

Dissemination Workshop

Integrated Bio-Behavioral Survey Among men who have sex with men (MSM) and Transgender Women (TGW) in Cambodia (MSM-TGW IBBS 2023)

November 24, 2023 | Golden Crab Boutique Meeting Room | KAMPOT PROVINCE



A day workshop to disseminate the result of the Integrated Bio-Behavioral Survey Among MSM and TGW in Cambodia (MSM-TGW IBBS 2023) conducted by the Surveillance unit of NCHADS in partnership with UNAIDS, EpiC project FHI360 and another collaborative partner took place on November 24, 2023, at the Golden Crab Boutique Meeting Room, Kampot Province. The objective of this meeting was to (1) disseminate the results of the Integrated Bio-Behavioral Survey Among MSM and TGW in Cambodia 2023, particularly on the HIV, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Hep C prevalence and their sexual behavior, and (2) disseminate the result of the population size estimation.

A total of 84 participants from 25 provinces and Phnom Penh attended the workshop, including representatives from NAA, NCHADS management and all relevant units, PHD, PASP, NGO Partners, KHANA, AHF, CWPD and EpiC project of the FHI360.

The meeting started with remarks from Dr. Tan Chheng, Deputy Director of PHD, Kampot Province, remarks from Dr. Steve Wignall, Technical Director of EpiC/FHI360, remark by Mr. Nick Edwards, Chief of Party of the Local Health System Sustainability (LHSS), remarks by Dr. Houy Sikheng, Country Program Manager of AHF, and opening remark by Ass. Prof. Dr. Ouk Vichea, Director of NCHADS.

There is two main presentation topics presented at the workshop: 1) the result of MSM-TGW IBBS 2023 by Dr. Mun Phalkun, Head of the Surveillance Unit of NCHADS, and 2) the MSM-TGW population size estimation (PSF) by Mr. Nhim Dalen, Deputy Project Director, EpiC/FHI360. Following is a summary of the main topics highlighted in the workshop and discussion by the NCHADS and EpiC presentations.

Survey Methodology and Results: In IBBS studies, respondent-driven sampling (RDS) has been used worldwide to recruit hidden and hard-to-reach populations. This study used standard RDS procedures to recruit FEW. In addition, a biological test of HIV and syphilis was performed by SD Bio-line HIV/Syphilis Duo test with the confirmation using HIV 1/2 STAT-PAK® Assay for the reactive case. Further, vaginal specimens from participants were tested for CT and NG. Further, a hepatitis C virus rapid test was applied while confirmed by RPR.

2,378 respondents (MSM 1,440 and TGW 938) were recruited from eight provinces, with a mean age of 24.9 years for MSM and 27.6 years for TGW. The prevalence of HIV, syphilis, STI, CT, and NG among MSM and TGW significantly increased if compared to previous IBBS. Otherwise, the prevalence of HIV and syphilis among TGW is significantly higher than MSM, while HIV prevalence of MSM is 5.5% vs. TGW 13.5%, syphilis 9.4% vs. 22.2%, STI 44.9% vs. 45.3%, CT 26.9% vs 23%, and NG 24.7% vs 19.4%. Further, drug users are associated with HIV prevalence (MSM 10.5% vs TGW 26.0%), while CHEMSEX population (MSM 18.5% vs. TGW 33.3%).

The survey showed that HIV transmission prevalence among MSM and TGW was still high, while new associate factors had an impact on HIV transmission speed. The national program needs to conduct a more in-depth investigation. Further, the existing prevention program needs to be strengthened, and more targeted and differentiated prevention and testing are the top priorities.

Figure1: The summary result of survey

