Male Sexual Health Intervention in Khanh Hoa Province
Background

- Khanh Hoa ranks 8th of ten provinces with the highest number of reported HIV cases in Vietnam (Ministry of Health, 2005).

- As of November 31, 2005 there were 1,760 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), of which 741 people developed AIDS and 576 died of AIDS.

- Family Health International (FHI) have made a visit to Khanh Hoa province to work with PHS and CHEC in late December 2005 to support the MSM intervention in Khanh Hoa.

- MSM intervention officially came into operation in February, 2006
Goal/objectives

**Goal**: To reduce risks of STI and HIV transmission among MSM and their sexual partners in Khanh Hoa province.

**Objectives**

1. Gain consensus and support of the local government to include MSM in HIV/AIDS programs of Khanh Hoa.

2. Raise AIDS awareness among MSM and their sexual partners;
Goal/objectives (cont.)

3. Increase safer sexual behaviors among MSM and their sexual partners;
4. Increase consistent condom use and lube among MSM and their sexual partners;
5. Increase access of MSM to supportive services available in Khanh Hoa, such as STI, VCT, HIV care and treatment;
Timeline

- The project is started on February 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2006 and lasts until September 30\textsuperscript{th}, 2006
Donor (s) and Budget

- Donors: USAID/FHI
- Budget: 29,786 USD
Activities

Advocacy work & training

- 2 advocacy meetings with local authorities at Ninh Hoa district and Dien Khanh district
  - Establishment of drop-in center (30 May)
  - 2 training courses (basic and refresher) for MSM on HIV/STI prevention skills and knowledge of outreach and communication, data entry & process
  - Training course on clinical management guidelines training for STI clinic providers
Activities
At the the the drop-in center

- Counselling Treatment: HIV/AIDS/STIs, psychological and sexual issues
- Information: topic talk, group discussion
- Referral access to MSM-friendly services VCT, STI, HIV care and treatment
- Entertainment and education monthly
- Regular meetings
Activities
Outreach work in the community

- Mapping exercise (about 50 spots)
- Outreach work at the community: done by 13 peer outreach workers (POWs) supported by 3 health educators (HEs)
- Venues: hotels, discotheques, parks, bars, and cafes, cheap restaurants, cinemas, massage and sauna parlors, etc.
Outreach work in the community (cont.)

- Content: contact, give communication skills, distribute IEC materials, condom and lubricant as well as referral services to MSM-friendly services/establishments

- Coverage: Nha Trang City and 4 districts of Khanh Hoa Province
Partner organizations/ collaborators

- Khanh Hoa Health Service
- STI, VCT clinics and medical establishments
- Khanh Hoa Television and other mass media
- Women’s Union
- Khanh Hoa Center for Preventive Medicine
- Local authorities at all level
Outcomes/ results

- **No. of new MSM**
- **No. of person times of MSM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>January 1st-2nd</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of new MSM</strong></td>
<td>70 72</td>
<td>482</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of person times of MSM</strong></td>
<td>00 00</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcomes/ results (cont.)

- **Condom**
  - 1/2 of Feb: 285
  - Mar: 945
  - April: 1018
  - May: 602
  - June: 472
  - July: 377

- **Lubricant**
  - 1/2 of Feb: 50
  - Mar: 205
  - April: 233
  - May: 140
  - June: 230
  - July: 256
Outcomes/ results (cont.)

As of lately July, 2006:

* No. of totally new MSM: 608
* No. of person times of MSM: 2,051
* No. of condom distributed free: 3,699
* No. of lubricant distributed free: 1,114
Obstacles encountered

- MSM still suffer from social stigma and discrimination
- Budget from outreaching works is still limited
- Owners of entertainment establishments
Lessons Learned/ Recommendations

1. More concern from the community to reduce stigma and discrimination toward MSM
2. Psychological care counselling on MSM for health officers especially educators/counsellors
3. Implementing contact forms to MSM through:
   - Internet
   - Telephone or mail contact
Lessons Learned/Recommendations (cont.)

4. Improving attraction services to MSM populations through:
   - Organizing contest of learning about HIV/AIDS/STI, composing or writing short-stories on HIV and MSM
   - Conducting MSM-related issues on mass media

5. Intersectional coordination between individuals, organization and authorities at all levels on issuing posties legalization to MSM and help them on vocational orientation.
THANK YOU!