



A Regional Advocacy Agenda on Trans Health and Sexual Health among Transgender People in the ISEAN Region



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The ISEAN-Hivos Program (IHP) is a regional Global Fund AIDS grant focused on community systems strengthening (CSS) among males having sex with males (MSM) and transgender (TG) organizations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor Leste. One of the strategies of the program is to disaggregate transgender people from the MSM population, and be recognized as a unique key affected population.



Given the lack of evidence-based data to guide development partners, government agencies and international funders to develop transgender-specific health interventions, IHP through the ISEAN Secretariat conducted the TransISEAN: Regional Community Workshop on Health, SOGIE and Rights among Transgender People in the ISEAN Region last August 14-16, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The objective of the regional consultation is to develop a regional advocacy agenda for transgender people that is prioritized on the key areas of transgender health and services, and transgender research and surveillance.



The agreed upon advocacy agenda on transgender health and services prioritized the following: Sensitization of health care workers and facilities for transgender people to ensure confidentiality and recognition of their identities. Development of trans-health and SOGIE IEC materials and strengthening the peer education program for transgender youth. Development of a blueprint for the establishment of a Transgender Wellness Center and trans-PLHIV support system; and developing a Service Delivery Network for other transgender concerns including psychosocial, gender reaffirming procedures, legal concerns, etc. There should be continuous capacity building of transgender groups for transgender-led health service delivery. Lastly, SOGIE should be mainstreamed, localized and integrated in the health education and curriculum.



Addressing transgender issues should be multi-faceted approach with focus on transgender health, including sexual health services. Therefore, this regional advocacy agenda can be used by transgender groups, program implementers, researchers, and key stakeholders in developing prioritized trans-specific health advocacies and interventions.