

CURRENT PROJECTS 2008 TO 2009

The Coalition (7S) secretariat moved to Bangkok from Kuala Lumpur in February 2007. AusAID through UNAIDS granted the 7S Core Funding to cover the period March 2008 to February 2010. During this time the secretariat implemented the following activities that builds on previous funding cycles and informed the development of the 7S Strategic Plan 2010-2012.

ACTIVITIES

✂ Minimum Standards for Civil Society Participation in the Universal Access Initiative (MSCVSP)

The Universal Access (UA) Initiative refers to the United Nations member states to scale up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support to reach all who need it by 2010. The MSCVSP tool to chart civil society participation in UA was developed April to July 2007 in consultation with civil society participants and organizations from the Asia Pacific. MSCVSP was then launched at the 8th International Congress on HIV/AIDS in the Asia Pacific (ICAAP) in Sri Lanka August 2007. The tool has been adopted in Cambodia and a workshop was held in Katmandu, Nepal in Feb 2010. The United Nations will convene High Level Meetings (HLM) to review the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September 2010 and will review UA in September 2011. The 7S continues to promote the MSCVSP tool and expects increased use in the months leading up to the two HLMS.

✂ Civil Society Action Team (CSAT)

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (TGF) was established in 2001. The CSAT initiative founded in 2008 promotes civil society involvement in TGF programs and activities. As the Asia Pacific regional hub, 7S via CSAT AP brokers, coordinates and advocates for civil society access to technical support to strengthen involvement in the design and implementation of TGF programs. The overall goal of CSAT is to improve the design and effectiveness of implementation and oversight of TGF supported programs, including addressing the needs of KAPS.

✂ Intimate Partner Transmission

The concepts of intimacy and relationships are central considerations in the dynamics of HIV infection. HIV transmission in intimate partner relationships seeks to reach out to long term partners of key affected populations and the terminology refers to men and women, girls and boys with the understanding that reducing infections among key affected populations and their partners need to be formulated in the context of reaching the goal of gender equality.

Here we view partners as women of male partners who inject drugs, migrant

workers (both foreign and internal), have sex with other men, or are clients of sex workers. We see this strategy to target partners of the stated populations as part of the sexual and reproductive health focus on male involvement to reduce gender inequalities and inability to exercise sexual rights -as evidenced by intimate partner violence and inability of partners to negotiate sex -, as well as stigma and discrimination, vulnerabilities associated with migration, and cultural and social norms surrounding sex, sexuality which often act as barriers for effective delivery of HIV/STI prevention programmes.

We believe that the thrust of intimate partner relationships (IPR) will improve access to health and social services and improve health decision-making between communities and their providers and in turn provide a strategy for community health systems strengthening.

ⓧ High Level Meetings (UNAIDS PCB, UNGASS, ASEAN, etc.)

The 2001 UNGASS Declaration and 2006 High Level Meeting on AIDS, which led to international commitment to move towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010, have helped to keep AIDS high on the political agenda and to mobilize significant funding for the AIDS response. While there has been progress, there is still much to be done if global targets are to be met. The effective advocacy of KAPS leadership and networks in HLM at international, regional and national levels is crucial to sustain political and financial commitment.

UNAIDS PCB NGO Delegation:

The Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) of the Joint and Cosponsored United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) is the key governance mechanism of the organization. The UNAIDS PCB has representatives of 22 governments from all geographic regions, the UNAIDS Cosponsors (10), and five representatives of nongovernmental organizations, including associations of people living with HIV. These five NGO representatives plus 5 regional alternate delegates make up the NGO delegation. The mission of the PCB NGO Delegation is to ensure that the priorities and interests of affected people, constituencies and communities are considered in UNAIDS decisions and policies. In April 2007 the Regional Coordinator (RC) now Executive Director (ED) was nominated by 7S membership to the role of Asia Pacific NGO Delegate to the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (PCB). In 2008, in this capacity the RC contributed substantially to the NGO Report and other decisions at the UNAIDS PCB's 22nd, Extraordinary and 23rd meetings as well as the Second Independent Evaluation of UNAIDS (SIE). In 2009, the ED provides direction to the NGO Delegation's Communication Facility as part of the Communication Facility's Work Group, represents Civil Society (CS) concerns at the UNAIDS PCB Bureau (composed of the Board Chair and Co-Chair, NGO, Co-Sponsors and UNAIDS Geneva Secretariat), and the UNAIDS UBW (Unified Budget and Work Plan) Sub-Committee. The 7S ED was also able to place coalition member CARAM Asia on

the HIV Travel Restrictions Task Force whose advocacy got the member states including the US to remove HIV travel restrictions and again for the UNAIDS 24th Thematic People on the Move placed CARAM Asia on the Work Group and Advisory Board. The 24th PCB Meeting focused on the SIE of UNAIDS. The thematic for the 25th PCB (June 2010) will be on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

The 7S ED term as the Asia Pacific NGO Delegate to the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board officially began at the 22nd PCB meeting held in Chiang Mai April 2008. However, the 7S secretariat has actively participated in the preparations for the PCB NGO delegation's activities since June 2007 and helped to prepare for several Sessions at the 17th International AIDS Conference where he presented at a Session on Accountability. The ED's term ends in Dec 2010. The NGO Delegation recruited new NGO representatives from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Alternate for Asia Pacific from August to October 2009. The Asia Pacific Alternate hails from Malaysia and currently works with APNSW but in the past has worked with CARAM Asia and APCASO. She will step into the Delegate role as of 1 January 2011.

The work done on NGO Delegation has led to a wider exposure for 7S to the NGO Delegations of the TGF and UNITAID, the global NGO community and the opportunity to influence policy at a high level through interactions with Member States. Currently, preparations are underway for the completion of the Universal Access initiative with a HLM planned for September 2011 and the ED will work across a wide cross range of stakeholders to coordinate efforts and maximize resources not only in the Asia Pacific but across the globe.

⌘ International (IAC), Regional (ICAAP) and National AIDS Conferences

Education, networking and the promotion of best practice are essential to enhancing the response to HIV/AIDS. AIDS conferences at various levels provide KAPS opportunities to network, identify gaps, share experience, and increase knowledge and expertise. The members and partners of 7S have been active in the organization and execution of activities at these conferences to provide forums for the interaction of science, community and leadership, and strengthen an evidence-based policy and programmatic response to the epidemic. 7S places special emphasis on the International Congress on HIV/AIDS in the Asia Pacific (ICAAP) where the secretariat has a standing seat on the International Advisory Committee (IAC) and as the regional host is the primary organizer of the pre-congress Community Forum (CF) that in 2009 was attended by nearly 1200 participants.

⌘ Develop And Implement A Work Plan To Expand 7S Work And Activities In The Pacific

The 7S has been approached to develop stronger ties with the Pacific communities and clarify how the issues of the Pacific region are represented in the coalition's Advocacy efforts and activities. The secretariat has networked with Pacific representatives at various conferences and meetings but invitations

to attend meetings with the Pacific Sexual Diversity Network and the Pan Pacific PLHIV Meeting were not acted on mostly due to the current workload and lack of resources. In 2009, the secretariat has begun working the TSF SEAP to develop this plan to expand in the Pacific. CSAT AP worked with Fiji's CCM to develop governance policy and procedures and provided support to the international consultant for Fiji's Round 9 TGF submission.