

MAPPING THE PATTERN

of Sex Workers, Entertainment Establishments and Men who have Sex with Men in Cambodia



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Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance

DISCLAIMER

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PREFACE

After two decades of civil war, Cambodia was one of the most impoverished countries in the world. Fortunately, with assistance from international donors and the United Nations, Cambodia moved beyond its national tragedy and established a democratically elected government in 1993.

However, due to the decades of unrest in the country, infrastructure for public services, including the health sector, was very poor. As the country's leaders began to build a democracy and attempt to improve the economy, Cambodian citizens faced a significant hurdle in their nation's development: HIV and AIDS. With insufficient access to and poor affordability of health care, as well as a severe lack of prevention knowledge, many Cambodians were infected with HIV and subsequently died from AIDS in the years after peace. By 2006, there were more than 65,000 people of reproductive age (aged 15-45 years old) living with HIV or AIDS in Cambodia. Cambodia has a generalized epidemic, meaning that all members of the population, not just those in high risk groups, are at risk of HIV infection. Currently, 0.9% of Cambodia's adult population is infected with HIV or AIDS.

With strong commitment from the Royal Government of Cambodia, and the aid of multinational donors, international governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and other stakeholders, Cambodia has successfully and rapidly decreased its adult HIV prevalence through effective prevention intervention efforts. One reason for this success is the direct interventions targeting high-risk groups. The 100% condom use program targeting direct sex workers and their clients through outreach and STI case management is one successful example. In order to effectively design, plan and implement these activities, accurate estimates of the numbers of brothels and entertainment establishments, along with the numbers of sex and entertainment workers are needed. In order to collect this information, KHANA conducted this mapping exercise to estimate the size of the sex worker population and the establishments where they work.

Additionally, men who have sex with men (MSM) are a population at high risk of HIV infection and transmission. Due to societal pressures, stigma, and discrimination, men who have sex with men have historically been a hidden population in Cambodia. As Cambodia develops, the outlook of society towards these men is improving, though they still face significant prejudice. It is important to reach these men with prevention and care and treatment programs for HIV and AIDS. Therefore, KHANA also included these men in this mapping exercise. As with sex workers, better knowledge of the MSM population will enable KHANA to improve its programming and evaluation efforts.

This mapping document will be useful for planning, implementation and evaluation of KHANA's programs in Cambodia, as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations working with these vulnerable groups. The mapping methodology may also be applied to mapping other high-risk populations in the future.

Dr. Oum Sopheap
Executive Director
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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BSS	Behavioral Surveillance Survey
DEE	Direct Entertainment Establishment
100% CUP	100% Condom Use Program
CMDG	Cambodian Millennium Development Goals
CUWG	Condom Use Working Group
DSW	Direct Sex Worker
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HBC	Home Based Care
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSS	HIV Sentinel Surveillance
IDSW	Indirect Sex Worker
IEE	Indirect Entertainment Establishment
KHANA	Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men

NAA	National AIDS Authority
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NCHADS	National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAS	Provincial AIDS Secretariat
PLHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PSF	Pharmaciens Sans Frontiers
PSI	Population Services International
SSS	STI Surveillance Survey
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TV	Television
UA	Universal Access
VIP	Very Important Person

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INTRODUCTION

The Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA) is the leading national non-profit organization working to support community action on HIV and AIDS in Cambodia, and also one of many worldwide linking organizations of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. KHANA has worked actively in Cambodia since 1997, focusing on strengthening the capacity of local NGOs in their efforts against HIV/AIDS. KHANA's has strategically aligned its interventions and activities with governmental plans, strategies and policies, including the National Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive & Multi-Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS 2006-2010 (NSP), the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDG), and the Universal Access (UA) targets to scale up effective interventions in HIV and AIDS prevention, care and support, and impact mitigation.

KHANA is publicly recognized for its continued success in implementing its Focused Prevention, and Integrated Care and Prevention projects at the community level. In 2007, KHANA disbursed grants to 63 partners, including 41 NGOs and 22 Networks in 17 provinces/municipalities. KHANA's implementing partners were able to carry out their activities in response to HIV/AIDS and its impacts through 127 projects and an additional 3 one-off grants to Continuum of Care organizations (Khana Annual Report, 2007).

KHANA's Focused Prevention program actively targets most at risk populations such as brothel based sex workers, entertainment workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), and drug users. The prevention package primarily utilizes outreach, peer education and information, education and communication materials to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, impart prevention knowledge, and to promote condom use and positive health seeking behavior (especially regarding HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment).

Since the late 1990's, KHANA has provided nationally recognized care and treatment services through its Integrated Care and Prevention program. Home based care teams offer persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), orphans and vulnerable children and their families basic medical care, referrals to health services, and psycho-social assistance. In collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations, KHANA and its implementing partners currently support over 85 home care teams. By July 2007, there were about 279 HBC teams operating across the country, which means the country is in line to meet the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS) goal of 290 HBC teams by end 2007.

Information Gaps

Commercial sex practices have changed significantly in Cambodia in recent years. In the past, many clients of sex workers went directly to brothels or similar establishments where the employees directly provided sexual services in exchange for money. These sex workers are referred to in this report as direct sex workers, or DSW. Currently, many men seeking sexual services go first to beer gardens, karaoke clubs, or massage parlors, all of which are collectively referred to as “entertainment establishments”. The women in these establishments may have sex with their customers, but generally neither the woman, nor the client, consider them to be “sex workers”. In this report, these women are referred to as both indirect sex workers (IDSW) and entertainment workers. However, there is much interweaving between DSW and IDSW in modern Cambodia. For instance, many entertainment establishments employ direct, as well as indirect, sex workers. In order to better inform program interventions, it is necessary to review the types of entertainment establishments, as well as the definitions and geographical patterns of DSW and IDSW.

Additionally, there is also a need to review the definition and translation of “men who have sex with men” (MSM). In Cambodia, men who have sex with other men are often called “Katoy”. Generally, this term refers to men who behave as women (often termed “trans-gender” in English), but can also just refer to men who prefer to have sex with other men, but do not behave as women. The interchangeable use of “Katoy” and “MSM” can be confusing, particularly in designing intervention programs where men who behave as women and men who behave as men have different needs and require different outreach and intervention methods.

KHANA’s implementing partners work directly with both MSM and sex workers, providing prevention and care and treatment services. In order to improve its programs, and better understand the current needs of both of these populations, KHANA conducted this mapping exercise. Specifically, this study will map the population and location of MSM and direct and indirect sex workers in specific provinces. This will assist KHANA in establishing a baseline measure for these populations, which will inform future program planning efforts.



OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To investigate the definition of “entertainment establishment”, “DSW”, “IDSW”, and “MSM”
- To understand the sexual risk behavior patterns of sex workers and MSM in the sites studied
- To investigate the approximate number of sex workers and MSM in the sites studied
- To investigate the characteristics, activities and approximate number of entertainment establishments in the sites studied
- To provide recommendations for better prevention program design and program evaluation for sex workers and MSM

METHODOLOGY

Study design

This study is designed as a mapping exercise incorporating both a situation analysis and a response analysis. Tools used to inform these analyses include: key informant interviews, focus group discussions (FGD), and field visits.

Study sites

The sites chosen for this study are those where KHANA's implementing partners are currently implementing prevention intervention programs with MSM and sex workers. These seven sites are: Battambang, Siem Reap, Sihanouk Ville, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu and Phnom Penh.

Target groups

The following target groups were mapped:

- Brothel based sex-workers
- Female karaoke workers
- Female massage workers
- Beer garden female workers
- Female beer promoters
- Free-lance sex workers
- MSM

Data collection methods

The mapping exercise was conducted by a mapping team made up of KHANA staff, a research consultant, implementing partner staff and staff of the Provincial AIDS Secretariat in their respective provinces. The mapping team received a two-day training from KHANA's Strategic Information Department, which covered the objectives of the study, the role of the mapping team, the study methodology, and the data collection tools.

There following tools were employed during the data collection process:

- **A desk review:** all relevant available data and documents relating to each of these target groups was reviewed, including reports from government and other NGOs
- **A workshop** was organized to collect information from KHANA's implementing partners and the Provincial AIDS Secretariats in each of the provinces on the existing case definitions of sex workers, MSM and types of entertainment establishments.
- **Key informant interviews** were conducted using a standardized questionnaire. Key informant included Peer Facilitators (some who were MSM and sex workers), entertainment establishment owners, community elders, health outreach workers, MSM community leaders and beer company managers.
- **Focus group discussions** were held with direct and indirect sex workers, entertainment establishment workers and MSM using a standardized list of discussion topics. Eight focus groups were held, with each group having 8 participants, for a total of 64 FGD participants

The following FGD were conducted for this study:

- » MSM – 2
- » Karaoke girls – 1
- » Beer Garden girls – 1
- » Massage girls – 2
- » Brothel-based Sex Workers - 2

Methods for size estimation

- **For sex workers and entertainment workers:** During the workshop, participants and researchers decided on the mapping sites. In the selected sites, the mapping team visited each brothel and entertainment establishment, where they met with the owners and managers to directly assess the number of sex workers and/or employees.
- **For MSM:** The workshop provided an opportunity for the participants and researchers to decide on the sites for the MSM mapping exercise. In the selected sites the mapping team first contacted local authorities and community leaders to request information regarding MSM. The team then visited known MSM and asked them to estimate the number of MSM in their community. In sites with MSM coordinators or networks, the mapping team asked them to provide estimates for the numbers of MSM in their community.

Data analysis

All qualitative data collected from the field was transcribed and categorized under pre-assigned codes relating to the study objectives. Tables and figures were designed to reflect further detail and specific information.

Limitations of the study

This study was carried out in seven provinces/municipalities and while they are considered to be representative of the situation for DSW, IDSW and MSM in Cambodia, the findings cannot be applied nationally. In Phnom Penh and Siem Reap it was very complicated and difficult to access and interview owners and managers of all entertainment establishments, due to the extensive number of establishments and exclusivity of some. For example, some high-class entertainment establishments were missed in this report, such as the massage parlors in some luxury hotels. In locations where different types of entertainment options were combined (karaoke, beer gardens, massage, etc) it is possible that double counting of the workers occurred if the women worked in more than one area of the establishment. Additionally, it is important to note that the approximate numbers of MSM are based on estimates from NGOs and other community groups working with this population and may not accurately reflect the numbers of MSM in a community, or may double-count MSM. For this reason, the numbers of MSM reported here should be used as guidance and not a definitive count of the MSM in the sites studied.

FINDING

Sex Workers

Although direct sex work is not illegal in Cambodia, operating a brothel-based business to sell direct sexual services is not condoned by Cambodian law. However, both direct sex workers and brothels are plentiful throughout the country. Some entertainment establishments use legal titles such as massage parlor, karaoke lounge, bars and nightclubs, to camouflage the fact that they also provide sex services. This enables them to avoid legal ramifications, hide the provision of direct sex services, and also meet the privacy needs of customers.

With the changing nature of sex work and preferences of clients, as well as the need to camouflage the brothels, the numbers of brothels in the sites studied are much lower than the number of entertainment establishments (see Table 2, below). Overall, karaoke lounges are the most popular entertainment venues, with beer gardens being the popular place to come before moving on to the karaoke lounge.

The following tables show the numbers of brothels and entertainment establishments in the sites studied.

Table 1: Number of Brothels and Entertainment Establishments in Study Sites

Province/ Municipality	No. Brothels	No. Entertainment Establishments	Total by Location
Phnom Penh	108	174	282
Battambang	42	64	106
Sihanouk Ville	27	63	90
Siem Reap	16	74	90
Kampong Speu	29	25	54
Kampong Chnang	17	7	24
Prey Veng	8	28	36
Total by Type	247	435	682



Table 2: Numbers and Types of Entertainment Establishments, by Study Site

Province/ Municipality	Karaoke Lounge	Massage Parlor	Beer Garden	Total by Location
Phnom Penh	79	47	48	174
Battambang	48	3	13	64
Sihanouk Ville	56	4	3	63
Siem Reap	31	15	28	74
Kampong Speu	23	0	2	25
Kampong Chnang	7	0	0	7
Prey Veng	27	0	1	28
Total by Venue	271	69	95	435

Brothel-based Sex Workers

Brothels have existed in Cambodia for centuries but there is little information and documentation on dates of establishment, length of time they have been in operation and the spatial patterns within the country.

Definition

- **Brothel is a facility where sexual services are available for paying customers at anytime upon request.**
- **Brothel-based sex workers are female sex workers whose job is to provide sexual services to customers. The sex workers have little right to refuse clients or to limit the number of clients.**

Status

In general, brothels are located in almost any type of building, including villas, houses, apartments, or business fronts, depending upon the money invested by the brothel owner and the class of client served. Many brothels are located within guest houses or hotels.

High-class brothels are usually located in expensive and luxurious villas or houses where their high class clients will feel comfortable. Medium-class brothels are usually nicer houses or apartments and low-class brothels are in cottages or small houses. Usually, in a high-class brothel, an individual sex worker has her own room for service with a private bathroom, while the medium-class brothel has either private or shared bathrooms. In low-class brothels, sex workers use a shared room to provide sexual services and bathe. Some brothels will rent rooms to clients who bring their own partners.

In Phnom Penh, there are many higher-class brothels, but the majority of brothels in the survey sites serve mainly low and medium income clients. In general, brothels are owned and managed by women. These women generally have connections to the uniformed services, local authorities, or police through their husbands, boyfriends, or family members. In this way, they are able to protect their illegal businesses. Daily management of the brothels is conducted by a broker (also known as a pimp), either a man or a woman. Usually, a woman acts as the broker, and is responsible for facilitating services between sex workers and their clients. Men are responsible for brothel security.

Services

Clients request sexual services at any time, and brothels are generally open 24 hours. Midday to midnight are the usual visiting times, though the busiest hours are between 7pm-12am. Clients can also have girls sent to their guesthouse or hotel, instead of directly visiting the brothel.

When clients enter the brothel, the broker invites them to a table or a sofa where they are served drinks, generally soft drink, beer or wine. Sometime light meals are also provided, especially in the high and medium-class brothels. The broker then introduces the sex workers to the client, and the clients make their selection. Sex workers in the brothels are expected to serve all clients requests. Clients can either pay for one-time service, or pay for an entire night of service.

In general, the cost of sexual services in the brothels ranges from \$1-2 USD per act to \$5-10 per night. The price is dependent upon the beauty of the girl, her age and length in service, and the type of service(s) desired. All brothel-based sex workers provide vaginal intercourse, although not all perform oral or anal sex, which costs the client more. The women generally give the brothel owner 30-50% of their earnings (50% if they eat their meals at the brothel). They take home approximately \$50-70 per month, along with extra tips from clients.

Because of the popularity of karaoke and massage, and in order to hide the direct sexual services provided, some brothels now have established a karaoke or massage service to attract more clients, which also allows them to change the name to massage pallor or karaoke lounge, protecting them from problems with the law.

Characteristics of brothel-based sex workers

Most of the women encountered during this mapping exercise do not provide sex work in the province where they were raised. They generally range from 18 – 25 years old. Of those participating in the FGD, none said they were under 18. Most of them are single with a small number being married, divorced or separated. The majority have no schooling or only attended primary school. Most of them have one or both parents still living. Nearly all of them are from very low income farming and laboring families.

They are very mobile, changing locations every 6 months to one year, on average. The age at first sex ranged from 15 – 19 years old, and occurred through marriage, boyfriends, rape and the sale of their virginity. Purchasing a girl's virginity costs approximately

\$300-700 USD, at the time of the survey. Most of the women said that poverty was the reason they became sex workers, often instigated by a financial emergency. Surprisingly, the majority said that they voluntarily chose to become sex workers, though this choice was most likely made based on need and not a career selection, as nearly all of them said they do not like their jobs and wish they could leave. Unfortunately, they are unskilled and do not feel they have other prospects.

Some of the focus group participants drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes. A small number of the women interviewed smoke and use yama, a popular amphetamine-type substance. Anecdotal information from the National Center for HIV, AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS) Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BSS, 2005) suggests that some sex workers also use pills as drugs. Key informants in this study stated that they could recognize the women who used drugs based on the scars on their arms, which they cut when they were angry or when they could not get their drugs.

Condom use

Because of extensive condom promotion campaigns in place since 1993, as well as the application of the 100% condom use program (100% CUP) in 1999, condoms are available in all brothels, primarily free of charge. The most popular, affordable and available condom brand seen in brothels is the Number One brand condom, which is marketed by Population Services International (PSI), a non-profit international non-governmental organization. Through social marketing practices, these condoms are sold at a very low price. A small package of four condoms costs about 1000Riel, or \$0.25USD, while a package of 100 condoms costs about 6.25 US dollars.

Some brothel owners and sex workers said that some clients bring their own condoms. In addition to the Number One condoms distributed by PSI, many condoms are imported from other countries including Thailand, Vietnam, China and the United States.

When asked about condom use with clients, all of the brothel-based sex workers participating in the focus group discussions said they always use condoms with all of their clients. With boyfriends, some sex workers continue to use condoms, while some do not. Based on the BSS conducted by NCHADS, the prevalence of consistent condom use among brothel based sex worker increased from 50% in 1997 to about 90% in 2003.

Geographic location and number of brothel-based sex workers

In total, approximately 1,381 brothel based sex workers were mapped in the sites studied. Phnom Penh has the highest number of brothels and sex workers compared to the other sites. Outside of Phnom Penh, most brothels are located mainly in the provincial and district town centers. Prey Veng province has the lowest number of brothel-based sex workers.

Table 3: The estimated number of brothel-based sex workers by province

N°	Province/Municipality	Number	Percentage
01	Phnom Penh	765	55.40
02	Battambang	237	17.20
03	Sihanouk Ville	126	9.00
04	Siem Reap	98	7.00
05	Kampong Speu	68	5.00
06	Kampong Chnang	66	4.80
07	Prey Veng	21	1.50
	Total	1,381	100.00

Karaoke lounge

Karaoke was first introduced in Cambodia in late 1994 for family entertainment, especially among wealthier families. Since that time, karaoke has become hugely popular with all sectors of society, with many businesses offering karaoke services. Karaoke is the most popular entertainment pastime for both young and old generations and it is used both in the home and in entertainment venues.

Definition

Karaoke Venues/Lounges are places where people go to sing, dance and socialize. Some karaoke venues are places which also offer direct sexual services or are places where some women may act as escorts to clients, and may have sex with those clients.



Karaoke girl is a woman working in the karaoke lounge who performs different tasks including hostess, singer, waitress and escort to male clients. Based on discussion with the workshop and focus group participants, “karaoke girl” refers to all types of girls working in the karaoke venues who provide direct or indirect sexual services in addition to their job.

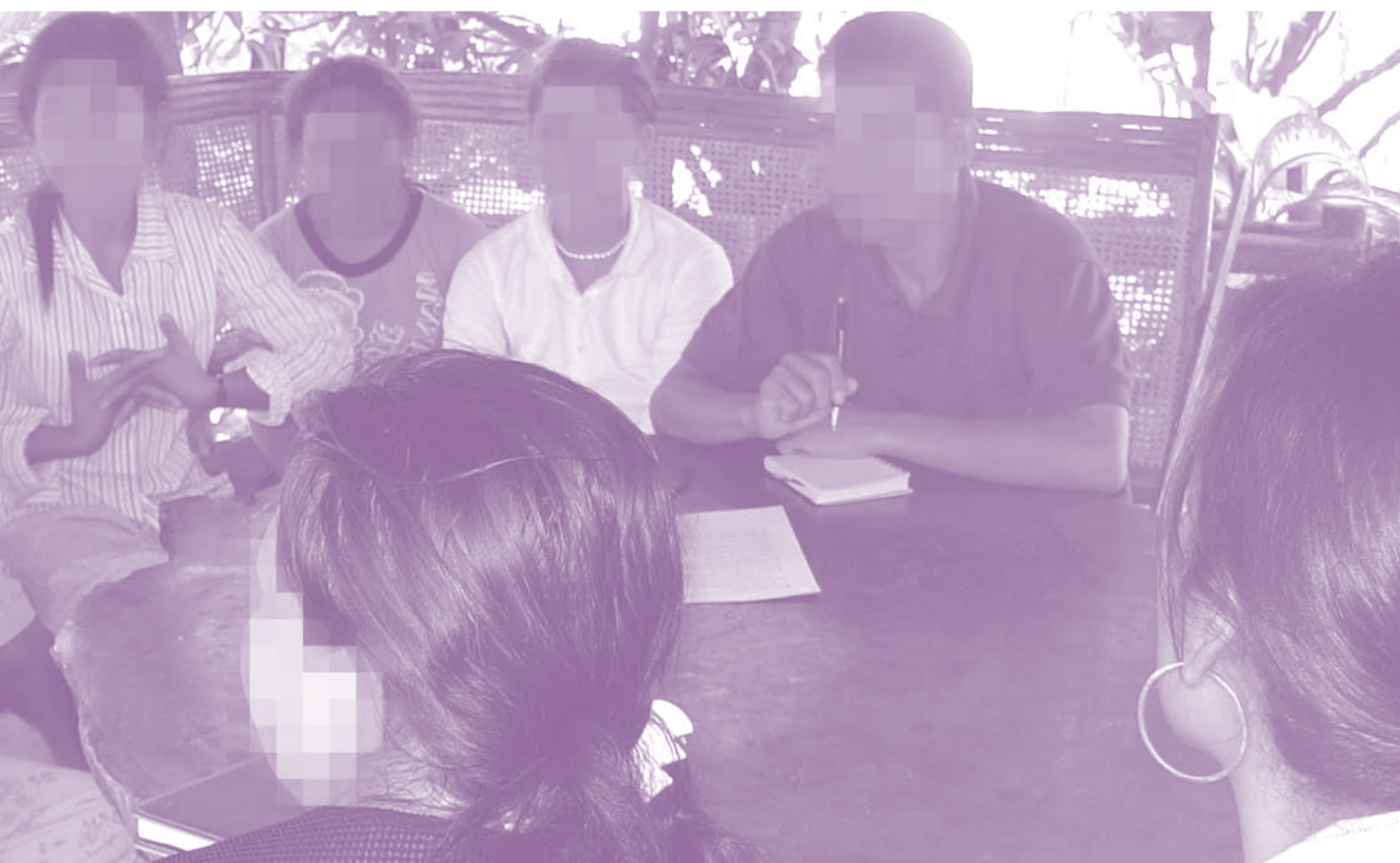
Status

There are three categories of karaoke lounge:

Open Space: These venues consist of a large, open common space, with a big screen TV and LCD projector. Customers sit at tables in the room and sing in turn, upon request. Generally, this type of karaoke lounge does not have a separate room for sexual services, but the female staff often go to guesthouses or hotels with customers who pay them for sexual services. In this situation, the karaoke manager technically is not brokering the sexual services between the woman and the customer.

Private Rooms: In these lounges, customers have the option of going to a private room as an individual or a group to sing karaoke and socialize. Many of these venues also have common spaces as well. Private rooms can be standard or VIP, where VIP rooms are larger and more luxurious, with better service.

Most venues with private rooms offer sexual services to clients. These services may be conducted in separate private rooms meant only for sexual services, or in a smaller private



area attached to the larger private karaoke room. In this situation, the entertainment worker shares the income from performing sexual services with the establishment owner; the share is generally fifty percent of what the woman made from the client.

Family Venues These karaoke lounges are family-oriented and their employees do not offer any sexual services.

Normally, karaoke venues are owned by local or foreign entrepreneurs. Overall responsibility lies with a daily manager, who oversee male security staff and, in the venues which offer such services, female brokers, who welcome customers and directly arrange or facilitate sexual services between karaoke girls and customers.

In the survey sites, karaoke venues offering sexual services were primarily attached to hotels where the sex took place.

Karaoke is a place to hide the sexual activity. When a man go to brothel, everybody know that he go there to have sex, oppositely when he goes to have sex at the karaoke service, he is only noticed that he goes to enjoy signing – Focus group participant

Service

Karaoke lounges are usually open from noon to midnight, though occasionally venues will stay open late at night upon request from the clients. The busiest time is after dinner, from 8pm – 12am.

The women working in karaoke lounges are categorized into the following jobs:

- **Hostesses:** wear traditional clothes and greet customers at the entrance.
- **Singers:** entertain customers and assist male customers with duets.
- **Escorts:** socialize with customers, including talking, massaging, and dancing.
- **Waitresses:** serve food and drinks to customers.
- **Beer girls:** serve their individual beer brand to customers and socialize with customers in the same manner as the escorts. Traditionally, beer girls are employed by the beer company, and not the karaoke venue, thus are outside the control of the venue manager.

In general, in the karaoke lounges where sexual services are available, any of the above workers could offer sexual services to clients. In the venues where management is involved with sexual services, they will broker the services between the worker and the client. In other venues, the worker and client will negotiate between themselves.

Karaoke girls participating in this study said that more than half of their customers always request sexual services. Karaoke girls are more expensive than brothel-based sex workers, costing between \$10-50 for one sexual act, or up to \$100 for an entire evening, depending on the type of establishment and the girl. The women participating in the FGD said their earnings from the venues were not enough to live on, so they sometimes performed sexual services for extra money.

From the in-depth key informant interviews and focus group discussions, it was found that karaoke girls who are not available for sexual services are those who are married, do not like the client, are virgins, have boyfriends, or are supported by a Ta Ta (a Ta Ta is a much older, wealthy man who provides financial support to the girl, and she generally acts as his mistress).

Characteristics of the Karaoke girls

Most of the women working in the karaoke venues were literate. Most of the contacted respondents said they completed primary school, with a small number attending junior high school; however, education is not a requirement for employment in the karaoke venues.

None of the employees admitted to being under 18 years of age, although some looked much younger. On average, karaoke girls are 20-25 years old, with an overall range of 18-30 among the women participating in this survey.

Similar to brothel-based sex workers, the karaoke girls are working away from their home provinces, come from poor families, are quite mobile and work in karaoke venues to make money for their families.

Participants in the FGD stated that they were used to drinking alcohol, and generally were able to drink without getting drunk. Some girls said that the managers and brokers train them how to convince customers to drink as much as possible. Some of the workers smoke cigarettes and some said their friends used drugs, though none admitted to using drugs themselves. In addition, many of the karaoke girls own mobile phones, which they use to call their regular customers, Ta Ta's, and boyfriends, and which are usually purchased for them by these men.

Condom use

Karaoke girls are defined as indirect sex workers, who are not yet systematically targeted by the 100% condom use program.

It was found that karaoke establishments that do not have rooms for sexual services generally do not provide access to condoms. However, some of the girls carry and purchase them on their own. Condoms are available in almost all karaoke venues where sexual services are available, as well as the associated guesthouses and hotels. Where condoms are available, they are not free, unlike in the brothels. Sometimes the condoms can be very expensive, costing up to \$1USD for a 4-pack of Number One brand condoms.

When asked about condom use, all of the karaoke girls said they always used condoms with the customers. It was stated by one worker: *“we need money but we do not need HIV/AIDS”*. The 2005 NCHADS BSS suggested that the rate of consistent condom use among karaoke girls was around 50-60%. However, based on data from the STI Mobile Clinic first quarter 2007 report from PSF (Pharmaciens Sans Frontiers), around 20% of entertainment workers reached, including karaoke girls, were infected by an STI each month. The reason for this is that they are not using condoms with their boyfriends or their regular partners, especially the Ta Ta's.

Geographic location and estimated number of Karaoke girls

In the seven sites mapped, there were approximately 4,209 karaoke girls. Phnom Penh has the highest number of karaoke girls, followed by Battambang and Siem Reap.

Table 4: The estimated number of karaoke girl by province

N°	Province/Municipality	Number	Percentage
01	Phnom Penh	2699	64.00
02	Battambang	567	13.50
03	Sihanouk Ville	380	9.00
04	Siem Reap	216	5.00
05	Prey Veng	158	3.70
06	Kampong Speu	132	3.00
07	Kampong Chnang	57	1.00
	Total	4209	100.00

Massage Parlors

Massage is a historically popular method of healing and relaxation in Cambodia. Traditionally, massage was not performed as a business, but rather among family members where younger family members massage their elders. In modern day Cambodia, massage has become a lucrative business, attracting many clients. There are many types of massage venues in Cambodia today, from relaxation spas to places where sexual services are available in addition to massage services.

Definition

Massage parlor is a place where customers have their muscles rubbed to relieve pain and stress. Masseurs can be either male or female, though they are predominately female in Cambodia. In some massage parlors, sexual services are available from the masseurs, in addition to the massage.

Massage girl is a girl who provides sexual services to massage parlor clients, in addition to the regular massage service.



Status

There are three different categories of massage parlor:

- 1. Traditional, Non-Sexual:** This type of massage venue serves clients who need traditional massage services, excluding sexual services. In this category, massage establishments are located mostly in densely populated areas such as markets and bus stations. These establishments may have male masseurs, especially those establishments training the blind.
- 2. Traditional, Sexual:** Similar to the previous category, this type of massage parlor provides clients with traditional massage services, with the additional availability of sexual services. Sexual services can be obtained alone, or in addition to massage services. Massages and sexual services are performed in private rooms. The price of the massage is also higher than in the non-sexual category.

These massage parlors are often located within a guesthouse or hotel, or as a stand-alone establishment. In reality, this type of massage parlor is an undercover sexual service venue, similar to a brothel.

- 3. Luxury Traditional, Sexual:** These massage parlors are similar to the previous category, but are very high-class and cater to very wealthy clientele. Often located in high-end hotels.



Services

For the traditional-sexual categories, the massage girls sit behind a glass window so the customers can see them before they choose their masseuse. The girls wear individual numbers, which allow the clients to identify them and remember them for next time. The numbers may also be color coded to alert the clients as to the girls' nationality or the types of services they will perform. The girls often wear sexy uniforms as well. In the first category, the employees do not wear numbers or revealing uniforms.

In category one, services are available as early in the morning as 4 am and generally close between 7 and 10 pm. In category two, the service is available from noon to midnight. In category three, the services are available until later at night.

In some of the category 2 and 3 massage parlors, the price of sexual services is a set price included in the price of the massage. In others, they will negotiate the price with the parlor manager or the girl. The price is generally \$4-5 for the massage, and an additional \$10-20 for the sexual services. In the luxury massage parlors, prices can range up to \$100. Prices are based on the services performed and on the nationality of the girls, with European girls being the highest priced.

Massage girls working in establishments offering sexual services have the opportunity to refuse clients if they do not like them. FGD participants said they would make excuses to the clients such as saying they were virgins or married, or were menstruating.

Characteristics of the massage girls

In category one, the masseurs are mostly women over 30 years old. In some places such massage is performed by blind people, either man or woman. They dress professionally and non-provocatively. The majority of these workers are married and from poor families. The girls working in this category are generally Cambodian or Vietnamese.

In category two and three, all masseurs are younger women from 18-30 years old. Nearly all of them have mobile phones to communicate with their boyfriends and with their regular clients. They wear revealing clothes and makeup to work. Most are single with low levels of education. Nearly all of them come from poor families. The masseurs could be Cambodian or Vietnamese but those in category three include other nationalities such as Thai, Chinese and European girls, especially from the former Soviet Union.



Condom use

When asked about condom use with clients, all respondents said they always used condoms consistently with all of their clients and with their boyfriends. When asked about the condom use practices of their friends, respondents said that some of their friend never used condoms with their boyfriends or with their Ta Ta's. However, as mentioned previously, information from PSF suggests that 20% of entertainment workers are infected with an STI each month, refuting the girls claims that condoms are always used.

The geographic location and number of massage girls

In the sites studied, 1,355 massage workers were located, who offer both massage and sexual services. Siem Reap and Phnom Penh have far higher numbers of massage girls than the other provinces, most likely due to the high number of tourists in these municipalities. There were no massage girls providing sexual services in Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu or Prey Veng, which are not visited by most tourists and also have a lower standard of living than the other sites.



Table 5: The estimated number of massage girls* by province

Nº	Province/Municipality	Number	Percentage
01	Siem Reap	786	58.00
02	Phnom Penh	494	36.50
03	Sihanouk Ville	55	4.00
04	Battambang	20	1.50
05	Kampong Chhnang	0	0.00
06	Prey Veng	0	0.00
07	Kampong Speu	0	0.00
	Total	1,355	100.00

***Massage girl:** refers only to those offering sexual services in addition to massage services

Beer Gardens

Beer gardens are a recent development in Cambodia, imported from the West. Beer gardens in Cambodia serve beer and food, and are a popular place for socializing among friends.

Definition

The beer garden is a place where people can enjoy food and drink. Beer gardens are very popular because they accommodate a variety of people. For example,

prices at beer gardens are much lower than at many restaurants, there is often a live band, big screen televisions are generally in place to watch movies or sporting events, and there are usually female employees who socialize with the male clients.

Status

In general, beer gardens are open spaces with roofs, but no walls, and tables are separated by small trees or potted plants. Beer gardens are often identified by their colored lights. Some have private and VIP rooms. They are known for having live bands and escorts to socialize with customers during their visit.

Services

The beer garden opens at 4pm and closes at 10pm. Some beer gardens are open until midnight. The peak hours for service are from 7-9pm.

Beer gardens often have very popular live bands, which perform throughout the evening. Most of the bands' singers are female, and these women will socialize with clients when they are not on stage.

While enjoying their food and beer, customers can request the company of the hostess, waitresses, singers and/or the beer girls to join them at their table. During the key informant interviews, the beer garden managers said they never have enough women on staff to meet the customer's demand.

Sometimes beer garden employees provide customers with sexual services. This is not organized by the management of the beer garden, and generally occurs after the employee's work is finished. The employee negotiates her price with the customer. If an employee leaves work early to provide a customer with sexual services, she must pay the beer garden owner about \$5 USD. Agreements for sexual services are made solely between the customer and the beer garden employee.

Characteristics of women working in the Beer Gardens

The general characteristics of the girls working in the beer gardens are the same as those for the women working in karaoke lounges. The women working in these establishments may be employed as hostesses, waitresses, singers, escorts or beer girls. All of these women are available for sexual services, at their discretion. Those who are married, have boyfriends, or are supported by Ta Ta's do not usually offer sexual services. (Please refer to section 4.2 for further descriptions of the girls' jobs, and to section 4.5 for a further description of Beer Girls, particularly)

Geographic location and estimated number of women working in Beer Gardens

Within the seven mapping sites, 2,378 beer garden workers were identified. The capital city, Phnom Penh, has highest number of beer garden workers followed by Siem Reap and Battambang, while there are minor number in Prey Veng and Kampong Speu. This could be because beer gardens are only constructed in larger cities, which attract tourists and where girls have more job opportunities.

Table 6: The estimated number of beer garden workers by province

Nº	Province/Municipality	Number	Percentage
01	Phnom Penh	1,489	62.50
02	Siem Reap	562	24.00
03	Battambang	132	5.50
04	Sihanouk Ville	170	7.00
05	Prey Veng	21	0.80
06	Kampong Speu	4	0.20
07	Kampong Chhnang	0	0.00
	Total	2,378	100.00

Beer Girls

Beer girls are another new phenomena in Cambodia. Their job is to promote a specific brand of beer or other alcohol, and they work in beer gardens, restaurants, private parties and other entertainment establishments. Marketing research by beer companies has suggested that beer girls help increase beer sales, especially when the girls sit and socialize with customers.

Definition

A Beer Girl is a woman who serves a specific beer directly to customers at parties, restaurants or entertainment establishments.

It is now very competitive to get a job as a beer girl. The following criteria are set by beer companies for selecting beer girls:

- **They should have some general educational background, completion of primary school required**
- **Be physically attractive**
- **Aged from 18-30 years**
- **At least 160 cm tall (5'2")**
- **Ability to drink beer in small quantities**
- **Able to socialize with new customers and have a pleasant personality**

Status

Beer girls are recruited by beer companies and nearly all beer companies operating in Cambodia have beer girls who work to promote their products. Examples include: Angkor, Anchor, Tiger, and Heineken beers. Companies send beer girls to establishments that have a high likelihood of beer sales, for example beer gardens, restaurants, karaoke lounges and private parties.

Services

There are two types of services provided by beer girls:

In restaurants, karaoke lounges, and beer gardens:

When customers are seated around the table, beer girls from all the companies approach the table to promote their product. They advertise the quality of the beer, inform customers of any promotions and sit and serve the customer if they order their product.

At private parties:

Generally, at private parties girls promote one beer and one wine/liquor, depending on the choice of the host. The girls pour drinks for the guests, provide ice, and ensure the guests always have full drinks. They generally do not sit and serve guests at private parties.

If the girls provide sexual services to customers, the price is similar to other entertainment workers: \$10-20 per sexual act or \$30-50 for the night. The girls' income is generally a regular salary or based on commission from beer sales. However, some girls reported that they worked for no income, only the opportunity to meet men for sexual services, in the hopes of eventually finding a Ta Ta.

Geographic location and estimated number of Beer Girls

Based on the information collected during the mapping study, Phnom Penh has the highest number of beer girls followed by Siem Reap and Sihanouk Ville. It is noted that the numbers are highest in the places where the population is highest and where there are also many tourists.

Table 7: The estimated number of Beer Girls by province

Nº	Province/Municipality	Number	Percentage
01	Phnom Penh	1326	74.50
02	Siem Reap	226	12.70
03	Sihanouk Ville	96	5.00
04	Battambang	92	5.00
05	Kampong Chhnang	25	1.50
06	Prey Veng	13	1.00
07	Kampong Speu	2	0.04
	Total	1.780	100.00

Free-lance Sex Workers

Definition

The free-lance, or non facility-based, sex worker is not based in any establishment and does not have an owner or manager. They are self-employed, and generally offer their services in public places where they wait for propositions by clients and sometimes brokers, who may be looking for a sex worker for a client, or may be working as a “middle man” for the sex worker.

Status and services

Free-lance sex workers are recognized by:

- **Place:** they are generally standing or sitting in public parks near the busiest places, such as markets, bus stations, train stations, etc.
- **Time:** they work only at night
- **Appearance:** their clothes are not of high quality, and they often wear simple make-up
- **Behavior:** they stand alone or in groups (of other sex workers) along the park
- **Price:** \$2-5 USD per sexual act, or \$5-10 per night
- **Place for sex:** they usually go to place nearby, such as a cottage or small apartment. A few respondents said they sometimes perform sexual services in the park.
- **Clients:** typically lower income people, such as labor workers and moto-taxi, taxi and tuk-tuk drivers
- **Cover Job:** some free-lance sex workers also sell oranges, cookies, etc., at the park to hide their main work selling sexual services.

Free-lance sex workers face many difficulties and abuse in their jobs. Customers will have sex with them and leave without paying, they are often gang-raped by groups of men, and many of them are robbed after having sex with clients.

Geographic location and estimated number of free-lance sex workers

Based on the sites in this mapping study, only Phnom Penh had free-lance sex workers, of which 337 were identified. There were 32 places in Phnom Penh identified as frequented by free-lance sex workers, including around Phsar Chas market, in front of the bus and train stations, and at most of the city's parks.

Total Size Estimation of Sex Workers

Based on the groups and the sites selected for this mapping study, on average the karaoke girls are the most prevalent followed by beer garden workers, beer girls and massage girls. The brothel-based sex workers are the least represented among establishment-based workers, while the free-lance sex workers were the group with the lowest prevalence.

Table 8: Number of Direct and Indirect Sex Workers by Venue

Province/ Municipality	Direct Sex Worker			Indirect Sex Worker/Entertainment Worker				
	Brothel-based	Free-lance	Total	Karaoke Girl	Massage Girl	Beer Garden Girl	Beer Girl	Total
Phnom Penh	765	337	1102	2699	494	1489	1326	6008
Battambang	237	0	237	567	20	132	92	811
Sihanouk Ville	126	0	126	380	55	170	96	701
Siem Reap	98	0	98	216	786	562	226	1790
Kampong Speu	68	0	68	132	0	4	2	138
Kampong Chnang	66	0	66	57	0	0	25	82
Prey Veng	21	0	21	158	0	21	13	192
Total by Status	1381	337	1718	4209	1355	2378	1780	9722

The number of indirect sex workers mapped in this study is five and a half times higher than the number of direct sex workers (9,722/1,718). These numbers clearly suggest the change of sexual service patterns and preferences from brothels and brothel-based sex workers to entertainment venues and indirect sex workers.

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

Traditionally, Cambodians characterized gender into three categories: male, female and “Katoy”, which refers to a man who behaves as a woman or vice versa. Katoy have existed in Cambodia throughout historical knowledge. Families are often ashamed or worried when family members are Katoy because communities in the past considered Katoy to be strange, incomplete persons. Most Katoy are degraded, discriminated against or stigmatized within their communities.

In the past Katoy kept to themselves and did not openly expose their lifestyles; however modern society is more open and accepting than in the past, and Katoy are often acknowledged, sometimes even accepted, in communities, though stigma and discrimination still exists.

In Cambodia, men who have sex with men are put into one of two categories: “long-hair” or “short-hair”.

Long hair MSM

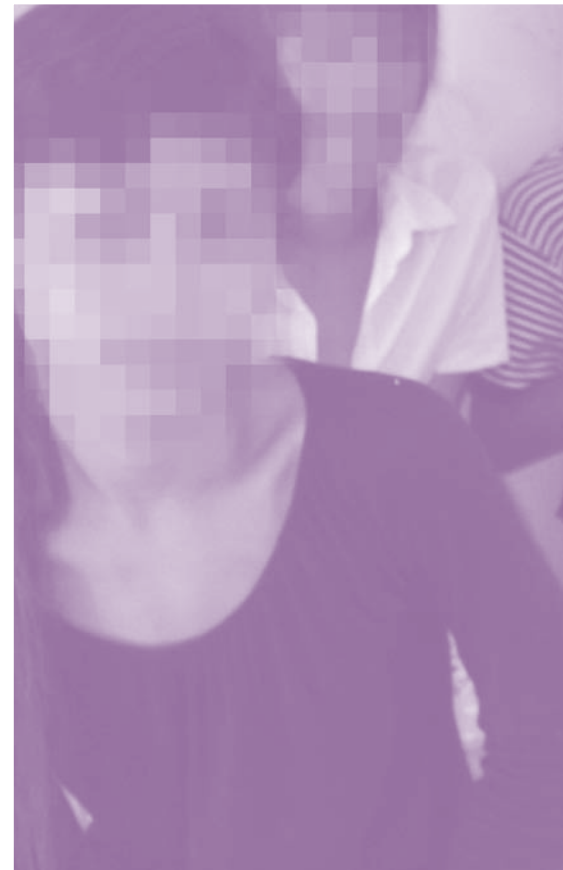
Definition

A long hair MSM is a man who presents himself as a woman, both physically and behaviorally. For example, long hair MSM prefer to have long hair, wear women’s clothing and make-up, and affect soft voices like those of women. Long hair MSM tend to adopt female stereotypes and gender roles, such as working in traditional “women’s” jobs like hairdressers or decorators.

Sexual behavior and service

Long hair MSM prefer to have sex with males. Generally, long hair MSM play the subservient role in the relationship and are usually the receptor of anal sex and actor for oral sex.

I like sexual pleasure very much. But I do not want to have sex with lady at all even with other long hair MSM.





MSM often meet in public places such as parks, night clubs, bars, karaoke lounges, coffee shops, saunas, markets, and social and religious gatherings. Occasionally, these places are used for sexual intercourse. Popular places for sexual activity include hotels, guesthouses, public bathrooms and parks.

If a long hair MSM offers sexual services, they usually receive \$5 per act. Focus group participants said that they are often well-paid by foreigners, and can make up to \$20 for sexual services with them.

During the focus group discussions, long hair MSM said that when they hear of a dance party in a nearby community, they will pool their resources to attend the party and look for young men whom they can have sex with. They find this enjoyable and feel valued by the new men they meet at these parties.

In the past young men loses his virginity with female sex worker but in this modern day young men lose their virginity with MSM because it is easy, it is pleasant and it is free.

Short hair MSM

Definition

Short hair MSM are men who live their lives as typical men, i.e. they physically resemble a man with short hair, men's clothes, and hold characteristic "men's" jobs. However, these men prefer to have sex with men rather than with women.

Sexual behavior and service

For sexual intercourse short hair MSM prefer to have sex with men, either other short hair MSM, or long hair MSM. Information from this study suggests that short hair MSM prefer other short hair MSM, or men who do not identify as MSM, but have sex with other men.

Short hair MSM generally do not provide sexual services for payment. According to workshop participants, while short hair MSM visit bars, nightclubs, saunas, and karaoke lounges to meet other men, the venues they attend tend to be of a higher class than those visited by long hair MSM. Sexual activity for short hair MSM generally occurs in their own home, hotels or guesthouses.

Non-identifying Partners of MSM

Definition

Men who have sex with men, but do not identify as homosexual, are considered non-identifying partners of MSM. These men dress and act like “typical” men, similar to short hair MSM. They are not recognizable as MSM, and do not identify as such.

Sexual behavior and service

Non-identifying MSM have sexual intercourse with both men and women, though they often prefer male partners. According to focus group participants, the majority of these men are married. These men generally do not provide sexual services for payment, but meet other men for sex for pleasure.

Table 9: The estimated number of MSM by type and province

Nº	Province/ Municipalities	Number of MSM						
		Long hair	% of Province	Short hair	% of Province	Non-Identifying	% of Province	Total
1	Phnom Penh	737	13%	1,559	27%	3,475	60%	5,771
2	Battambang	167	8%	307	15%	1,584	77%	2,058
3	Sihanouk Ville	23	3%	92	14%	547	83%	662
4	Siem Reap	155	14%	371	35%	546	51%	1,072
5	Kampong Chhnang	83	16%	135	26%	302	58%	520
6	Prey Veng	11	1%	354	42%	476	57%	841
7	Kampong Speu	85	58%	15	10%	46	32%	146
Total		1,261		2,833		6,976		11,070

CONCLUSIONS

Sex Workers

In Cambodia, the behavior patterns of sex workers and men who have sex with men continue to change over time, based on a variety of factors including the law, society, the environment and economic changes. Cultural attitudes and sexual preferences are significant reasons for the changes in the sex work environment in Cambodia. The solicitation of sex work has itself become more acceptable, with both men and women being more direct when requesting or offering sexual services, according to the focus group participants. Men from all income levels seek sexual services, although the type of service they prefer can vary. In general, men with lower income levels visit free-lance and brothel-based sex workers, while those with higher incomes tend to visit the women working in entertainment establishments. As suggested by this mapping study, there are a variety of establishments where sexual services can be purchased, and there is a need to ensure women in all of these establishments receive HIV/STI prevention information, as well as access to health and social services.

The majority of the sex workers participating in this survey entered sex work as a way to make money for their families and meet their basic needs. Most of these women come from similar backgrounds of poverty, low education, and lack of opportunity in their home community. They are a highly mobile population, and thus hard for outreach workers to maintain contact with.

Men who have Sex with Men

Similar to sex workers, societal attitudes towards sex and sexual preference are reasons for the changing environment in which Cambodian MSM live. MSM participating in the focus group discussions felt they were now more acceptable in society than before, both long hair and short hair; however they still face significant stigma and discrimination in their communities. Reasons for the improved acceptability of MSM include an increase in acceptance of general alternative lifestyles in Cambodia in recent years, HIV/AIDS program interventions which target MSM and educate the general population to attempt to reduce stigma and discrimination, and recognition and support from local media. However, non-identifying MSM continue to hide their sexual preferences from their families and society.

Increased openness towards MSM lifestyles has led to more MSM outwardly identifying as such, as well as improved the ability of intervention programs to reach the men in need of programs such as HIV/AIDS and STI prevention education, condom promotion

and care and treatment. They are not yet exposed to 100% CUP, even if they do provide sexual services for money. However, non-identifying MSM are a group that continue to remain hidden and thus lack access to these crucial programs, unless they attend general population education sessions or advocacy events. This puts them and both their male and female partners at risk for any sexually transmitted infections they may contract, including HIV. It is imperative that outreach to these men improve, because they are often the link between HIV transmission to women and, subsequently, to children.

KHANA will use the results of this mapping exercise to inform future programming efforts for MSM and sex workers, encouraging our partners to adapt their interventions to meet the needs of these populations. Plans for the future include expanded outreach to entertainment workers and entertainment venues, as well as an increase in MSM outreach and education programs. Additionally, the implementation of a Standard Package of Activities for these populations, which takes into account the following recommendations from this study, will help KHANA's partners improve their efforts to reach these most at risk groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Sex Workers

The term direct sex worker, which is defined by many organizations as a female brothel-based sex worker, is still accurate for the current environment, based on the information found in this survey. However, for a more precise definition, the description should be expanded to include any woman who provides direct sexual services regardless of where she is working. For example, women working in brothels and as free-lance sex workers, as well as those women directly selling sexual services in entertainment establishments, should be defined as DSW.

The term indirect sex worker, which refers to women working in entertainment establishments, does not accurately reflect the true nature of all women working in entertainment venues. This is because some women working in entertainment settings do provide direct sex work, similarly to those working in brothels. A better definition would be to use IDSW to refer only to those women working in entertainment establishments where direct sexual services are not available to customers.

Furthermore, locations where direct sexual services are available, such as brothels and some entertainment establishments, could be defined as direct entertainment establishments (DEE), while those establishments where sexual services are not directly available could be referred to as indirect entertainment establishments (IEE).

In order to best prevent HIV and STI transmission, the 100% CUP must be expanded into all establishments where direct sexual services are available. Additionally, it is essential that the program expands to include IDSW and IEE. While these women and establishments are not directly selling sexual services, many of the women are having sex with their customers, Ta Ta's and boyfriends, and, as suggested by the PSF data, are not using protection with these partners and are becoming infected with STIs. Condoms and HIV/STI prevention education should be made available to these women and their clients.

Consequently, the methods for outreach and peer education for female sex workers of all types should be evaluated and updated to meet the changing nature of sex work in Cambodia. For example, outreach efforts should further focus more on entertainment establishments and their employees, especially where sexual services are available and in beer gardens, while still conducting outreach with brothel-based workers. Reaching beer garden workers is particularly important, as there are currently no prevention activities for these women, according to this exercise.

With the expected increase in the numbers of tourists and investors coming to Cambodia in future years, it is expected that entertainment establishments and employees offering sexual services will increase in popularity. Similar mapping assessments of these workers and establishments should be conducted regularly to monitor changes and adapt programs as necessary.

Men who have Sex with Men

Based on this mapping study, there are many more MSM than sex workers in the sites studied. However, the proportion of program interventions does not reflect this. There should be an increase in programs targeting MSM, in order to reach all MSM in the study sites and throughout the country, though this should not be done at the expense of programs for sex workers.

The sexual behavior patterns of MSM should be closely monitored. If it is possible the behavior patterns of MSM should be monitored on a yearly basis. MSM should be added into the sentinel groups surveyed for national level monitoring, including the HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) and BSS.

The outcomes of this study suggest a clear need to adapt and expand current program interventions for sex workers and MSM. In particular, outreach and education programs for indirect sex workers in all venues and non-identifying MSM must be improved

General

Both of these populations have been recognized as high risk populations by the Cambodian government, international and multinational donors, NGOs and other stakeholders in Cambodia. There are a number of programs, policies and national frameworks which have been developed to meet the needs of these populations. However, these programs, policies and frameworks must be flexible and adapt to the changing environments of both of these populations. Regular updates to program interventions and outreach protocols are necessary to ensure both sex workers and MSM are receiving the education and services they need to prevent HIV and other STI, treat those who are living with HIV/AIDS, and offer opportunities for them to improve their lives. Additionally, strong coordination between government and other stakeholders is needed to ensure adequate coverage and avoid overlapping interventions and resources. As mandated, the National AIDS Authority should play the coordinating role at the national level, while the Provincial AIDS Secretariat provides coordination at the provincial level.

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