

SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND MSM - Malawi



OVERVIEW OF MSM IN MALAWI

Before CEDEP2005

MSM previously not visible for quite a long time

- Further back in the closet
- No safe space to interact
- Closed even to other MSMs
- Taboo. No discussions on such issues anywhere
- Fear of verbal and/or physical abuse
- Blackmail targets and not able to defend themselves

After CEDEP 2005.....

MSM mobilized

- *Numbers growing*
- *MSM building self-confidence*
- *MSM able to interact*
- *MSM issues being discussed in different public forums*

CHALLENGES

- *Same sex is criminalized*
- *Culturally and religiously unacceptable*
- *Lack of SRH services*
- *Biased Media coverage*
- *Outing of members*
- *Some MSM chose to remain hidden and not take part in group activities*
- *Limited funds*

MSM NEEDS ASSESSMENT

*KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES and
PRACTICES (KAP) OF MSM IN
MALAWI, 2006*

KAP STUDY

- Knowledge gap on HIV transmission
- No access to safe lubricants
- Unfriendly reproductive health services
- More research to explore MSM dynamics

CHALLENGES FACED BY MSM

- *Same sex is criminalize*
- *Culturally and religiously immoral*
- *Lack of psycho-socio support*
- *Biased Media coverage*
- *Outing of members*
- *Some MSM chose to remain hidden*
- *Limited funds*

SUCCESSSES

- *Conducted survey on HIV prevalence rate and sexual behaviours.*
- *Used results as evidence for need of interventions for MSM*
- *Provided a somewhat safe space for MSM to hold discussions*
- *Able to implement interventions*
- *Being recognized*

LESSONS LEARNT

- *It is possible to work with MSM*