



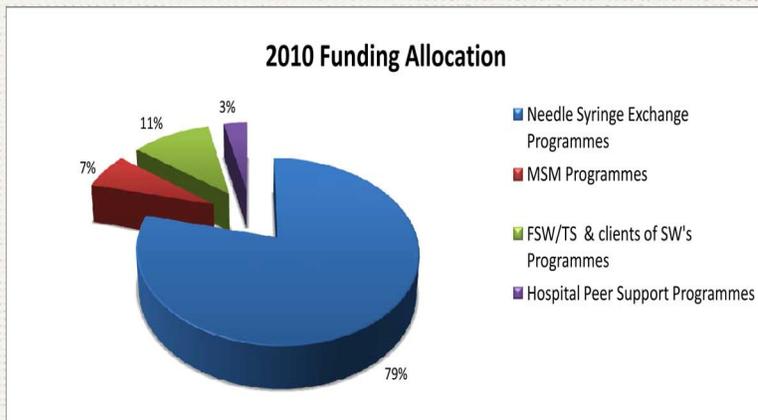
Warkah RIBEN MERAH



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Ministry of Health, Malaysia approves funding for 2010

In 2010, following the submission of proposals from MAC and PO's, the Ministry of Health (MOH) Malaysia has approved funding for Strategy 3(NSEP), Strategy 5 (MSM/SW/TS Outreach) and Strategy 6 (Hospital Peer Support Programme). However, the RM2.02 mil is a 6-month (Jan - Jun 2010) allocation and MAC have been asked to re-apply and submit proposals to MOH to secure funding for the subsequent 6 months (Jul-Dec 2010). Shelter Home Programme will be funded separately through the KPWK M Grant and therefore has been excluded from the MOH funding.



Although funding has reduced in comparison to 2009, projects addressing the needs of marginalised groups i.e. IDU, MSM, SW/TS and PLHIV are still of top priority. NSEP has received the largest allocation (80%) of total funding, followed by SW/TS, MSM and PLHIV (through the Hospital Peer Support Programme). HIV/STI Clinic and Outreach to Clients of SW's are two of the new projects being implemented in 2010. Short-term projects which were traditionally carried out by PO's and MAC secretariat including IAMD and WAD have not been approved. Plans of geographical expansion and scaling up of NSEP sites have also been 'frozen' due to the reduction of funds.

Shelter Needs You!

HIV/AIDS is a condition often misunderstood. Most if not all persons needing shelters are often unemployed, impoverished and stigmatised by the community due to the relationship between HIV and sex, crime, unwanted pregnancy or being disowned by families due to social, religious and cultural reasons.

Tackling HIV/AIDS issues would not be successful if it only focuses on physically treating the patients and raising public awareness on the danger of the infection. People living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) need access to a shelter that provides technical assistance and psychological support to help them survive the stigma & discrimination that most face from their surrounding community. Considering that comprehensive treatment is still inaccessible to all, shelters help PLHIV's survive, provide them with medical treatment, training and counselling, thus allowing them to live with dignity and joy.

Women & Health Association Kuala Lumpur (WAKE), an organisation providing community care for PLHIV's has set up a shelter for positive transsexuals in Kuala Lumpur. The home has 2 full time workers providing care and psychological support for its 7 residents while ensuring they adhere to medication. These residents are victims of stigma and discrimination from judgmental family members who refuse to accept their sexuality and issues related to their sexual orientation. Along with provision of shelters it is still necessary to provide awareness and education programmes for families to eliminate social stigma and discrimination. One resident was quoted as saying, *"Sekiranya diberi peluang saya amat gembira berada bersama-sama keluarga saya lebih daripada sesiapa di dunia ini."*

Visitors are warmly welcomed to the centre and the residents view this as a sign of acceptance and support for them. At present the shelter needs some renovation. Maybe a paint job and some plants will brighten up the dull environment, affecting the mental and physiological health of its residents.

Your support can make a difference in their lives. Contact Mano @+603 4045 1033 if you want to be a part of this change, or drop by the shelter in your free time and put a smile on a face.

"Sekiranya diberi peluang saya amat gembira berada bersama-sama keluarga saya lebih daripada sesiapa di dunia ini"



Di ambang Tahun Harimau,

banyak sekali kedengaran tidak puas hati tentang pengurangan dana daripada KKM bagi tahun 2010. Sememangnya jumlah peruntukan yang diberikan rendah berbanding tahun lepas, namun kegawatan ini menjejaskan semua sektor. Hal ini memaksa MAM untuk memberikan keutamaan kepada program-program yang efektif, di samping memperingatkan kita semua untuk berbelanja secara berhemah dalam pelaksanaan aktiviti-aktiviti terancang.

Ekoran pengurangan dana, pihak urusetia MAM akan lebih sukar untuk 'turun padang' melawat tapak-tapak program seperti sebelumnya. Sebagai alternatif, kami akan cuba untuk berkomunikasi lebih kerap melalui emel, telefon dan juga laman web, Facebook dan 'Warkah Riben Merah'.

Sungguhpun begitu, penyelidikan dalam konteks jangkitan HIV di kalangan kumpulan berisiko tinggi tetap diteruskan bagi populasi MSM, pelarian, dan nelayan. Sehubungan itu, urusetia MAM telah bermesyuarat dengan pengurusan tertinggi Jabatan Perikanan, Kementerian Pertanian & Industri Asas Tani yang berminat untuk bekerjasama menjangkakan aktiviti penyelidikan dan NSEP.

Jalanan erat antara Yayasan AIDS Malaysia dan *Actors Studio* bakal menyaksikan pementasan 'Life Sdn Bhd 5' pada 24-28 Mac kelak. Penampilan mereka yang menghadapi HIV, bercerita mengenai pengalaman hidup, akan mencetuskan pelbagai reaksi daripada penonton. Saya berharap ramai antara anda akan hadir memberikan sokongan.

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