

# Monitoring Study for Population Service International's Intervention Activities (TRaC-M) among Sex Workers in Quang Ninh and Hai Phong

2010

## Background

Beginning in August 2008, Population Service International (PSI) Vietnam has implemented an outreach-based HIV prevention intervention targeting female sex workers (FSWs), including sex workers who are drug users, in four provinces (Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, and Nghe An). The program objectives are to: i) increase consistent condom use in high risk relationships, ii) reduce initiation of non-injecting FSWs into injecting drug use, and iii) promote primary drug use prevention among FSWs who are not drug users and iv) increase utilization of HIV voluntary counseling and testing services (VCT).

PSI uses outreach workers to conduct outreach activities at entertainment establishments or street-based hot spots where FSWs often gather together. PSI's outreach teams conduct communication activities under the '*Song Dep*' (Clean Living) brand. As part of a larger HIV prevention program, PSI also implements the '*Chan Troi Moi*' VCT promotion campaign using a range of media channels (mass media, direct marketing, targeted events). In addition to this, PSI implements the Number One condom social marketing program to improve condom availability in high-risk venues and increase consistent condom use in high-risk relationships.

As part of its ongoing efforts to improve monitoring and evaluation of program activities, in August 2010 and at the request of PSI, ISMS collaborated with CIHP to conduct a monitoring study (TRaC-M) among FSWs, including FSWs who are drug users.

## Objectives

The study objectives were to:

- 1 Measure the level of exposure among FSWs to PSI HIV prevention programs including Song Dep outreach, Number One condom social marketing, and VCT promotion;
- 2 Measure the frequency and type of communication outreach by behavioral objective for Song Dep outreach; and
- 3 Understand the nature of the work and residential arrangements, and mobility issues across different types of FSW.

## Study Participants and Sites

To accomplish these objectives, FSWs aged 18-35 were recruited to participate in the study. The study was carried out at the end of July 2010 in 2 project provinces - Hai Phong and Quang Ninh.

## Methodology

A total of 200 FSWs were recruited using the Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) method in which "seed" FSWs are initially recruited to complete the questionnaire. Each seed is then given recruiting coupons to distribute to other eligible FSWs in her network and the process continues. This method allows for greater access into the FSW population, including those who were not yet reached by PSI activities. The FSWs were interviewed using structured questionnaires to obtain information about their network size, types of places they live and meet clients, and experience with exposure to HIV prevention programs.

The interviewer team was composed of six interviewers recruited from the Hanoi School of Public Health, field supervisors, and research assistants from ISMS/CIHP. They were trained to properly administer the structured questionnaires following the study protocol and quality control measures.

## Output from ISMS

At the end of the study, ISMS summarized the fieldwork results, challenges and recommendations in a fieldwork report that was submitted to PSI in August 2010. The data collected in this fieldwork provided PSI with monitoring and evaluation information on the reach of their activities and how the activities can be improved upon.

## Donors and Partners

This study was carried out by the Institute of Social and Medical Studies (ISMS) and the Center for Creative Initiatives in Health Promotion (CIHP) for Population Services International (PSI) Vietnam. Funding was provided by USAID/PEPFAR. For more information about us and our donors and partners, please visit:

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