

Major gaps in condom distribution and HIV testing uptake among Female Sex Workers and Men who have Sex with Men in Myanmar 2014-15; a mixed-methods study

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Abstract

We believe the paper is of particular interest to your readers. In Myanmar, HIV first identified in 1998 and in 2015, the national prevalence of HIV among adults more than 15 years of age was estimated to be below 1%. However, it was estimated that there were over 216,000 people living with HIV and total of 9,253 deaths in year 2015. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar's National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS 2016-2020 is the strategic guide for country's response to HIV prevention. The goal is to reduce HIV transmission and one of the objectives is to reduce incidence among priority populations and their partners. In 2001, NAP piloted the 100% targeted condom program in four townships in Myanmar supporting FSW and their clients. Initially TCP focused on reduction of discrimination and empowerment of female sex workers through advocacy with local authorities, provision of condoms and STI treatment, and behavior change communication to promote preventive behavior through peer education. Along with the expansion of covering townships, TCP included MSM as its key population to be supported since 2007. In 2015, TCP has been expended up to 55 townships in collaboration with NAP's implementing partners. The key components of TCP includes advocacy meeting with local authority, coordination meeting with township working groups and entertainment establishments, training on TCP for health staff, geo-social mapping, peer education training for FSW and MSM, outreach sessions conducted by trained FSW and MSM peer educators, health education sessions, and condom distribution and STI services to the key populations

We certify that we have participated sufficiently in the conception and design of this work and analysis of the data as well as in the writing of the manuscript.

We guarantee that this article has not been published or not being considered for publication elsewhere. We will not submit the manuscript to any other journal until the review process is complete. All co-authors have contributed to the work and have read and approved the final version.

To be kindly consideration, we would like to request to the editor to have a waiver for this article.