

Three “firsts” in Malaysia: first Global Fund grant, first grant signed in 2011, first MARPs grant

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Blueprints for Success

Technical Support to Global Fund Grants



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In countries with concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemics, an effective strategy is to target the “most-at-risk populations.” The Malaysian AIDS Council cooperates with civil society organizations to identify and provide services to these hard-to-reach communities.



Trainers from the Malaysian AIDS Council and GMS orient M&E officers in data collection and reporting

“We couldn’t have done it without GMS.”
Dr. Sourabh Malandkar, Project Director

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Although the national HIV prevalence in Malaysia is less than 1%, research carried out in selected urban areas found a prevalence of 22.1% among injecting drug users, 10.5% among female sex workers, and 9.7% among transgender sex workers. These constitute Malaysia’s most-at-risk populations (MARPs). Malaysia is an upper-middle income country whose economy has made impressive gains in recent decades. However, insufficient government support for HIV prevention and the restrictive environment surrounding the at-risk groups impelled the country to seek support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to boost the national response.

The grant that emerged is closely aligned with Malaysia’s National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS, and relies on the participation, consultation and collaboration of the targeted populations. Activities include advocacy, delivery of preventive services and supplies, community sensitization, and training for the beneficiaries.

The Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) is the principal recipient of this grant. MAC invited USAID-funded Grant Management Solutions (GMS) to provide urgent “presignature” assistance to guide MAC and its partners through the preparations for signature of the grant agreement. Over a scant two weeks, the GMS and MAC teams worked together to finalize key documents for the grant agreement, rectify budget issues, and prepare for the negotiation process. One week later, on May 5, 2011, Malaysia signed its first Global Fund grant agreement, which provides a package of preventive services to the three most-at-risk groups.

The GMS team returned in July 2011 to help MAC train its staff and the grant’s thirteen subrecipients in financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. With over a decade of experience in MARPs programs and a highly dedicated staff, MAC is off to a running start.



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