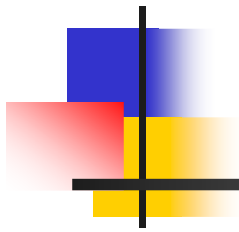


**Center for Health Education and Communication
Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam**



**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..

- **Ojectives**
 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 6th, 2006 and lasts until September 30th, 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 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.)

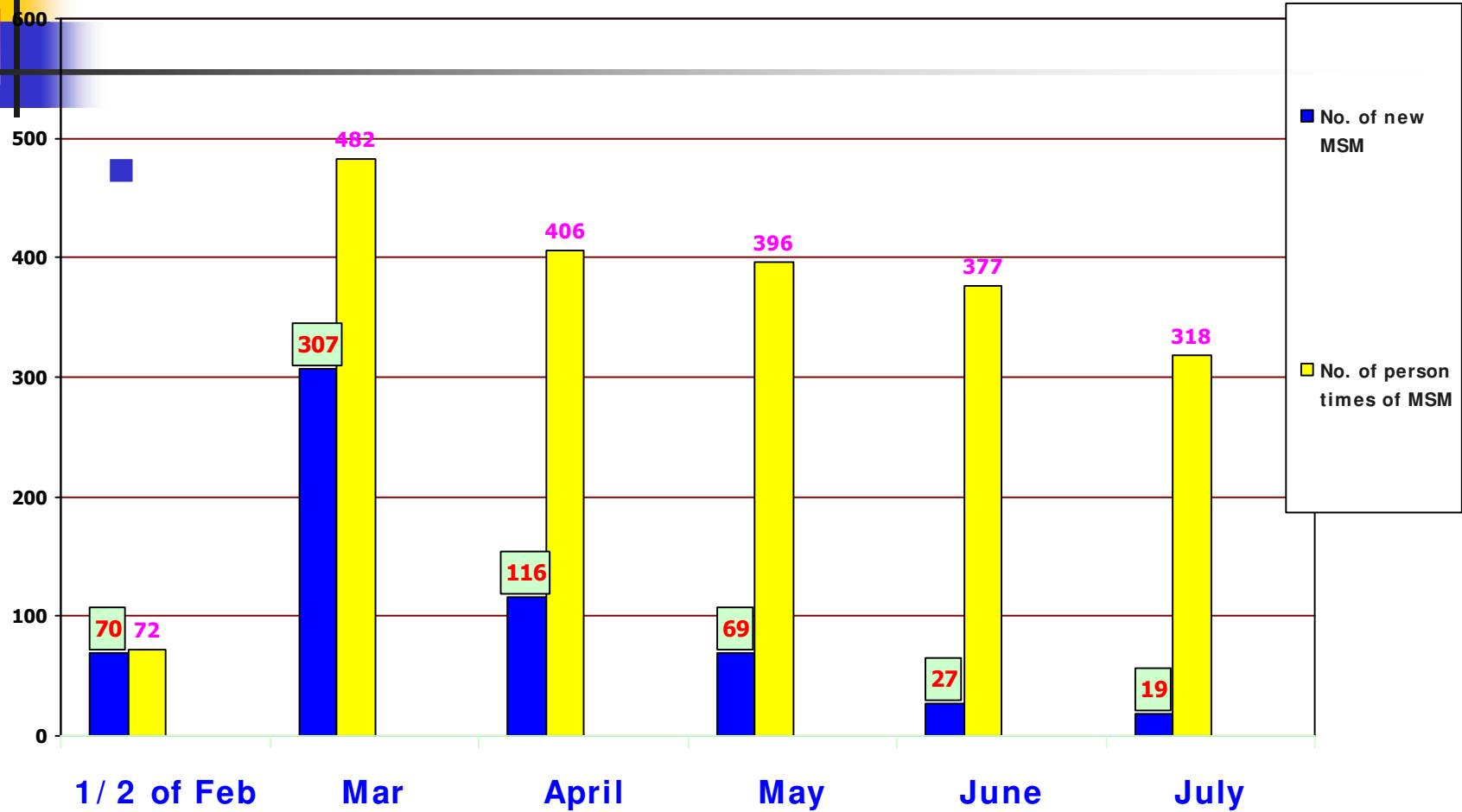
- Content: contact, give communication skills, distribute IEC materials, condom and lubricant as well as referral services to MSM-friendly services/ establishments
- Coverage: Nha Trang City and 4 districts of Khanh Hoa Province



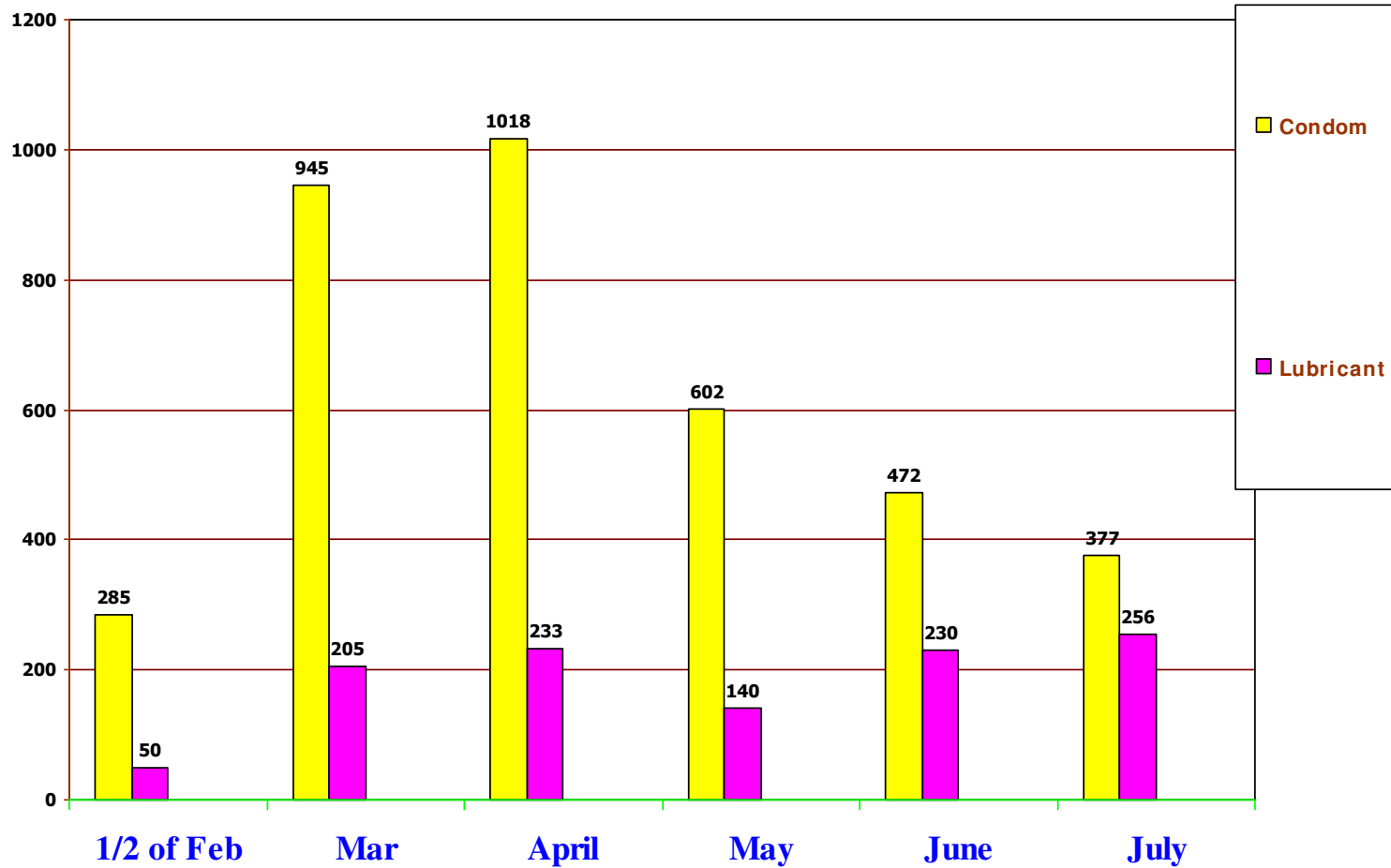
Partner organizations/ collaborators

- 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



Outcomes/ results(cont.)





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



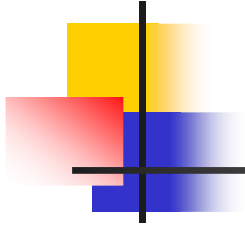
Lessons Learned/ Recommendations

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 positive legalization to MSM and help them on vocational orientation.



THANK YOU!