



# DIFFER Newsletter

Issue #2, March 2014

## Forward in India

The DIFFER Project Management Team met in December 2013 in Mysore, India, for its third PMT meeting.

During the previous meeting (South Africa, February 2013) and in the following weeks, a generic package of interventions was designed and discussed by partners. The following months were dedicated to tailor interventions for each of the four sites and prepare for their roll-out. This PMT provided an opportunity to discuss those packages, the related implementation plans, and subsequent questions such as costing data collection, capacity-building, dissemination and project management.

This newsletter contains information on the progress made into the project and on the next steps the partners are preparing to take in 2014.



The DIFFER consortium in Mysore, December 2013

## Focus on Ashodaya Samithi

Ashodaya Samithi is a sex-workers led organization gathering thousands of female, male and transgender sex workers in the state of Karnataka, India.

The organization advocates for sex workers' rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health services, and works together with a number of agencies to fight violations of its members' rights. It has also participated in a range of research projects around sex work and advocates for the recognition and decriminalization of sex work.

Recently, Ashodaya Samithi has gained national recognition by the Indian government.

### Inside this issue:

Forward in India	1
Focus on Ashodaya Samithi	1
Capacity Building Workshop	2
Situation and Policy Analysis	3
DIFFER Next PMT meeting	3
Dissemination	4
Contacts	4



Group Picture of Ashodaya Samithi members

Sex workers welcome the DIFFER team and share their experiences as Ashodaya Samithi members



### Feedback

*“I take home new energies and thoughts that this can be done and can be done only if my community is brought together”*

Impressions from a visiting sex worker on the capacity building workshop

On 25-30 November 2013, female sex workers from the three African DIFFER sites (Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa) gathered in Mysore to follow a capacity-building workshop conducted by Ashodaya Samithi.

The objective of this workshop was to share Ashodaya's experience in implementing community-led HIV/SRH interventions. The topics addressed during the workshop covered:

- Program Initiation through Mapping and Enumeration
- Peer-based Outreach
- Services

- Community Mobilization
- Enabling Environment
- Generating Resources for Sustainability
- 

Participants could reflect on the opportunities and challenges to implement such interventions in their countries. Validation of mapping and community involvement and empowerment were identified as the major needs in all three sites. For Ashodaya participants, the workshop was the opportunity to learn about sex workers' situations in other countries.



*“This is what a Sex Worker Looks Like”*

**Group Picture:** DIFFER team members and sex workers from India, Kenya, Mozambique and South Africa



## SITUATIONAL AND POLICY ANALYSIS

### Situation Analysis

The situational analysis, comprising facility audits, health manager and provider interviews, client exit interviews and focus group discussions with female sex workers, provided a clear picture of what and how SRH services are currently being provided to the female population in general, and to female sex workers in particular, at the 4 sites. It identified the gaps that need to be addressed, from the perspective of the providers and of the beneficiaries, and the challenges faced, in terms of available infrastructure, equipment, supply systems and staff. The results were discussed with local stakeholders, presented in a comprehensive report, and summarised in a leaflet for broader distribution. They formed the basis for the design of the interventions, tailored to the specific needs of each site.

### Policy Analysis

The findings of the policy analysis were presented in a comparative country policy review report providing formative information on SRH policies around services for high-risk populations in Africa and India. It makes a number of policy recommendations, both in relation to existing and new policies in the four DIFFER countries. The experiences in the two geographical areas are contrasted and possible lessons noted. It comprises a review of policies and laws relating to HIV and SRH services in the four DIFFER countries, a comparison of the clinical services and community empowerment initiatives for sex workers in Africa with those in India and the findings of interviews undertaken with policy maker key informants. The document ends by summing the key conclusions, and recommendations for future policy-making.

## DIFFER Next PMT Meeting

The next PMT meeting for DIFFER is planned to take place in London, United Kingdom, in October 2014.

This will be the occasion to discuss the interventions once they are started and to assess the progress and challenges in implementation, evaluation and monitoring.



DIFFER European Partners: UCL and ICRH-Belgium teams



### Funding

The DIFFER project is funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement  
Health-F3-2011-282542



### More on DIFFER

Yves Lafort, consortium  
project manager  
[yves.lafort@ugent.be](mailto:yves.lafort@ugent.be)

Katherine Muylaert,  
consortium project  
administrator  
[katherine.muylaert@ugent.be](mailto:katherine.muylaert@ugent.be)

Aurore Guieu, consortium  
project assistant  
[aurore.guieu@ugent.be](mailto:aurore.guieu@ugent.be)

## Dissemination (March - December 2013)

### Articles published

Stanley Luchters, Marlies Richter, Wilkister Bosire, Gill Nelson, Nzioki Kingola, Zhang Xu-Dong, Marleen Temmerman, Matthew F Chersich, "The contribution of emotional partners to sexual risk taking and violence among female sex workers in Mombasa, Kenya: a cohort study", *PLOS ONE* 8(8)

Fiona Scorgie, Katie Vasey, Eric Harper, Marlise Richter, Prince Nare, Sian Maseko, Matthew F Chersich, "Human rights abuses and collective resilience among sex workers in four African countries: a qualitative study", *Globalization and Health* 9:33

### Conferences

"The Community Health Worker Touch In Access To Health: Findings From Prevention With Positives Study In Mombasa, Kenya", poster presented at the 17th ICASA Conference, Cape Town, December 2013

"Media Coverage Of The Determinants Of HIV Infection Among Women In Kenya: Content Analysis Of The 'Daily Nation' And 'Standard' Newspapers For January -- December 2005", poster presented at the 17th ICASA Conference, Cape Town, December 2013

---

DIFFER IS ONLINE!

\*\*\*\*\*

DIFFERPROJECT.EU

---