

Executive Summary

Monitoring and Evaluation Research on Model Development and Redefine Mechanisms for AIDS Prevention and Alleviation in Youth and other Most At Risk Population (PHA Network)

The network of people infected with HIV and AIDS (PHA Network) and the network of AIDS non-governmental organizations (NGO AIDS) have initiated program for HIV prevention by knowledge generation and implementing process to link other networks in the local area to co-operate in the development of action plan and take part in organizing activities in the community. There were 5 projects of such nature receiving funds from the Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS Prevention Acceleration, Health System Research Institute (HSRI) and the National Health Security Office in 2008.

The working group conducted an evaluation research of these 5 projects in 2010. Findings and recommendations from the evaluation research include:

1. Projects which had been evaluated were:

- 1.1 Project code 51-052: Promotion of the capacity of community organizations for the prevention of HIV infection and impact mitigation in most northern region.
- 1.2 Project code 51-053: HIV/AIDS prevention campaign in Ubonrajchathanee Province
- 1.3 Project code 51-057: Promotion of network of AIDS prevention work towards community organization
- 1.4 Project code 51-062: Development of AIDS worker capacity, Thailand
- 1.5 Project code 51-073: Communication of sexual rights for AIDS prevention among people infected with HIV groups and community

2. Objectives of the evaluation research were to assess the results of the performance of the projects, and to synthesize the knowledge gained from their operation leading to the formulation of technical and policy recommendation, as well as to gain indication for further development of the strategy and guides for implementation by PHA and NGO AIDS networks.

The working group collected data using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data were collected through document reviews, random sampling of sites for the conduct of focus group discussions among leader of networks in the community, distribution of self administered questionnaires to leaders in the community and to target population. Tools for data collection comprised of questionnaire for the project implementers (fund recipient), questionnaire to assess knowledge, attitude and skill for the participant of the project implementation, questionnaire to measure knowledge, awareness, skill and risk assessment, and HIV prevention behavior among target population; and interview form for focus group discussion.

3. Findings of the evaluation research were:

- There were 1,456 leaders in these 5 projects who had been developed from the project. Provincial supporting teams were established. Common targeted populations found across all projects are leaders of PHA groups and leader of other networks in the community.

- Objectives of most projects focused on the promotion of the role of PHA and leaders of the NGO AIDS network, as well as in the partnership development with

other networks in the community, to co-operate in implementing developmental activities and solving of health problems in the community. Various sectors in the community such as housewife group, health volunteer, community leader, etc., were invited to participate in the operation, including the formulation of health development plan aiming for sustainability of the projects in the local area.

- Leaders of PHA and local implementer groups were found to have highest score of proper knowledge related to HIV/AIDS. As measured by 5 UNGASS questions, 61.4 % answered correctly in all questions. However, among student group, 17.9 % of student leader was able to answer correctly in all 5 questions while 15.7 % of non-leader student was able to.

- Important innovation observed included the establishment of HIV networks in communities comprising of various networks such as local administration, hospitals, schools, developmental NGO, PHA network, community leader, health volunteer, and youth. HIV/AIDS work was integrated into the work on general health activities. Community had gained a good attitude towards HIV/AIDS work. It was demonstrated that PHA network had been the core group in the work of these projects. Besides, discussion of sexual rights is new subject for PHA and other groups in the community. Arranging of sessions for discussion among young people and their family members on issues such as sex and family problems, had created more chances for the individuals in the family to communicate, or express boldly, on and to solve some conflicting issues in the family. This activity was called as "talking in a safe zone".

- For future sustainability of the projects, it was found that PHA leaders had and would be working on prevention of HIV and community health plan in community for a long time. There were also leaders from other sectors participating in the operation and form into a network of the project. HIV/AIDS operation plan had been integrated into the general health development plan of the community. It was noted that, in selected sites of some projects, if leaders from local administration were involved and participated, there would be more opportunity for the projects to access to the budget from the health fund at the sub-district level and to the local administration development plan.

- On the issue of strength of the developed network, it was found that the strength lies on the coordination and project management which the core networks implementing the projects had established their work system as a base to implement this project. However, in some projects, there had been no support team providing facilitation or support to the implementer at the community level. There had been some gap in communication between implementer at the local level and the staff responsible for the projects. This gap may cause negative effect on some target populations.

4. Recommendations derived from the project.

4.1 Policy recommendation.

(1) Network on HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation should be continuously supported. It should be integrated into the work addressing on general health aspects in the community. The National Committee on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Problem Alleviation should be informed for consideration assigning to relevant Ministries such as the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and other Ministries, to develop action policy for various network in the community and local administration to participate in the work on HIV prevention and AIDS impact mitigation, via integration with other health

problems in the community, including the process of policy transferring, in a serious manner.

(2) Subcommittee of HIV Prevention Acceleration and the National Committee on AIDS Prevention and Problem Alleviation should be informed for consideration assigning the Ministry of Interior to develop a clear policy to the local administration organizations to give importance on health issues and to provide support to various networks in the community to jointly perform activities to solve health problems and to prevent HIV infection and to mitigate impact from AIDS.

(3) PHA Networks and NGO AIDS Networks should receive more support in a continuous manner as they have demonstrated their roles in the development and facilitating networks in the community to jointly perform the work on HIV prevention and impact mitigation. This kind of work should be promoted for further expansion to other area.

4.2 Technical recommendation

(1) Knowledge gained from these developmental projects should be gathered in a more systematic way and distributed to relevant agencies for further review and implement in other area.

(2) The implementing team and leaders should be supported for their continuous development and strengthening in the issues of knowledge, concept of the projects, ownership of the projects, supporting team to facilitate the work of the network at the community level both in the managerial and the technical aspect.

(3) Support should be provided to the management of the projects in order to strengthen their efficiency and accountability. Data on performance and management should be collected and recorded in a systematic manner. Results of the projects should be reported and project evaluation should be conducted regularly. This will enable the projects for their continuous development.