapted Speaking Out toolkit for the MENA region. The MSMGF has pledged to support these activities financially and with technical assistance as a breakthrough

initiative. The MSMGF has disbursed the funds and the breakthrough initiative will be implemented and completed in the first quarter of 2014.

MENA MSM Advocacy Platform

MSMGF partner Arab Foundation for Freedom and Equality (AFE) is serving as the secretariat for the establishment of a new MENA MSM Advocacy Platform. AFE, in collaboration with the MSMGF, submitted a grant proposal to ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Program in November 2013 to seek additional co-funding for the MENA MSM Advocacy Platform's activities in 2014. The grant was approved and signed by ViiV in December 2013.

In partnership with the MSMGF, AFE will sponsor and convene the first meeting of the Platform's 10-person steering committee in January 2014 to draft governance structure and membership criteria, as well as begin identifying advocacy needs and overall Platform objectives and strategies.

As the secretariat of the Platform, AFE will be responsible for regional coordination, including implementation of the activities that will be included in the future proposal, network development, and communication, as well as technical assistance and mentoring of local activists and organizations. This Platform will host multiple activities, including support for regional coordination and communications infrastructures, advocacy to improve the understanding of the HIV epidemic among MSM in the region, and capacity building for MSM and allied communities to develop and implement adequate responses. The Platform will be established and launched in the next year through the expansion of advocacy development and capacity building work already taking place in the MENA region. The ultimate objective is the establishment of a well-trained and organized Platform of advocates in MENA working in coordination across the region to advance the health and human rights of MSM.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Under the Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund, the MSMGF worked with the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM) to translate the Speaking Out global toolkit into Russian. Based on this translation, ECOM then organized a 3-day advocacy training in December for 30 MSM advocates from throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The main goals of the training were to use the Speaking Out translation as a tool for capacity development and take the first steps in building a coordinated regional network of advocates focused on LGBT sexual health protection and promotion. The training was based on exercises from the Speaking Out toolkit.

Speaking Out Evaluation Report

The MSMGF published an in-depth evaluation of the organization's Speaking Out Initiative, a technical and funding assistance program to support HIV advocacy efforts and leadership development for MSM and transgender people at the grassroots level. Conducted by Health & Development Consulting International LLC (HDCi), the independent third-party evaluation uses a combination of literature review and 20 key informant interviews to assess the program's processes and its ultimate impact on the ability of MSM and transgender people to access HIV services and fulfill their human rights. The full report was launched on November 27th. More information is available at: <http://www.msmgf.org/index.cfm/id/352/Impact/#sthash.70s9kxDc.dpuf>.

Bridging the Gaps (BtG)

Support to Local Partners

Under the Bridging the Gaps (BtG) program, the MSMGF continued to direct resources to community-based organizations (CBOs) in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Ecuador. These organizations delivered tailored programs to improve the health and human rights of their local LGBT communities. In addition to assisting partners with the implementation of the Bridging the Gaps programs, the MSMGF also responded to technical assistance requests from partners. These responses work to build the long-term capacity of local CBOs in order to strengthen the effective implementation of services.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the MSMGF supported a Healthcare Provider Training according to the needs of partner organization Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ). The MSMGF negotiated with Anova Health Institute in South Africa to conduct the training of doctors and nurses in Zimbabwe, and the training was financially supported under the BtG sub-grant to GALZ. Sixteen doctors and 1 nurse attended.

In consultation with the MSMGF, GALZ finalized a work plan and budget for 2014 under which GALZ will focus on: 1) collaborating with the MSMGF to conduct survey research among its members; 2) continued training of healthcare providers in Zimbabwe; 3) continued lobbying of politicians to promote integration of services for MSM in the government healthcare delivery system; and 4) continued training of civil society organizations and members of media on issues of human sexuality.

Kenya

Ishtar MSM Health and Social Wellbeing (ISHTAR)

The MSMGF financially supported an MSM pre-summit meeting held by ISHTAR ahead of a 2-day National HIV Prevention Summit convened by the Kenyan National Aids Control Council aimed at intensifying focus on HIV prevention. The objective of ISHTAR's MSM pre-summit meeting was to bring together all stakeholders, partners, and MSM community organisations working on HIV prevention among MSM and male sex workers, and provide a forum for consensus building on MSM considerations to be addressed in Kenya's HIV Prevention Revolution Roadmap, including a framework for accountability at national and county levels.

The MSMGF also collaborated with ISHTAR to develop a program of capacity strengthening to be carried out in 2014. In conducting the program, the MSMGF will: 1) support a strategic planning process to be carried out by ISHTAR and provide technical assistance in organization-wide work planning; 2) conduct a 5-day in-person Capacity-Building Action Planning workshop with ISHTAR; 3) elaborate on and prioritise capacity-building needs; 4) map out assistance and funds received from all of ISHTAR's partners over 2014; and 5) develop an action plan.

Liverpool VCT, Care and Treatment (LVCT)

In consultation with the MSMGF, LVCT developed a work plan and budget for 2014 under which LVCT will: 1) continue to provide capacity building support to organizations in and around Mombasa; 2) support the formation of a coalition across 4 organizations in Mombasa; and, 3) support the engagement of MSM organizations in national health policy processes.

Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved (PEMA)

The MSMGF collaborated with PEMA to carry out a rapid community consultation to prepare for 2014 BtG work in Mombasa. The rapid community consultation aimed to understand: 1) the capacity needs of community organizations around Mombasa; 2) whether the organizations wish to form a coalition; and 3) whether organizations desire to continue receiving technical assistance from LVCT.

PEMA elicited information from 5 organizations by email, and the MSMGF subsequently interviewed 3 of the organizations. The results of the consultation show that there is a desire to form a coalition focussed on advocating for and delivering healthcare services for LGBT people in and around Mombasa.

Brazil

In Brazil, the MSMGF worked with our 4 local partners (Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS (ABIA), Iris de Cidadania LGBT (GAI), Grupo de Resistência Asa Branca (GRAB), and SOMOS) to develop no-cost extensions to their programmatic commitments, which will be completed by the end of February, 2014. These 4 organizations were also consulted on strategies for strengthening advocacy for the health and rights of MSM at the local, state, and national levels in Brazil in 2014 and beyond. Discussions were held regarding the completion of current programmatic commitments under BtG and the development of a coordinated national strategy that can reinvigorate advocacy despite a challenging political climate and limited support from the Ministry of Health

Costa Rica

The MSMGF worked with partner organization Centro de Investigación y Promoción para América Central de Derechos Humanos (CIPAC) to support development of a 2014 work plan that will strengthen prevention, treatment, and care services for MSM and transgender people in Costa Rica, as well as ensure that general health systems provide better services to these key populations. CIPAC will 1) distribute sexual health information, condoms, and lubricants; 2) conduct face-to-face interventions with the community; 3) sensitize healthcare providers to the needs and rights of MSM and transgender people; 4) work to improve integration of services in Costa Rica; 5) conduct an assessment of rehabilitation services available for alcohol and drug addiction in Costa Rica and El Salvador; 6) disseminate the results from the assessment of rehabilitation services; and 6) assess additional capacity strengthening needs and identify regional and international opportunities for funding and participation related to needs identified.

Ecuador

Corporación Kimirina

The MSMGF helped identify guidance documents and potential consultants for Kimirina's online interventions and research efforts supported by the Global Fund. The MSMGF also supported Kimirina to develop a work plan for 2014. Under the new 2014 work plan, Kimirina will: 1) train health personnel in seven provinces on the rights of transgender and LGBTI people; 2) meet with new local authorities to sensitize them on the rights of LGBTI people; and 3) conduct workshops with transgender leaders and community members to strengthen and enforce their rights throughout the country.

Fundación Ecuatoriana Equidad

The MSMGF worked with Equidad to support development of a work plan for 2014. Equidad will: 1) develop sexual health information campaigns for MSM; 2) conduct community meetings to discuss safe sex strategies; 3) do internal staff trainings to strengthen understanding of sexuality, HIV/AIDS, and human rights; 4) provide medical, psychological, and diagnostic services to MSM and LGBTI people related to HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STIs); 5) conduct an assessment of the quality of Equidad's services;

6) create and disseminate a report on the status of LGBTI rights in Ecuador; 7) train multiple units of healthcare providers on the integration of health services for MSM; 8) advocate with the Ministry of Health to assess and improve their budget allocations for LGBTI health.

David Kato Vision & Voice Award (DKVVA)

In collaboration with AIDS Project Los Angeles and the City of West Hollywood, the MSMGF hosted filmmakers, activists, and community members for a screening of one of this year's most critically acclaimed films, 'Call Me Kuchu.' Named as a potential Oscar contender by both The Hollywood Reporter and Indiewire, the documentary follows David Kato and retired Anglican Bishop Christopher Senyonjo as they work against the clock to defeat Uganda's "Anti-Homosexuality Bill." The evening began with a screening of the film, followed by a panel discussion featuring the film's co-directors Malika Zouhali-Worrall and Katherine Fairfax Wright, as well as visiting Ugandan LGBTI activist Frank Mugisha, winner of the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. The screening was highly successful, filling the West Hollywood City Council Chambers and garnering significant media coverage in the US and African press.

DIRECT HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Inter Organization Task Team (IOTT) Meeting on Community Systems Strengthening (CSS)

In October, MSMGF Senior Policy Advisor Nadia Rafif participated in an IOTT meeting on CSS organized by the Global Fund and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) in Geneva. The overall goal was for organizations and individuals involved in convening the IOTT to reorganize, recommit, and produce a 2-3 year roadmap outlining the role of the IOTT in moving the CSS agenda forward. Additional objectives were: to identify and map key existing and planned CSS related initiatives of IOTT members; to identify and promote synergies with CSS efforts between members and other actors; to identify gaps in CSS efforts not being addressed by key partners; to present and review draft papers by the four IOTT working groups; to discuss next steps to update CSS Guidance and modules for the New Funding Model (NFM); to discuss CSS within the context of the NFM with key focal points at the Global Fund Secretariat (GFS); and to raise awareness of the importance of CSS with GFS staff.

The MSMGF Policy Team presented an update on the development of a Research Agenda around CSS, presenting the key research questions and the initial draft of the MSMGF's white paper developing a CSS Research Agenda in order to discuss it with participants and define next steps.

Development of the Global Fund Key Affected Populations Strategy

In 2011, an evaluation of the Global Fund's strategies on Gender Equality and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) by the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation recommended that the second phase of implementation of both strategies include an operational plan for a broader set of key populations and acknowledgment of the need for tailored interventions to meet specific prevention, treatment, and care needs. Incorporating these recommendations, the Global Fund's new Key Populations Action Plan 2014-2017 focuses on 7 key populations (MSM; people who inject drugs; sex workers; transgender people; people who are incarcerated or living in closed settings; refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons; and people living with HIV, TB and/or malaria). Designed as a tool to focus efforts where they will have the most impact, the Action Plan identifies 12 actions for the Global Fund Secretariat and Board to take during 2014-2017 to ensure that existing strategies, commitments, organizational structures, and funding processes are implemented in ways that ensure targeted and effective grant-making to address the three diseases among key populations. This Action Plan is written to be aligned with and complementary to strategies and action plans focused on gender equality, human rights, civil society participation in Global Fund processes, community systems strengthening, and community-oriented service delivery. The MSMGF contributed to the Global Fund Policy and Strategy Toward Key Populations by reviewing and providing inputs to the draft of the Key Populations Action Plan 2014-2017 and by being part of the Global Fund Key Populations Reference group throughout the entire process.

Joint Civil Society Action Plan (JCSAP) Meeting

From December 12th-14th, Nadia Rafif attended a meeting organized by the Global Fund and the International Civil Society Support (ICSS), focusing on the development of a mechanism for coordinating information sharing, watch dogging, and support for the roll out of the NFM. The aim of the meeting was to find ways to support enhanced engagement of civil society and key populations in Global Fund processes at the country level and to define mechanisms for civil society / key population coordination of information sharing and support. The MSMGF Policy Team was asked to present and facilitate a session focused on models for coordination and support. Based on

previous experiences, Nadia gave a presentation critiquing past models and offered suggestions on what needs to be done differently for a new mechanism to achieve better information sharing and coordination.

The main outcomes of the meeting were an overview of current models used by technical assistant and community based providers, and the drafting of a proposal for the JCSAP Task Team for a new mechanism that facilitates information sharing by providers.

Global Fund Board Meeting

From November 6th-9th, Senior Policy Advisor Nadia Rafif participated in the Global Fund Board Meeting as a civil society representative with the Eastern and Oriental Mediterranean (EMRO) Region Delegation.

One of the major issues at the Board meeting was the transitional period for countries that will not be eligible for future funding. The future of regional proposals was also a major issue under discussion at the meeting. The MSMGF expressed its deep concern about the suggested revisions to the Eligibility, Counterpart Financing and Prioritization Policy (ECFP), which could have negative consequences for middle-income countries in such regions as Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa - and by extension the negative impact these changes would have on key affected populations in these regions. The advocacy efforts of civil society representatives prevented some of these negative amendments from being approved by the Board. The Board requested the SIIC and the Secretariat to initiate a process that by the end of 2014 will provide options and recommendations to the Board to refine the Global Fund's approach to transitioning countries.

United Nations

The 33rd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)

Nadia Rafif attended the UNAIDS PCB meeting from December 17th-19th as the MSMGF NGO observer in Geneva. The UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation released its annual NGO Report, which focused this year on access to treatment and the role of communities in scaling-up treatment access. Evidence-informed case studies from different regions were presented to showcase how PLHIV are accessing treatment, including positive experiences as well as challenges encountered. Many references were provided by the MSMGF Policy Team, including an interview given by the Director of Policy to the consultant who prepared the report. Data from the 2012 Global Men's Health and Rights Survey (GMHR) was also included in the NGO Delegation's report to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) in preparation for the upcoming PCB meeting.

The PCB meeting also included a thematic session focused on HIV, Adolescents, and Youth. During debate of this issue, Nadia Rafif made an oral intervention based on a submission made by the MSMGF Youth Reference Group for this thematic session. Nadia's intervention can be read here unaidspcbngo.org/?p=20791. The debate will feed into an information note that is currently being prepared by the UNAIDS Secretariat, covering various areas, including youth participation and mobilization in the response, political accountability, innovative and new programmes for adolescents and youth in the HIV response, and creating enabling social and legal environments for young people.

The MSMGF supported Khartini Slamah, a transgender activist from Malaysia and a member of the MSMGF Transgender Reference Group, to attend the UNAIDS PCB meeting as a newly selected member of the NGO delegation. The support consisted of covering all travel expenses for Khartini to attend the new members orientation and to participate in her first PCB meeting as a member of the NGO delegation.

Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

MSMGF Submission to the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission

In December, the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission on Defeating AIDS and Advancing Global Health released three working papers discussing the relevance and importance of HIV within the Post-2015 MDG debate. The MSMGF recognized the significant strides made towards tackling the HIV epidemic under Goal 6 of the current MDGs. However, MSM and other key affected populations continue to face significant barriers (e.g. stigma, discrimination, criminalization) when seeking to exercise their rights to health - including access HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. The MSMGF strongly supports the work of the Commission to ensure that HIV has a prominent place in the new development framework, offering explicit feedback on MSM-specific issues to include in the Commission's three papers. Feedback focused on creating greater stakeholder accountability, more regular and more meaningful participation by MSM advocates in HIV processes, and greater attention to community systems strengthening and monitoring and evaluation systems.

Meeting of the HIV Civil Society Working Group

MSMGF Director of Policy Noah Metheny is a member of the HIV Civil Society Working Group on the Post-2015 MDGs, which is being led by International Civil Society Support (ICSS) and the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO). From December 15th-16th, Noah attended a strategic meeting of the working group in Amsterdam. Over this 2-day meeting, members of the working group discussed and debated the key advocacy messages for the coming year, along with the top advocacy opportunities in 2014 for feeding into the Post-2015 MDG discussion. By the conclusion of this meeting, 2014 work plans and strategies were finalized, along with responsibilities assigned to each group member. Noah committed the MSMGF to work on the Post-2015 MDG debate within the UNAIDS PCB and within the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission.

United States Government

Kaiser Family Foundation Meeting on the US Government and Global LGBT Health

In October 2013, Director of Policy Noah Metheny attended the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) meeting on US government and Global LGBT Health in Washington DC. This expert consultation was convened to explore opportunities and challenges facing global LGBT health from a US government perspective. Topics covered included the implementation of PEPFAR's MSM Guidance, a pending World Health Assembly agenda item on LGBT health, and the impact of national criminalization laws of same-sex behavior on health. The KFF has committed to continue holding similar consultations throughout the coming year, focusing on global LGBT health issues, with this half-day meeting being the inaugural consultation.

Regional Summit in Latin America

MSMGF Senior Education Associate Pato Hebert served on the organizing committee for the technical exchange on HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment for MSM and TG in Latin America and Caribbean that was held October 10-11 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The regional workshop was presented by the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), including the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Defense (DoD), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Additional support for the meeting came from the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), the Global Forum on MSM (MSMGF), and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

The gathering provided a forum to focus on issues relevant to HIV prevention, care, and treatment among MSM and transgender communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, including strengthening regional collaboration, identifying data and research gaps, and fostering an enabling environment. During the gathering, Pato moderated a panel entitled, “Increasing Political and Financial Sustainability of HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment: Working Collaboratively with Networks and International Agencies,” and helped to organize the “Closing Session,” facilitating final comments from delegates.

The MSMGF also sponsored two regional advocates to attend the gathering. Fernando Muñoz of Asociación para la Salud Integral y Cidudadanía de America Latina (ASICAL) presented on a panel about “Community Perspectives on Current Status Care and Treatment Programs.” Nairovi Castillo, Executive Director of Comunidad de Trans, Travestis y Trabajadoras Sexuales Dominicanas (COTRAVETD) in the Dominican Republic, made multiple contributions from the floor throughout the 2-day summit.

World Health Organization

From October 24th-25th, Noah Methney represented the MSMGF on the WHO steering group responsible for developing consolidated guidelines for key affected populations. The meeting focused on providing guidance to the WHO as it develops these guidelines. Such topics discussed included the inclusion of transgender women in the guidelines, the need to address such cross-cutting issues as the creation of enabling environments, and case studies of successful health interventions. New scientific evidence of the effectiveness of PrEP among MSM will also be examined during the guideline development process, laying the ground work for a possible new WHO recommendation for the use of oral PrEP among MSM. MSMGF consultant Keletso Makofane will represent the MSMGF on the Guidelines Development Working Group in 2014. **Inter American Commission on Human Rights**

The MSMGF supported Edwin Paty Hernandez, a transgender activist from El Salvador and the founder and executive director of Asociacion Solidaria para Impulsar los Derechos Humanos (ASPIDH-Arcoiris), to attend the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) 149th regular session on October 29th in Washington, DC. The support consisted of covering all travel expenses for Edwin Paty Hernandez to participate at a IACHR hearing to denounce the Salvadoran Government for impunity and violence against transgender people in El Salvador, a first in the history of the Salvadoran transgender movement. The group of transgender activists presented specific cases of abuse and human rights violations targeting transgender people in El Salvador, making specific demands to the IACHR for the Salvadoran government to address and improve the hostile environment and laws that fail to protect the human rights of transgender people.

Sign On Letters:

Community consensus statement on the use of antiretroviral therapy in preventing HIV transmission

CSO Letter Ministerial Declaration on Ending Violence and Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

GAPP Letter to Ambassador Eric Goosby

GF Replenishment Letter to German Government

Letter to UNAIDS calling for a High Level Meeting

Letter to NIH on Female Condom Research

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Two manuscripts prepared by the MSMGF Research Group (MRG) were accepted for publication in major peer-reviewed journals this quarter. The published versions will appear in forthcoming issues of each journal respectively.

Internalized Homophobia and Reduced HIV Testing among Men Who Have Sex with Men in China

Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health

Using data from the 2010 Global Men's Health and Rights survey, this paper examined correlates of HIV testing behavior among Chinese MSM. Bivariate analysis revealed several significant correlates of ever having been tested for HIV, including internalized homophobia. From both a policy and programmatic standpoint, prevention efforts targeting MSM in China should focus on community engagement, outreach, reduction of homophobia and internalized homophobia, and the provision of culturally sensitive services – including HIV testing and counseling – to improve the safety and accessibility of services for MSM clients. Reducing internalized homophobia and stigma related to homosexuality and HIV is essential for optimizing access to HIV prevention services for MSM.

Syndemic conditions associated with increased HIV risk in a global sample of men who have sex with men

Journal of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Using data from the 2012 Global Men's Health and Rights Study, this paper evaluates the relationship between syndemic conditions (defined as a cluster of interconnected psychosocial health conditions), sexual behaviors, and self-reported HIV infection among a global sample of men who have sex with men (MSM). We observed parallel, significant dose-response associations between the number of syndemic conditions and UAI, as well as number of syndemic conditions and HIV infection. This analysis provides evidence of intertwining syndemics that may operate synergistically to increase HIV risk among MSM globally. To curb HIV effectively and advance the health of MSM, multiple conditions must be addressed concurrently using multi-level approaches that target both individual and structural risk factors.

Community-Based Research Informs Advocacy with UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

In December, the UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation generated a report to the UNAIDS PCB, entitled the "[The Equity Deficit: Unequal and Unfair Access to HIV Treatment, Care and Support for Key Affected Communities](#)." The report expresses the NGO Delegation's commitment to examining access to ART across all communities, especially those that carry the unequal weight of HIV infections. The report utilized research findings from the MSMGF's 2012 Global Men's Health and Rights Survey (GHMR) to help buttress the case for removing barriers to HIV treatment and care for MSM and other key affected populations.

2014 GMHR Survey Out for External Review

The MSMGF Research Group (MRG) has completed the draft of the 2014 Global Men's Health and Rights Survey. Having finished internal development of the survey, the MRG has sent a finished draft out for assessment by external reviewers in the MSMGF's network. Feedback from the external review will be incorporated into a final draft by mid January, with the survey launching to MSM around the world in March 2014. Thematic domains to be featured in the survey include: access to services and frequency of use; the HIV treatment cascade and care continuum (HIV testing, linkages to services, care, treatment, adherence); sexual satisfaction; HIV stigma; sexual stigma and related consequences; and HIV prevention technologies.

Access to HIV Services among MSM in Sub-Saharan Africa

Using data from the 2012 Global Men's Health and Rights Study, we investigated levels of access to healthcare services among MSM living in Sub-Saharan Africa. We also investigated the structural factors related to access and interviewed 7 community-based organizations from 6 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to understand the interventions that these organizations implement to improve access. A full report will be published by the MSMGF during the first quarter of 2014.

IDAHO Stigma Project

The MSMGF is collaborating with International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO) Committee to investigate how MSM organizations currently deal with homo/transphobic stigma through their programming. The research project will be conducted across 3 regions (Africa, Latin America, and Asia) and will consist of a broad analysis of how organizations take (or do not take) into account stigma related to sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, highlighting up to 5 detailed case studies from each of the 3 regions.

PUBLICATIONS

Access Challenges for HIV Treatment Among People Living with HIV and Key Populations in the Middle-Income Countries

Released in English, Spanish, and French by a number of global HIV networks, this [joint policy brief](#) articulates how prevailing economic and trade interests compromise access to life-saving generic drugs, resulting in a devastating impact on communities of people living with HIV and key populations, including MSM, transgender people, sex workers and people who inject drugs. Collaborating networks included Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the MSMGF, the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), the Global Network of Sex Work Project (NSWP), and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC).

Evaluation of the Speaking Out Initiative

This report features an [in-depth evaluation of the MSMGF's Speaking Out Initiative](#), a technical and funding assistance program to support HIV advocacy efforts and leadership development for MSM and transgender people at the grassroots level. Conducted by Health & Development Consulting International LLC (HDCi), the independent third-party evaluation uses a combination of literature review and 20 key informant interviews to assess the program's processes and its ultimate impact on the ability of MSM and transgender people to access HIV services and fulfill their human rights.

Global Fund Community Update

In November 2013, the MSMGF released a [Community Update](#) for MSM Advocates on the Global Fund's New Funding Model (NFM) and the decisions made at the most recent Global Fund Board Meeting, held at the beginning of November. Several important decisions were under discussion at the meeting, many of which impact advocates and service providers working with MSM and other key populations. The key decisions included in the update concern: the new eligibility requirements for funding, implications of new eligibility requirements for MSM and other key populations, the timeline for rollout of the NFM, the timeline for funding applications by country, and next steps for advocacy.

Community Systems Strengthening and Key Populations

At the end of the third quarter, the MSMGF released a [new publication](#) focused on Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) and its role in addressing HIV among key populations. This quarter, MSMGF Research Consultant Keletso Makofane presented the publication at a Satellite Session during the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). Through concrete examples of community-systems strengthening work carried out by the MSMGF in Kenya, Mr. Makofane highlighted the gaps in the Community Systems Strengthening framework developed by the Global Fund. He further pointed out opportunities to use the framework to understand the differing roles of community-based organizations led by key affected populations in wider systems that deliver healthcare services to key affected populations.

The Sex Work and HIV Implementation Tool

October saw the launch of a publication that describes an important new tool for the health and rights of sex workers called the [Sex Work and HIV Implementation Tool \(SWIT\)](#), created by sex workers, program managers, researchers, and development partners who helped to research, draft and review it in collaboration with a coordinating group. The MSMGF gave input into the development and review of the tool, which addresses practical approaches to implementing HIV and STI programs for sex workers. The publication contains examples of good practice from around the world and is designed to support efforts in planning programs and services designed by and for sex workers. The tool also describes issues that should be considered and how to overcome challenges that arise in difficult settings.

Guidelines on Sexual Health and HIV Prevention for MSM in Latin America

The MSMGF's policy team joined a two-day workshop hosted by La Asociación para la Salud Integral y Ciudadanía en América Latina y Caribe (ASICAL) to validate two guidelines in Asuncion, Paraguay on November 26th and 27th as part of the Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund. The workshop was attended by ASICAL's member organizations as well as allied organizations such as the MSMGF, with about 20 participants, from Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Mexico. The role of the MSMGF representative, along with other participants, was to provide specific feedback and recommendations to improve one guideline on sexual health for MSM and HIV prevention and the second guideline on advocacy, which will be launch in 2014. Participants also provided recommendations on the community strategy ASICAL should implement to distribute the guidelines. At the end of the two day workshop, ASICAL had collected all recommendations that will be integrated into the guidelines for a final draft. ASICAL will complete and publish both guidelines by early 2014.

CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS

Youth Reference Group (YRG)

Submission to UNAIDS on Effective Initiatives for Youth in the HIV response

In response to a call for submissions to inform the Thematic Segment on HIV, adolescents and youth at the 33rd Meeting of the UNAIDS PCB, 17-19 December 2013, the MSMGF YRG submitted a the YRG as an effective intervention for youth in the HIV response. The [submission](#) was accepted and ultimately presented by MSMGF Senior Policy Advisory Nadia Rafif as an oral intervention at the thematic session at the PCB meeting. The session will feed into an information note that is currently being prepared by the UNAIDS Secretariat, covering various areas, including youth participation and mobilization in the response, political accountability, innovative and new programmes for adolescents and youth in the HIV response, and creating enabling social and legal environments for young people.

Young Gay Men and HIV/AIDS: A Global Epidemic (Infographic)

As part of TheBody.com's World AIDS Day education campaign, editors of the popular website used data from the YRG's Policy Brief "Young Men Who Have Sex with Men: Health, Access, and HIV" and developed an [infographic](#) describing the current global epidemic and response among YMSM. The website also promoted the MSMGF's press release summarizing the Policy Brief as part of their World AIDS Day special section, which was heavily trafficked and promoted.

Transgender Reference Group (TRG)

The TRG reviewed and updated its Terms of Reference and has drafted a call to recruit new members. The request for submissions will be out in early 2014. In November, the MSMGF submitted a successful proposal on behalf of the TRG to the Open Society Foundations (OSF) to request support for the group to host a meeting during the IAC 2014 in Australia and to work with a consultant to draft a framework for the group's development and growth.

FUNDS DEVELOPMENT

Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF)

This quarter the MSMGF successfully secured a grant from the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF) for a 1-year project entitled "From Grassroots to Grass-Tops: Ensuring an Unwavering Focus on Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in the Global AIDS Response." The project is founded on the belief that MSM stakeholders at the country-level must be meaningfully involved in global AIDS financing processes to ensure allocation of funding for MSM. Major global donors have recently begun to acknowledge the importance of targeting MSM, but a significant gap remains between rhetoric and results. This project aims to close that gap by: 1) ensuring country-level MSM stakeholders globally are equipped with the knowledge and skills to engage with PEPFAR and the Global Fund effectively; 2) watchdog PEPFAR's Country Operating Plans and the Global Fund's New Funding Model in 5 target countries; and 3) leverage results of #1 and #2 to advocate directly with the leadership of PEPFAR and the Global Fund for well-resourced HIV responses for MSM.

Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund (RCNF)

In April of 2013, the leading global and regional MSM networks came together in Oakland, California to coordinate their advocacy initiatives and establish a formal Consortium of MSM Networks. These networks included the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer), the Asian Pacific Coalition on Male Sexual Health (APCOM), the Association for Integral Health and Citizenship in Latin America and the Caribbean, (ASICAL), the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health (ECOM), the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) and the Global Forum on MSM (MSMGF). The South Caucasian MSM Network (SCN) and the African Black Diaspora Global Network (ABDGN) joined the Consortium after the April meeting. Led by the MSMGF, the Consortium submitted a proposal for a 2-year project to achieve solidified organizational capacity of MSM networks and strengthened community responses via consolidated mechanisms for information exchange, community mobilization, and awareness-raising through media outreach. The proposal was funded and the project will be carried out over 2014-2015.

The MSMGF Pre-Conference to AIDS 2014

The MSMGF Secretariat has been hard at work raising funds to support the upcoming MSMGF Pre-Conference to the next International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia. To date, the MSMGF has raised less than half of the funds necessary to hold the event, with the generous support of committed donors, including the Victorian AIDS Council, the International HIV/AIDS Alliance, Bridging the Gaps, amfAR, the City of Melbourne, the Open Society Foundation, the Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation, and FHI 360. The Secretariat will continue fundraising efforts over the next two quarters to support the event.

COMMUNICATIONS

MSMGF.org

From October - December, the MSMGF Web site received a total of 8,478 visits, of which 6,078 were absolute unique visitors. During the current quarter, the single country with the highest number of visits was the United States (2,594), followed by the United Kingdom (444), Canada (422), India (314), Australia (250), South Africa (180), Kenya (159), Thailand (134), and Switzerland (132). Roughly two thirds of all visits took place in English language, and one third of visits took place in languages other than English.

MSMGF Collaborative Blog

The MSMGF collaborates with MSMGF members around the world to produce reports on recent developments concerning the health and human rights of MSM for circulation on the MSMGF Blog. The reports are meant to share insights on MSM health and rights in different regions, as well as increase awareness within our global community about who our members are and the work they do.

[Waiting for the Wind: A Short Film Depicting the Lives of Gay Men in Vietnam](#)

November 21, 2013

[MSM in Lebanon: A Look at Current HIV Prevention and Sexual Health Initiatives](#)

November 4, 2013

MSMGF in the News

In the fourth quarter of 2013, the MSMGF issued 7 public statements and 6 community updates. In total, the MSMGF was cited in 19 reports and articles. All materials are listed below:

Press Releases and Public Statements

[Ugandan Parliament Passes Draconian Anti-Homosexuality Bill](#)

December 20, 2013

[On World AIDS Day, the MSMGF Congratulates the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund for Its Vital Support to Key Population Networks](#)

December 1, 2013

[Now Available: In-Depth Evaluation of MSMGF's Speaking Out Initiative to Support Grassroots Advocacy](#) ([Spanish](#), [French](#))

November 27, 2013

[New Publication Highlights Realities of Access to HIV Drugs and Other Essential Medicines for Key Populations Globally](#)

([English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#))

November 7, 2013

[Homophobia, Violence, and the Global Struggle for Gay Rights Examined at West Hollywood Screening of Award-Winning Documentary 'Call Me Kuchu'](#)

October 30, 2013

[Award-Winning Documentary 'Call Me Kuchu' Spotlights LGBT Activism amid Brutal Persecution in Uganda at Upcoming Screening in West Hollywood](#)

October 18, 2013

[New Publication on Community Systems Strengthening \(CSS\) and Key Populations](#)

October 2, 2013

Community Updates

[Community Update for MSM Advocates: Decisions at the Global Fund's November Board Meeting](#)

November 25, 2013

[Urgent Petition - Sign On to Demand Full Funding for the Global Fund!](#)

November 5, 2013

[New Opportunity: Submit Examples of Good Practices for WHO Key Population Guidance](#)

October 22, 2013

[La seguridad digital para defensores de los DDHH y proveedores de servicios a HSH: como proteger a si mismo y a sus clientes en los contextos hostiles](#)

October 22, 2013

[The MSMGF Invites You to an Upcoming Screening of the Award-Winning Documentary on LGBT Activism in Uganda, "Call Me Kuchu"](#)

October 18, 2013

[The MSMGF Welcomes Nadia Rafif as New Senior Policy Advisor](#)

October 7, 2013

Media Coverage and Other Citations

[Waiting for the Wind: A Short Film about Gay Men in Vietnam](#)

[HIV] Advocates

December 7, 2014

[The Equity Deficit: Unequal and Unfair Access to HIV Treatment, Care and Support for Key Affected Communities](#)

2013 NGO Report to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board

December 6, 2013

[WATCH: Anthony Adero INTERSECTIONS: Immigration & LGBTQ](#)

Social Outreach Seattle

December 2013

[Whatever Happened to Schorer](#)

Gay&Night Magazine

December 2013

[Young Gay Men HIV Statistics](#)

Graphs.net

November 27, 2013

[Immigrant & Asylee Outreach](#)

Social Outreach Seattle

November 24, 2013

[GMHC Commends Senate for Passage of PEPFAR Bill that Renews Commitment to Fight AIDS Overseas](#)

GMHC

November 21, 2013

[Young Gay Men and HIV/AIDS: A Global Epidemic \(Infographic\)](#)

TheBody.com

November 19, 2013

[VAC/GMHC: Then, Now and Beyond](#)

Gay News Network

November 18, 2013

[Deterred but not destroyed – Kyrgyzstan](#)

Reaching OUT Winnipeg

November 16, 2013

[Onder Controle: Strategie voor de aanpak van soa's en hiv onder MSM in Nederland](#)

Sao Aids Nederland

November 15, 2013

[Iniciática HSH](#)

Código DF: Radio Cultural en Línea

November 11, 2013

[HIV treatment out of reach where needed most; policy brief examines reasons, impact](#)

Science Speaks

November 8, 2013

[Dossier zum globalen Zugang zu HIV-Medikamenten veröffentlicht](#)

Deutsche AIDS-Hilfe

November 8, 2013

[New Publication Highlights Realities of Access to HIV Drugs and Other Essential Medicines for Key Populations Globally](#)

NAM aidsmap

November 8, 2013

[Closing the Treatment Gap](#)

Positive Lite

November 8, 2013

[New publication highlights realities of access to HIV drugs and other essential medicines for key populations globally](#)

European AIDS Treatment Group

November 8, 2013

[Uganda: 'Call Me Kuchu' Goes to Hollywood](#)

Kenya Star

November 4, 2013

[WHO guidelines for HIV/STI prevention and care among MSM and transgender people: implications for policy and practice](#)

Sexually Transmitted Infections

November 2013

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