KEY MESSAGES FROM AIDS 2018 (AMSTERDAM) - RECENT UPDATES ON HIV SELF-TESTING

Webinar series

15 July 2019
HIV Self-testing in Vietnam: Policy and Practice

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Glink Vietnam
One and only choice before 2015

Annual HIV testing uptake

- FSW: 43.8% (2011), 40.1% (2012), 31.5% (2013)
- MSM: 30.2% (2011), 39.4% (2012), 28.8% (2013)
- PWID: 29.1% (2011), 31.3% (2012), 23.6% (2013)
Community role in HIV testing before 2015

- Community outreach
- Referral to government testing services
- Risks assessment
Why HIV self-testing in Vietnam?

- HIV epidemic concentrated in key populations: people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender women and female sex workers

- Multiple barriers to testing = low annual key population uptake of HIV testing through conventional services (~30%)

- Posing a significant challenge to reaching the Vietnam Ministry of Health 90-90-95 goal by 2020

- The Vietnam MoH recognized the potential of new HIV testing strategies to accelerate case detection

HIVST pilot: Key strategies and steps

1. **Forging partnerships:** MoH/VAAC, PATH, WHO, PEPFAR, KP-CSOs
2. **Assessing viability:** Measured HIVST acceptability, preferences, willingness to pay and local HIV RDT market (2015)
3. **Securing RDT supply:** OraQuick waiver, Alere Determine HIV 1/2
4. **Staggering pilot implementation:** Started with lay testing (Dec 2015), integrated HIVST (May 2016); PN, HIV/Syphilis, PrEP (2017)
5. **Generating demand:** Campaign embedded through Facebook, MTV, Grindr, Hornet, F2F HIVST communication and promotion
6. **Expanding access:** MoH GFATM, PEPFAR, private sector
7. **Evaluating approach:** on-going/planned studies (USAID/CDC)
8. **Addressing policy and regulatory barriers:** New HTC guidelines, HIVST RDT registration, critical role of CSOs in (fee-based) HIV testing

HIVST Acceptability & Willingness to Pay

Intention to use HIVST

- Majority of KP reported intention to use HIVST
- 48% of MSM and FSW preferred oral fluid HIVST, 58% of PWID preferred blood-based assay

Willingness to pay for HIVST

- Urban respondents significantly more likely to report willingness to pay (p<0.001)
- MSM willing to pay a significantly higher maximum price (US$5.4) than FSW (US$4.3) and PWID (US$3.9) (p<0.001)

Source: USAID/PATH Healthy Markets project, HIV commodity and service consumer preferences, utilization and willingness to pay, December 2015, Hanoi, Vietnam
HIVST start-up in Vietnam

- HIVST offered from May 2016
- Choice of assisted or unassisted HIVST delivered through:
  - 15 key population-led CSOs (MSM, TGW, FSW, PWID) in Ho Chi Minh City (5/16), Hanoi (9/16) and Nghe An (1/17)
- Choice of tests:
  - Blood-based assay (Alere Determine HIV 1/2), May 2016
  - Oral fluid assay (OraQuick Rapid HIV 1/2), August 2016
- Inserts, posters and video tutorials developed in Vietnamese
- Supportive supervision from LNGOs, Provincial AIDS Centers, PATH, VAAC/MoH, WHO
- Critical role of private sector

Source: USAID/PATH Healthy Markets project
Political will

MoH/VAAC HIVST launched August 26, 2016

National guidelines on HIV testing, dated April 27, 2018
Generating demand via social media: Facebook, Grindr, Hornet, MTV, etc.
“I decided to choose self-testing as it is quick and can be done privately. With conventional testing, I have to go to a public facility at a certain time, which may not be convenient. The counseling by the CSO was open and friendly, and I could take the test whenever was convenient for me.”

HIV self-testing client, HCMC

### Building blocks of Glink’s differentiated HIV testing

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mobilization</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Linkage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN</strong></td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Routine (re-testing every 3 months those negative)</td>
<td>When screening test results are reactive</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community campaigns</td>
<td>At client’s request</td>
<td>When screening test results are non-reactive (partners of PLWH): PrEP</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHERE</strong></td>
<td>Social media channels like Facebook, Zalo, gay hook-up apps, etc.</td>
<td>G-link clinics: District 10, Thu Duc, Can Tho, Nghe An</td>
<td>Pasteur Institute and other certified clinics for confirmatory tests</td>
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<td>G-link offices</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Community-based events</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHO</strong></td>
<td>G-link counsellors</td>
<td>Gay Medical Doctors or Nurses/Lay providers</td>
<td>Trained counselors</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Words-of-mouth</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHAT</strong></td>
<td>Face-to-face and online counselling by G-link trained counsellors</td>
<td>Oral Quick HIV Rapid lay testing: Alere ½ and Alere combo (assisted and unassisted)</td>
<td>Confirmatory testing services</td>
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<td>Glink’s hotline counseling service (self-testing)</td>
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# Building blocks of Glink’s differentiated ART delivery model

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<th>ART refills</th>
<th>Clinical consultations</th>
<th>Psychosocial support</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WHEN</strong></td>
<td>Monthly officially (in the process to advocate for multi-scripting)</td>
<td>Monthly but flexible</td>
<td>- Before, during and after ART initiation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>- At client request</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **WHERE** | - G-link clinic  
- Home delivery                                              | - G-link clinic  
- By phone/online for out of town clients                  | - G-link clinic  
- By phone/online for out of town clients                                                        |
| **WHO**  | Gay Medical Doctors or nurses/counselors                                   | - Gay MD  
- Gay nurses                                                  | - Gay nurses  
- Counsellors                                                                                       |
| **WHAT** | ART refills                                                                  | - Physical exam  
- Prescript  
- Blood draw                                                  | - Case management (psychosocial, financing, housing)  
- Basic mental health counselling |
Looking forward …

• Expanding HIV services, including HIVST to other areas (NEZ and HCMC Metro regions)

• Improving KP-led services to generate community demand and increase HIV service uptake in Vietnam

• Enhance community right to access multiple services

• Private-public partnership

• Roll-out of sustainable KP-led private service provision models (Glink, Galant, My Home, etc.)
THANK YOU

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