



**MSMGF Quarterly Report**  
*Third Quarter: July – September*  
2013

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## **STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS**

### **The Speaking Out Initiative**

#### **Speaking Out: Honduras / Central America**

As part of the technical assistance provided by the MSMGF, the MSMGF Policy Team is working with Asociación Kukulcan to coordinate a three-day training as a follow-up to the last Speaking Out training in Honduras in May of this year. Produced at the request of participants at the May training, the follow-up training aimed to: 1) properly train staff of LGBT organizations on how to document human rights violations; 2) draft regional tools and forms that LGBT organizations can use in order to unify information and systematization of information; 3) create a regional database that can house all human rights violations documented by the participating organizations; and 4) draft a document that compiles these cases and present it to the Inter American Commission on Human Rights.

As a follow up to the previous Speaking Out trainings in February 2013 and May 2013, the MSMGF and Asociación Kukulcan have provided technical assistance to training participants in order to develop and implement two specific advocacy campaigns. The first campaign focuses on engaging Honduran politicians and political parties in dialogue on the inclusion of LGBT rights in the parties' political platforms. This a Presidential election year in Honduras and participants from Honduras believe the timing is right to engage politicians before the November elections. The second campaign, developed by a local organization in Panama with technical support from the MSMGF and Asociación Kukulcan, will focus on: A) advocating with local Health Department officials in Panama Oeste to implement a non-discrimination policy at public health clinics; and B) training healthcare providers on PAHO's *Blueprint for the Provision of Comprehensive Care to MSM in Latin America and the Caribbean*. This advocacy campaign will be initiated in October 2013.

#### **Speaking Out: Vietnam**

The MSMGF is supporting G-Link, our local partner in Ho Chi Minh City, to implement Speaking Out trainings and advocacy campaigns in Vietnam. In July 2013, G-Link implemented a second five-day Speaking Out training in Can Tho, with a total of 15 participants from different provinces, including Can Tho, Ho Chi Minh City, and Ha Noi. This training focused on planning steps for advocacy campaigns, working with the media, identifying decision makers, team building exercises, and working with networks and allies. As part of the 5-day training, the local branch of G-Link from Can Tho hosted an event with local leaders from the health department, members of the People's Committee, and community members to discuss issues concerning HIV among MSM.

With financial support from the Speaking Out Initiative and technical support from G-Link, young MSM director Hie Tran put together a production team of MSM and straight allies to produce *Waiting for the Wind*, a short film focused on the lives of gay men in Viet Nam and their experiences with discrimination, HIV, and sex work. The film was released at the end of July at a local hotel with 75 guests in attendance. G-Link and the film's producers will use the film to raise awareness about the experiences of MSM in Viet Nam and to initiate dialogue with policy makers to understand the challenges facing MSM in the country.

## **Speaking Out: Cambodia**

The Speaking Out Initiative partnered with a local consultant in Cambodia to carry out adaptation of the Speaking Out toolkit for the local context and Khmer language, as well as implementation of a 3-day training-of-trainers (TOT). As preparation for the toolkit adaptation process and TOT, the consultant conducted an assessment of the context and environment in Cambodia and identified potential local partners, co-facilitators, and participants. The toolkit was adapted and the training was held successfully from August 1-3 in Phnom Penh. A total of 25 MSM and transgender activists attended the training, including participants from Phnom Penh, Siem Reap, Sihanuk, Kandal, and Battam Bong. Participants had the opportunity to provide feedback to the adapted toolkit, which will be finalized based on this feedback in the coming months.

## **Speaking Out: Middle East & North Africa (MENA)**

MSMGF Director of Policy, Noah Metheny, and new MSMGF Senior Policy Advisor Nadia Rafif traveled to Beirut in July to meet with Lebanese Speaking Out partner organizations, including MARSAs and Helem. They also met with the Arab Foundation for Freedoms and Equality (AFE) to discuss the possibility of having them serve as the regional host for a MENA MSM advocacy platform. AFE agreed and formed a partnership with the MSMGF, and both organizations are currently working together to raise funds to support this project.

## **Speaking Out Evaluation Report**

The MSMGF policy team met with MSMGF Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant Liesl Messerschmidt in August to finalize an evaluation report for the first two years of the Speaking Out Initiative's operations. Key findings, recommendations, and next steps were discussed. The Speaking Out Evaluation Report will be launched publicly this Fall.

## **Webinars**

### **Data Security for MSM Advocates and Service Providers: Protecting Yourself and Your Clients in Hostile Contexts**

On October 9, the MSMGF partnered with the Benetech Human Rights Program to produce a webinar on data security for MSM advocates and service providers working in hostile contexts. Individuals and organizations working with men and other MSM around the world often do their work under the threat of surveillance, harassment, and violence. While digital communication has become an essential tool for many MSM advocates and service providers, it has also created new vulnerabilities that must be urgently addressed. The webinar provided an overview of various digital risks facing MSM advocates and service providers, as well as the free tools and methods that can be used to protect one's data – and by extension one's self and one's community.

### **Hepatitis B/C and HIV Co-Infection**

On July 25, the MSMGF delivered a webinar will serve as a basic introduction to hepatitis B and C for advocates and service providers who would like to learn more about this topic. The webinar offered a basic understanding of hepatitis B and C, including an overview of co-infection with HIV, implications of co-infection for gay men and other MSM, and policy and program recommendations to address co-infection among gay men and other MSM.

## **Bridging the Gaps (BtG)**

### **BtG Global Activities**

In July, AIDS Fonds sponsored a meeting of all BtG partners, including all of the global partners. The three-day meeting focused on barriers and successes of different partners as they implement the Bridging the Gaps grant. Panel and break out discussions specifically focused on ways to provide greater collaboration and synergy among partners on certain key advocacy items. Side meetings also included discussions on work planning priorities for 2014.

### **Support to Local Partners**

This past quarter, the MSMGF continued to direct resources to community-based organizations in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Costa Rica, and Ecuador, who delivered tailored programs to improve the health and human rights of their local LGBT communities. All components of these programs are aligned with the Bridging the Gaps global monitoring and evaluation framework, which focuses on: direct outreach and service delivery, trainings for providers and advocates, health and human rights-related advocacy, and organizational capacity strengthening. In addition to the facilitation of direct resources for local Bridging the Gaps programs, the MSMGF provided ongoing technical assistance to ensure successful implementation of these work plans and to ensure that programs are community-led, locally responsive, and relevant to the needs of communities. The outputs achieved are noted in a subsequent section titled “Accomplishments of Local Partners.”

In addition to assisting partners with the implementation of the Bridging the Gaps programs, the MSMGF responded to ad-hoc technical assistance requests from partners (listed below). These responses ultimately help build longer-term capacity of local CBOs/NGO, which is a critical component of the Bridging the Gaps Programs.

#### ***Tools for Work Planning and Budgeting***

Over the past quarter, the MSMGF has developed work planning and budgeting tools for internal use by BtG partners in order to assist with BtG program planning in 2014. These tools are specific to the BtG program and will assist partners to: A) generate a coherent work plan for each year commensurate with an allocated budget; B) develop a detailed budget across outcomes; C) estimate human resources required for implementation of the planned activities; and D) set realistic goals and targets across a reasonable timeframe. Further, these tools help align the various activities planned by local partners with the global monitoring and evaluation framework provided by Aids Fonds, the BtG program’s lead agency. These tools are currently being used by all of the MSMGF’s partners and are available in three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese).

#### ***Abstract Support***

In May and June, the MSMGF provided local partners in Kenya, Ishtar and PEMA, with expert coaching on writing academic abstracts for submission to the 17th ICASA conference to be held later this year in Cape Town, South Africa.

#### ***Clinic Mapping and Community Referral Systems***

In May and June, the MSMGF and local Kenyan partner PEMA jointly conducted a rapid mapping of clinics to which LGBT community-based organizations (CBOs) in Mombasa refer clients. During this time, the MSMGF and PEMA conducted visits to clinical sites at which healthcare providers had been previously trained on issues of concern to most-at-risk populations. Through these visits, we identified

issues in the informal referral networks through which MSM access healthcare services. We are currently exploring development of a system for systematizing client referral within those networks.

### ***Policy Review on HIV among MSM in Zimbabwe***

In Zimbabwe, the MSMGF assisted local partner organization Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) to identify and contact an agency that can train doctors on cultural competency and clinical skills for engaging MSM. Further, the MSMGF co-authored a concept note with GALZ that describes GALZ's plans to train healthcare providers and invites additional stakeholders to enter into partnership with GALZ. The MSMGF also provided extensive input on a policy review that GALZ conducted to identify policy-level issues that must be addressed to enable a better understanding of the impact of HIV on MSM in Zimbabwe, and convey these issues to researchers, partners, and stakeholders in the national HIV response.

### **Accomplishments of Local Partners**

Activities carried out by local partners and their corresponding outputs are based on agreements between the MSMGF and local CBOs/NGOs, and informed by the Aids Fonds global Bridging the Gaps framework. Work plans for 2013 were designed and finalized earlier this year. Since then, the MSMGF has continued to work closely with partners through monitoring visits (conducted in the previous quarter) and weekly communication through Skype and/or email to better understand on-the-ground realities and contextual factors that may influence ongoing programming.

MSMGF-led technical assistance across the following projects included the development of strategies to navigate contextual factors and subsequently improve quality of programming, financial oversight and management, program-related communications, and donor reporting. The nature of the MSMGF's involvement with local partners helps build models for community engagement and leadership in developing health and rights-based programs with minimal resources available. A list of Bridging the Gaps activities accomplished by local partners with MSMGF support is provided below by country. Two of the MSMGF's partners, CIPAC (Costa Rica) and Equidad (Ecuador), are jointly supported by COC and the MSMGF under this program.

#### ***Kenya***

In Kenya, MSMGF in-country partner Liverpool VCT, Care, and Treatment (LVCT) trained 23 healthcare providers to increase their capacity to provide quality health and HIV services to most-at-risk populations in Mombasa, Coast Province. All of the participating providers serve in government-run clinics, helping to promote access for most-at-risk populations within the general health system. LVCT also conducted capacity assessments among nascent community-based organizations that serve MSM, including MSM living with HIV, in Kenya.

Another local MSMGF partner PEMA concluded a study on the needs of MSM in Mombasa, including issues related to integration of MSM-friendly services in government-run health facilities in Mombasa.

MSMGF staff attended the Changing Faces Changing Spaces conference in Naivasha, Kenya, at which activists from across Africa exchanged strategies for working on various topics related to the health and human rights of sex workers, LGBTI, and other gender non-conforming people.

## **Zimbabwe**

In Zimbabwe, MSMGF in-country partner GALZ conducted the desk review mentioned above, focused on the impact of health policy and implementation on HIV among MSM in Zimbabwe.

GALZ has also continued to conduct SMS-based risk-reduction messaging. In the past quarter, GALZ sent 16 SMS messages on risk-reduction, early HIV diagnosis, and STI treatment messages to their 450 members.

## **Brazil**

In Brazil, the MSMGF's four local partners are Grupo de Resistência Asa Branca (GRAB), Iris de Cidadania LGBT (GAI), Associação Brasileira Interdisciplinar de AIDS (ABIA), and SOMOS. Each organization has been fully engaged, and in some cases leading, the local Pride Parade in each of their cities over the last few months.

In addition to Pride organizing activities, ABIA conducted online activities aimed at information sharing, fostering dialogue, and mobilizing communities for advocacy through their dedicated site for MSM. ABIA also organized capacity building activities with youth focused on gender and sexuality, as well as the prevention, treatment, and care of HIV and other STIs.

GAI focused on capacity building for youth LGBT activists on citizenship and HIV prevention. Twenty LGBT youth have participated in 6 workshops on themes related to current challenges for MSM and transgender people in Brazil including topics like risks, pleasure, HIV prevention, and overall health. GAI also shared health information with constituents via the web and through local outreach by partnering with municipal health departments, the center for diversity of Rio de Janeiro, the mayor's office campaign against homophobia and promotion of LBT rights.

In a joint project with GAI, ABIA has held 7 meetings to discuss topics for the joint project to strengthen intergenerational dialogue and advocacy knowledge transfer between senior LGBT people and the younger generation of LGBT activists.

SOMOS conducted activities covering education around prevention and care for their constituents through their website and critiquing the government's position at the federal, state, municipal, and local levels in relationship to people living with HIV and/or hepatitis. Their work has also included political engagement at the municipal and state levels by emphasizing issues concerning HIV and MSM at a meeting held by UNDP in the region to facilitate investments in HIV prevention and care for MSM in Rio Grande do Sul.

In order to improve the quality of and access to HIV related services for MSM and transgender people in one of the poorest states of Brazil, Ceara, GRAB is undertaking a Situational Diagnosis to monitor the delivery of interventions under the National Plan to Combat the AIDS epidemic amongst key populations. GRAB has initiated an analysis of the Local Plan to fight HIV/AIDS; the Health Plan for LBGt populations; and the Program for Actions and Targets (PAM - Fortaleza). The result of the analysis will inform civil society monitoring of public policy and measure progress in quality of health service delivery for gay men, other MSM, and transgender population at the state level.

## **Costa Rica**

With joint support from COC Netherlands, MSMGF in-country partner Centro de Investigacion y Promocion para America Central de Derechos Humanos (CIPAC)'s technical team in Costa Rica conducted field visits to implement interventions on improving self-care and distributed 3403 copies of HIV-prevention materials, 16,584 condoms, and 8250 sachets of lubricants. During these field visits, CIPAC staff also distributed promotional materials. A total of 541 MSM and transgender people were reached through these activities.

CIPAC also led a training of 55 health care professionals in Costa Rica in collaboration with the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Costa Rica. Concise and well-designed educational materials were developed for providers and were distributed at these workshops. In addition, using the results from a survey conducted in 2012, CIPAC conducted a presentation regarding the knowledge, attitudes, and preferences of providers concerning LGBT issues with high-level stakeholders present, including the country's Vice Minister of Public Health and representatives from the Ministry of Public Education.

## **Ecuador**

In Ecuador, MSMGF in-country partner Equidad designed and developed 2000 leaflets containing health education information and distributed them through community engagement activities conducted at Equidad's clinic. They also conducted a series of public campaigns, including a flash mob campaign, on the streets of Quito around the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia to increase visibility of LGBT issues among the broader community. The preparation of the flash mob was also used to empower community members to cope with possible negative reactions from the general public in Quito.

MSMGF in-country partner Kimirina organized an art exhibition in the month of August featuring a series of cultural productions in Ecuador: De Hombre a Hombre, a play by Mariano Moro, staged by the Estudio de Actores; a book release for Pedro Artieda's Que Nadie lo Sepa; a cultural exposition of the artist Damián Pérez called Ángeles y Demonios; a CIVITAS TRANS Photography Exhibition: From Code of Street Families; and the 1st International Film and Video Sicalipticx festival.

## **Mexican National Conference on Youth and HIV**

This quarter MSMGF Director of Communications Jack Beck traveled to Cuernavaca to participate in a national conference for youth working in the HIV response. One of the conference's primary goals was to examine feasibility and possible benefits of setting up a national network focused on youth and HIV in Mexico. Jack delivered a presentation to the conference on the MSMGF's experience building a global network of advocates and service providers, including lessons learned, challenges encountered, and benefits of working through a network structure.

## **David Kato Vision & Voice Award (DKVVA)**

In spring of this year, the MSMGF was selected to serve as the new Secretariat for the prestigious David Kato Vision & Voice Award (DKVVA), which recognizes leaders who work to uphold the sexual rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people around the world. This past quarter, the MSMGF successfully completed the open nomination process for the 2014 award. The DKVVA Advisory Committee will now work to select a shortlist and ultimately to select a finalist, who will be presented with the award on International Human Rights Day, December 10, at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in Cape Town, South Africa.

## **AMShER MSM+ Initiative Planning Meeting**

The MSMGF policy team provided financial support to the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMShER) for its initial planning meeting to develop an MSM+ Initiative in Africa. This 3-day meeting, which was also supported by GNP+, UNAIDS, and UNDP, was designed as a regional strategic planning workshop that ultimately brought together 10 representatives from 4 African regions (Northern, Southern, West and Central, and the Indian Ocean) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The main outcome of this meeting was a 6-month timeline to formally establish and launch this initiative at the ICASA conference in December.

## **DIRECT HIGH-LEVEL ADVOCACY**

### **The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)**

#### ***Community Update: New Information on Civil Society Engagement with PEPFAR***

In June 2013, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) sent a cable to all US diplomatic and consular posts about how to increase the involvement of civil society, including key population advocates and organizations, in PEPFAR's Country Operating Plan (COP) process. On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the MSMGF issued a community update explaining the relevance of PEPFAR and the COP to key populations and outlining concrete steps that key populations can take to be meaningfully involved in the COP process. To help ensure that PEPFAR is accountable to its commitments to community, the MSMGF invited advocates in PEPFAR countries to write to the MSMGF secretariat with any difficulties they experience when attempting to engage with PEPFAR. The MSMGF fielded numerous requests following this invitation, connecting grassroots advocates with the appropriate PEPFAR administrators to help resolve the problems.

### **United Nations**

#### ***Post-2015 Millenium Development Goals (MDG) Meeting and Side Event at UN General Assembly***

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). This Working Group had its initial teleconference call in early September to plan and coordinate advocacy at the UN General Assembly meeting on the Post-2015 MDG agenda. As part of its advocacy activities, the Working Group had its first in-person meeting in NYC during the UN General Assembly meeting the week of September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Members of the Working Group also attended side events and sessions focused on the post-2015 MDGs, advocating for the inclusion of a strong health goal that includes HIV in the new development agenda.

#### ***UN Interagency Workgroup on Key Affected Populations***

In September, MSMGF Executive Director Dr. George Ayala participated in a meeting of the UN Interagency Workgroup on Key Populations (IAWG). Comprised of focal points from UNAIDS, UNDP, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, and UNFPA, the IAWG meets to coordinate activities concerning men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers, and transgender people. The MSMGF advises the group while advocating for stronger alignment across UN agencies.

#### ***Consultation on Access to HIV Medicines***

In June, MSMGF Director of Policy Noah Metheny attended a consultation on Access to HIV Medicines in Middle Income Countries. The consultation was jointly sponsored by UNITAID, UNAIDS, and the Brazilian government. In anticipation of this meeting, the MSMGF, in collaboration with the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), The Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), and the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), drafted a policy brief examining access to HIV medicines for key affected populations in middle income countries. This draft policy brief served as the basis for several breakout sessions focused on barriers to accessing HIV medicines in middle income countries. The coalition is currently finalizing the draft policy brief, which is expected to launch in the Fall.

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

### ***Guidelines for Healthcare Providers in Communication about Sexuality***

MSMGF Executive Director Dr. George Ayala is a member of a workgroup convened by the WHO to develop guidelines for healthcare providers in the delivery of brief sexuality-related communication. The objective of the guidelines is to provide technical advice on critical elements and methods to deliver brief sexuality-related communication at primary healthcare facilities in order to improve the quality of sexual healthcare.

The three target audiences for the guidelines are: healthcare providers, health service managers, and institutions that train healthcare providers. The ability of people to achieve sexual health and well-being depends, among other things, on their access to comprehensive information about sexuality, their knowledge about the risks they face, their vulnerability to the adverse consequences of sexual activity, their opportunities to receive social support, an environment that affirms and promotes sexual health, and their access to good-quality sexual health care addressing all elements of sexual health according to the WHO working definition.

The capacity of health care providers in delivering brief sexuality-related communication to their patients is key to ensuring their sexual health. The workgroup met in July to finalize its literature review and recommendations to be included in the guidelines.

## **International AIDS Society (IAS)**

### ***Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) and Key Affected Populations***

MSMGF Senior Policy Advisor Nadia Rafif participated in a one-day consultation organized by IAS in London on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The IAS consultation, which took place at the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health, focused on the development of a white paper on *Maximizing the Treatment and Prevention Benefits of ART for Key Affected Populations*. Nadia attended the consultation in her capacity as a member of the IAS Advisory Groups on Key Populations and Treatment, respectively. The white paper is expected to increase understanding and clarity regarding the benefits and challenges of expanding HIV treatment among each of the key affected populations in various contexts, as well as give guidance for global policy formulation and program implementation. After multiple discussions and break out sessions, consultation participants agreed on the framework of the white paper, with the MSMGF serving as one of the main organizations responsible for the developing section on MSM. The white paper is slated to be published at AIDS 2014.

## **World Bank**

### ***LGBT Representative for World Bank Annual Meeting***

MSMGF Director of Policy Noah Metheny met with Guyanese activist Kemraj (Khem) Persaud in advance of the World Bank's annual meeting in October, where Khem will serve as the designated representative focused on LGBT issues. Khem is the Program Coordinator of SASOD in Guyana and serves on the MSMGF Youth Reference Group. Noah briefed Khem on the latest data and advocacy work focused on the impact of anti-LGBT stigma and discrimination on development issues, particularly around health. At the meeting in October, Khem will meet with various members of the World Bank staff and participate on panels to provide an LGBT perspective on the Bank's ongoing development work.

## **International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC)**

### ***Treatment as Prevention and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Summit***

MSMGF Executive Director Dr. Ayala also represented the MSMGF at the Treatment as Prevention and Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Summit, which was held by the IAPAC in London last month. The Summit brought together researchers, clinicians, public health officials and advocates to deliberate the latest research on the prevention potential of anti-retroviral medications and their roll-out.

## **International Advisory Group on Hepatitis C**

### ***HIV Co-infection with Hepatitis C***

The MSMGF Director of Policy Noah Metheny recently joined the new International Advisory Group on Hepatitis C, which is group made up of civil society members working on Hepatitis C issues globally to come together to share information and to strategize around advocacy. The first call of the Advisory Group took place in Septmeber, and it focused primarily on new and more effective treatment options for Hepatitis C in the pipeline, updates on organizational work concerning co-infection issues, and the development of action points for the next call.

Noah also met with Joost van deer Meer, a consultant working with AIDS Fonds, to discuss strategies for greater involmenet in HIV co-infection issues, including STDs and Hepatitis C. Noah and Joost discussed the MSMGF's work on co-infection issues and how AIDS Fonds can get more engaged on co-infection issues.

## **RESEARCH**

### **2012 Global Men's Health and Rights (GMHR) Survey: Paper Surveys Completed in Africa**

In order to increase access to the GMHR among MSM in Africa, the MSMGF partnered with AMSHeR member organizations to implement paper surveys locally at their respective offices. Seven organizations were able to conduct these surveys, generating powerful data from Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The MSMGF offered to conduct country-level sub-analyses of indicators concerning MSM health and rights to organizations that implemented paper surveys. The analysis of paper survey data, including country-level sub-analyses, have been completed and sent to organizations that implemented paper surveys. The MSMGF is collaborating with AMSHeR and AMSHeR member organizations to use this data to produce a new policy brief on MSM in Africa, which will be launched next quarter.

### **GMHR Community Feedback Survey**

In September, the MSMGF conducted a global online survey designed to help ensure that the GMHR is as valuable as possible to MSM advocates, service providers, and other stakeholders. Circulated through the MSMGF's global network and major global and regional email lists, the survey was completed by a total of 69 people from 29 different countries, more than half of whom live in the Global South.

Results indicated that the majority of participants found the survey to be useful to their work, citing a number of concrete examples of data use, including: development of care and treatment guidelines (Thailand), development of populations-specific health and human rights indicators (Mexico), and planning for a Global Fund renewal grant (Mauritius), among many others. The top three recommended topics for future GMHR versions were: 1) Stigma and Discrimination; 2) Knowledge and Attitudes about Emerging Prevention Technologies; and 3) Access to HIV-related Services.

The information gathered by this survey will be used to shape future versions of the GMHR to ensure the research initiative is as valuable as possible to MSM advocates and service providers globally.

### **Development of 2014 GMHR Survey Commences**

The MSMGF Research Group (MRG) has begun development of the next installment of the GMHR survey series. In response to community feedback, the MRG has added new member Ayden Scheim, who will advise on issues concerning the health, well-being, and human rights of transgender men who have sex with men. The MRG has also added Matthew Thomann to the group, who brings a cultural anthropological perspective to the group. Survey development will continue until launch, which is planned for early 2014.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Community Systems Strengthening and Key Populations**

This quarter the MSMGF released a [new publication](#) focused on Community Systems Strengthening (CSS) and its role in addressing HIV among key populations. The publication is designed to give the reader a clear understanding of the definition, history, strengths, and weaknesses of CSS, with a focus on how it can be used to support programs and services targeting key populations around the world. This publication outlines both the opportunities and challenges presented by the current approach to CSS, including actions that can be taken by stakeholders at all levels of the AIDS response to help ensure CSS works as effectively as possible for addressing HIV among key populations.

### **Training and Programming Resources on Gender-Based Violence against Key Populations**

The MSMGF partnered with AIDSTAR-Two and USAID to produce the publication, "Annotated Bibliography: Training and Programming Resources on Gender-Based Violence against Key Populations: Addressing Sex Workers, Men Who Have Sex with Men, Transgender People and People Who Inject Drugs." The aim of the publication is to document existing training and programming resources concerning gender-based violence (GBV) against key populations, examining the quality of existing resources and documenting gaps in existing resources. The publication attempts to answer the cross-cutting question, "What are the key issues and challenges, commonalities and differences requiring attention within training and programming resources on GBV against key populations?"

## **CONVENING STAKEHOLDERS**

### **Youth Reference Group (YRG)**

#### **World Health Organization Consolidated Guidelines on Treatment among Adolescent MSM**

The quarter the MSMGF YRG was asked to consult on development of the World Health Organization's upcoming consolidated guidelines on HIV treatment among adolescent MSM. The YRG will support the guidelines development process by identifying examples of good practices and engaging our members for further input.

#### **Thematic Segment on HIV, Adolescents and Youth at UNAIDS PCB Meeting**

The MSMGF YRG also made a submission to inform the Thematic Segment on HIV, Adolescents and Youth at the 33rd Meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB), 17 - 19 December 2013. The YRG's submission gave an overview of HIV among YMSM globally, followed by a description of the YRG itself as an intervention to address systematic inequity faced by YMSM in global, regional, and local HIV responses.

#### **Youth Force at AIDS 2014**

The MSMGF YRG was also invited to become a partner of the Melbourne Youth Force planning and implementation team for the Youth Program of AIDS 2014. As an official partner of the Melbourne Youth Force, the YRG will work to shape key youth advocacy messages for AIDS 2014 and champion a nationally driven, regionally engaged and globally focused Youth Program for AIDS 2014.

#### **Annual Meeting of the World Bank**

As mentioned in the Policy Section, MSMGF YRG member Khemraj Peraud will serve as the designated representative focused on LGBT issues at the upcoming annual meeting of the World Bank. At the meeting in October, Khem will meet with various members of the World Bank staff and participate on panels to provide an LGBT perspective on the Bank's ongoing development work.

### **Transgender Reference Group (TRG)**

The TRG has regrouped after a few months of inactivity, hosting a group call September 18<sup>th</sup>. The TRG is currently revising and updating its Terms of Reference, exploring ways to expand membership, and defining advocacy priorities for its organization development. Members showed renewed commitment to the TRG's mission.

### **Virtual Networking**

#### **MSMGF Gains 15 New Members**

From July through September 2013, the MSMGF gained 15 new members from 11 different countries, bringing total membership up to 2968. Of the new members who joined during this period, 75% are from the Global South and 25% are from the Global North. Segmenting by region, the majority of new members are from Sub-Saharan Africa (7); Western Europe and North America (4); Asia (3); and the Caribbean (1).

## **FUNDS DEVELOPMENT**

The MSMGF submitted two grant proposals over the past quarter. The first was submitted to the Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund (RCNF) as the lead of a consortium of seven MSM networks, and the second was submitted to the Elton John AIDS Foundation to support enhanced advocacy and advocacy training focused on the PEPFAR country operations planning process and the roll-out of the Global Fund's new funding strategy. The MSMGF expects to receive funding decisions in late November.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **MSMGF.org**

From July – September, the MSMGF Web site received a total of 10,083 visits, of which 7,129 were absolute unique visitors. During the current quarter, the single country with the highest number of visits was the United States (3,217), followed by Canada (418), the United Kingdom (419), India (314), Thailand (276), Australia (231), Kenya (224), Brazil (186), China (175), and Netherlands (150). Roughly two thirds of all visits took place in English language, and one third of visits took place in languages other than English.

### **Direct Information Support**

The MSMGF is contacted on a regular basis by advocates, service providers, funders, networks, multilateral agencies, and other individuals and organizations for direct information support. The MSMGF provides this information support as a triage service, providing a wide range of information support. This past quarter, the MSMGF provided over 30 instances of tailored information support to individuals and organizations on topics including: where to find publications on YMSM, where to find resources on funding, circulation of information about Nepal's elections, information on job opportunities, options for preserving libraries of MSM publications in South Asia, information about participating in PEPFAR's COP process, and many other topics.

### **MSMGF Gets Media Coverage**

In the third quarter of 2013, the MSMGF issued 3 public statements and 13 community updates. In total, the MSMGF was cited in 14 reports and articles. All materials are listed below.

#### **Public Statements**

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

October 2, 2013

[Violence Against LGBT People and Its Impact on HIV: Calling for a Coordinated Global Response](#)

July 23, 2013

[The MSMGF Welcomes New WHO Antiretroviral Guidelines](#)

July 1, 2013

#### **Community Updates**

[Upcoming Webinar: Data Security for MSM Advocates and Service Providers in Hostile Contexts](#)

September 26, 2013

[Reminder: Only Two Weeks Left for David Kato Vision and Voice Award Nominations!](#)

September 9, 2013

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

[New Survey on Funding for Trans\\* and Intersex Groups](#)

August 28, 2013

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

[DEADLINE EXTENDED: Call for Nominations: UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board NGO Delegates 2014-2015](#)

August 12, 2013

[Nominations Now Open for 2014 David Kato Vision & Voice Award!](#)

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[New MSMGF Research in JAIDS and the Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)

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[Reminder! Upcoming Webinar: Hepatitis B/C and HIV Co-Infection](#)

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[ACTION ALERT! Call Your Senators to Support PEPFAR and the Global Fund!](#)

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[Upcoming Webinar: Hepatitis B/C and HIV Co-Infection](#)

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[Call for Nominations! UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board NGO Delegation](#)

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## **Media Coverage and Other Citations**

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