



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CHEMSEX INTERVENTIONS FOR HIV PREVENTION IN VIETNAM

6th Asia Pacific Chemsex Symposium, 6 – 7 November 2024

Content

- ⌘ Drug use in Viet Nam and associated risks for HIV
- ⌘ Policy and programme response
- ⌘ Training toolkit for community outreach workers
- ⌘ Partnership – Innovation - Communities

APCS | Asia-Pacific
Chemsex
Symposium



Drug use and associated risks for HIV in Viet Nam

- **Total 220,904 PWUD** (June 2024) ⁽¹⁾
- **Trends in ATS use:** 60% of all PWUD used ATS in 2023, compared to 3.34% in 2014 ⁽¹⁾
- **Chemsex among MSM-TG:** study shows that 58.4% at least used ATS once in the last 3 months and 78% had unprotected sex ⁽²⁾
- **HIV prevalence among MSM:** 12.5% in 2022, compared to 4% in 2011 ⁽³⁾
- **Methamphetamine use doubles the risk of failing to achieve HIV viral suppression among PWID even when they adhere well to ART** ⁽⁴⁾

Source:

(1) Drug report. MOPS. 2024; (2) Drug use study on MSM-TG in 4 southern provinces. HCMC University of Medicine and Pharmacy. 2019; (3) HIV/AIDS national report 2023; (4) Feelemyer (2023). Association between recent methamphetamine use, antiretroviral therapy and HIV viral load; a mediation analysis from a cohort of HIV positive persons who inject drugs in Hai Phong, Vietnam. INT J STD AIDS



Policy and programme response

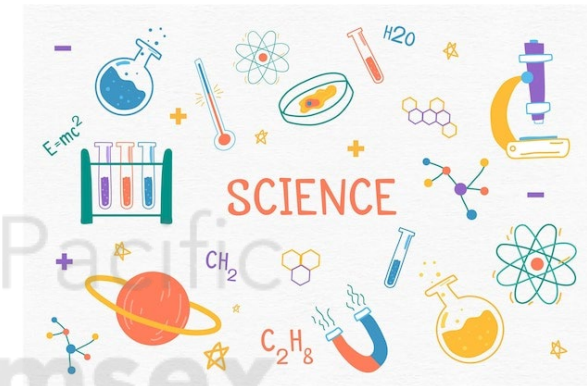
- **HIV Law (2020)** regulates harm reduction interventions, including needle & syringe, condom & lubricant, PrEP, PEP
- **Drug Law (2021)** regulates interventions for people who use drugs and people with drug dependency
- **HIV GoV Decree (2024)** regulates cognitive behavioral therapy for people who use stimulant drugs, among others
- **National technical guidance on:**
 - Interventions for amphetamine-type stimulant drug users (2019)
 - HIV prevention interventions for MSM engaging in sexualized drug use (2021)
- **Capacity building:**
 - Developing national training toolkits for community outreach workers and clinical service providers in healthcare settings.

Evidence-based chemsex interventions

- Planned focus of the toolkit: **HIV and STIs prevention**
 - through safe sex, PrEP, and preventing HIV transmission from syringe and drug sharing.
- Additional information requested by the communities:
 - **Mental health and drug use/addiction**
 - Guidance on prevention of mental health problems in the context of drug use/addition
 - **Toxicity and overdose**
 - Information and awareness raising on overdose of GHB, Ketamine, Heroin and Methamphetamine
- **Equal partnership** between all stakeholders
- **ASSIST** (Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test) is also used for screening of chemsex risks; followed by Brief Intervention and Counseling or Referral.



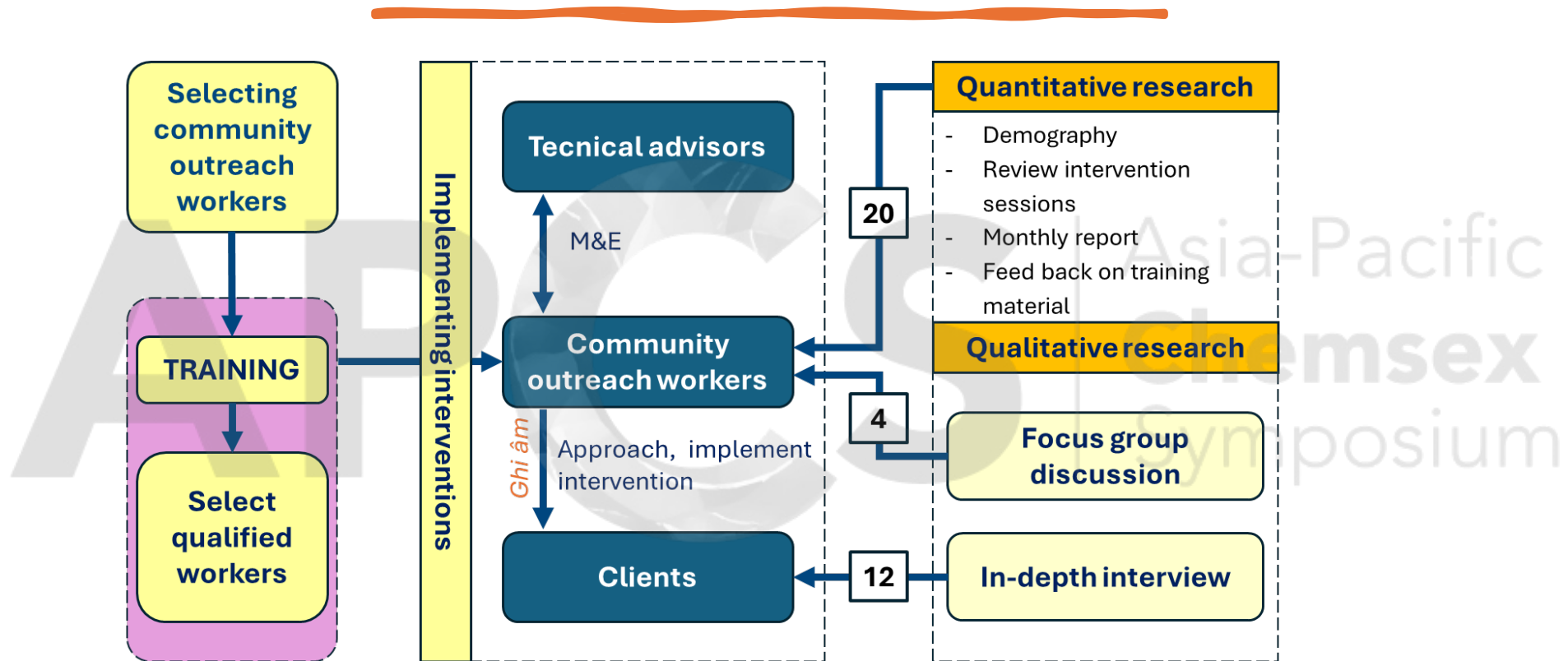
INNOVATIONS



**PEOPLE CENTRED
COMMUNITY LED
RESPONSE**



Toolkit improvement by research



1. Selecting and training

Implementing intervention

3. Collecting data



Partnership – Innovation - Communities

- **Collaborative partnership:** engaging government authorities, academia, community-led organizations and development partners
- **Innovative training initiative:** MOH / VAAC-approved toolkit for community outreach workers, with national trainer training set for 2025
- **Community capacity building expansion:** enhancing skills of community outreach workers in harm reduction and HIV prevention among MSM engaged in chemsex



Thank you!

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