

**The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)  
AIDS 2014 Pre-Conference and  
Other Activities**

**FINAL REPORT**

## SUMMARY

The MSMGF organized its sixth Pre-Conference Event at the 2014 International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Melbourne, Australia focused on men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people and HIV. To our knowledge, this Pre-Conference Event is the largest global gathering of activists, researchers, implementers, and donors focused on HIV and the health and human rights of MSM and transgender people to date. Titled, *Setting the Pace: Gay Men, MSM and Transgender People in the Global HIV Response*, the Pre-Conference was offered free of charge to 517 attendees, representing 268 organizations, from 59 countries, 32% of whom were from the global south. The MSMGF offered scholarship support to 27 participants who would not have otherwise been able to attend AIDS 2014. Plenary sessions were recorded and will be made available on the MSMGF's website later this year.

The MSM Pre-Conference provided a skills building and networking platform focused on the most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies that advance the overall goal of universal access to HIV-related services. The MSMGF Pre-Conference Program included seven plenary presentations and 21 skills building workshops or seminar sessions focused on HIV program implementation. This had particular urgency given changes in the funding model being implemented by the Global Fund and new leadership at U.S. Persistent challenges in accessing quality HIV services, training needs of health care providers, task shifting demands on MSM and transgender-led community-based organizations and the need to strengthen community systems were topics of intense discussion and debate.

The one and one-half-day, IAC affiliated Pre-Conference Event took place on 19-20 July 2014 at the Melbourne Town Hall. The overall goals of the Pre-Conference Event as well as activities immediately preceding and following the week of AIDS 2014 were to;

- 1) Elevate awareness at the global-level about the disproportionate impact HIV and AIDS is still having on MSM and transgender people worldwide;
- 2) Improve community-led service delivery and prevention approaches tailored to the needs of MSM and transgender people to effectively reduce new HIV infections in these communities;
- 3) Re-energize, better informed, and inter-connected activist networks of MSM and transgender people working to end HIV and promote the sexual health and human rights of their respective communities; and
- 4) Strengthen MSMGF partnerships with other networks (e.g., the Global Network of People Living with HIV, the global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP), the International Network of People who use Drugs (INPUD), and Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE) as well as with Australian groups working with key affected populations.

The goal and objectives of the Pre-Conference Event were guided by the MSMGF Core Operating Objectives, which serve as the overall advocacy framework of the organization:

- 1) Expanded coverage of quality HIV-related services;
- 2) Realized promotion and protection of human rights;

- 3) Increased investment for effective health and rights-focused programs;
- 4) Improved knowledge, research and information exchange; and
- 5) Meaningful engagement of frontline advocates.

The MSMGF gathered input from more than 100 advocates worldwide including its own Youth and Transgender Reference Groups to inform the pre-conference program and strategic participation at AIDS 2014. This feedback gave the MSMGF staff and steering committee a good starting point for focusing our efforts and for building pre-conference and global village programs that were responsive to the concerns of our constituents.

This input solicitation and program planning was led by an MSMGF AIDS 2014 [Pre-Conference Planning Committee](#) (PCPC) that consisted of MSMGF Steering Committee Members, Youth and Transgender Reference Group Members, strategic partners, global MSM advocates and local/Melbourne-based MSM advocates that met twice over four facilitated teleconference calls leading up to the event. The PCPC conducted its work mainly by email, given the wide time zone spread of its participants. The PCPC was central to developing a conference agenda and series of break-out sessions that were as inclusive as possible. The MSMGF also partnered with the Victorian AIDS Council, Living Positive Victoria, the Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations, and ACON to coordinate the pre-conference event and maximize participation from key populations.

The MSMGF conducted the following main activities in the lead up to and immediately following our pre-conference:

- 1) Provided a 1.5-day networking and planning platform for more than 500 activists, researchers, public health officials, multi-lateral organizations, and global donors to exchange most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies that would advance the goal of universal access to health;
- 2) Hosted a 4-day networking zone at the IAC Global Village during the conference week, which attracted over 800 visitors who participated in information exchange workshops and inter-organizational linking;
- 3) Designed and produced the MSMGF *Pink Pages* – a road map to all sessions and activities focused on MSM and transgender people during the main conference itself;
- 4) Organized four main plenary sessions focused on issues related to HIV implementation and challenges to HIV service access;
- 5) Offered 21 skills building sessions and activities on translating and applying research, program development, services delivery, working with drug using MSM, transgender people and sex workers, advocacy strategies, and mainstreaming LGBT sexual health;
- 6) Facilitated affinity and strategizing opportunities among MSM and transgender people across regions, age and sero-status;

- 7) Engaged media during the week of IAC designed to elevate awareness about HIV, health and human rights among MSM and transgender worldwide;
- 8) Prepared video recordings of the MSMGF Pre-Conference Event's main plenary sessions for upload onto the MSMGF website; and
- 9) Produced a final report summarizing main outcomes of the MSMGF Pre-Conference Event.

The MSMGF Pre-Conference was officially registered as an "Affiliated Event" of the International AIDS Conference. To ensure a link between the MSMGF Pre-Conference event and the main IAC program, MSMGF staff members built working relationships with the IAS Secretariat staff and collaborated with them in the development of non-abstract driven sessions and a press event focused on MSM and transgender people. In addition, members of both the PCPC and MSMGF steering committee members at large, together with MSMGF staff undertook behind-the-scenes lobbying with members of IAS's Conference Coordinating Committee to ensure a stronger IAC program than in previous years, with better coverage of MSM and transgender issues. Several MSMGF staff and Steering Committee members also brought leadership to this process in their roles as co-chairs on various program committees and as presenters during the conference. This work led to a conference program of which more than 35% focused on key populations and one plenary session devoted to MSM.

Victorian AIDS Council (VAC) was our in-country partner who provided outstanding volunteer support for MSMGF's International AIDS Conference 2014 activities. VAC:

- Advertised in local media and online (e.g., <http://www.vac.org.au/volunteering-during-aids-2014-conference>, <https://www.facebook.com/VAC.org.au/photos/a.360387917333017.76365.137639762941168/735484959823309/?type=1>) to recruit volunteers for our MSMGF Pre-Conference and Global Village activities;
- Paid for the printing and local shipping of 700 Pre-Conference bags;
- Conducted a 2-hour volunteer orientation and training;
- Interviewed applicants for Pre-Conference volunteer shifts;
- Assigned 45 volunteers to 56 shifts and retained multiple volunteers as back-up for last-minute schedule changes;
- Received and stored the majority of MSMGF's Pre-Conference collateral print materials;
- Coordinated 30 volunteers with stuffing 700 conference bags with MSMGF and VAC collateral print materials, and coordinated with the MSMGF for transport to the Pre-Conference venue;
- Supervised 45 volunteers for the 1.5 day Pre-conference;
- Funded and hosted a 'Thank You Party' at Shebeen Bar for Pre-Conference volunteers;
- Supervised a total of 60 volunteers (5 volunteers per shift/3 shifts per day/4 days of Global Village) for the main days of the conference to help host the MSM Networking Zone.

In the following pages, we summarize select activities to illustrate achievement toward the above stated outcomes. We begin with presenting feedback submitted by pre-conference attendees. We then describe the MSMGF's advocacy activities as well as program activities at the MSM Networking Zone in Global Village. The report below proceeds with a report on the MSMGF's communications and media engagement, transgender reference group meeting, and posters and talks presented by MSMGF staff at AIDS 2014. We end with a brief discussion on the MSMGF's existing partnerships strengthened and

new partnerships established as a result of our AIDS 2014-related efforts. The expense report for these activities is also presented at the end.

## MSMGF PRE-CONFERENCE BREAK-OUT SESSIONS

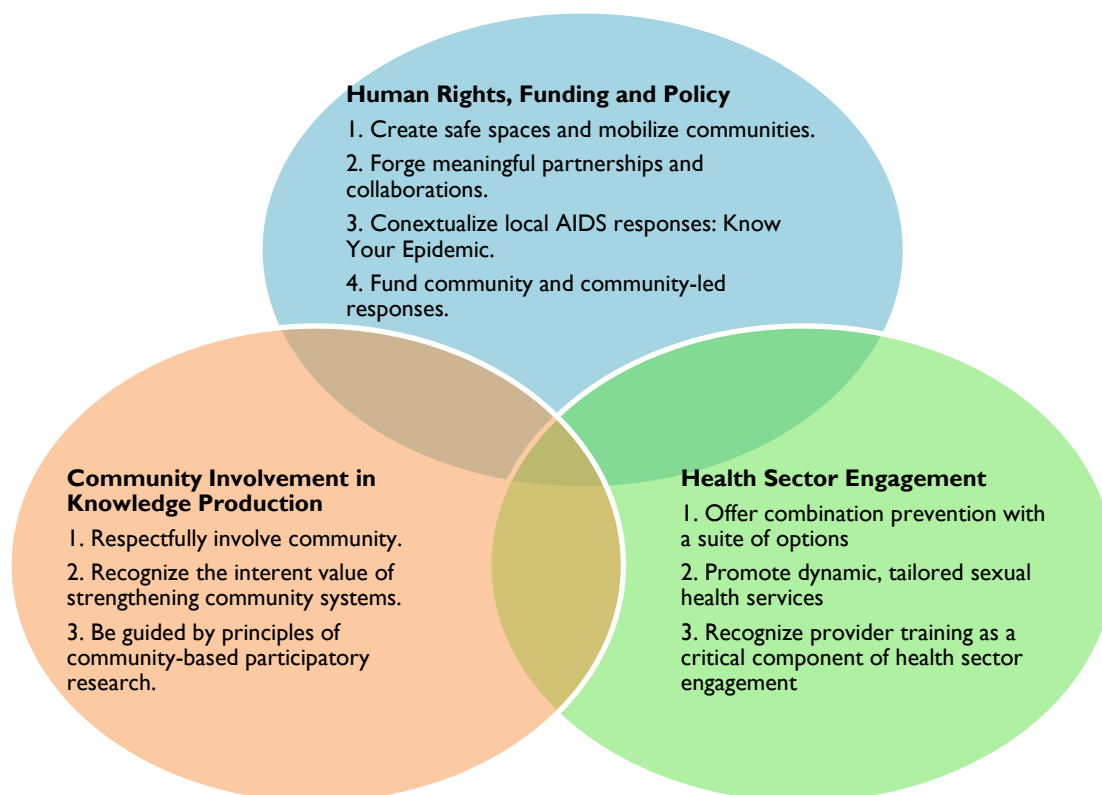
The MSMGF pre-conference dedicated to men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender people featured 21 break-out sessions that took place on Day One of the pre-conference (July 19<sup>th</sup>). Each session lasted for a total duration of 90 minutes and featured a Moderator/Chairperson and an illustrious panel of experts from around the world. An online version of the program is available at [www.msmgf.org/aids2014](http://www.msmgf.org/aids2014)

MSMGF staff was closely involved in shaping and guiding the scope of each session in close collaboration with several volunteer MSMGF Pre-Conference Planning Committee members. 10 of the sessions took place concurrently in the morning and 11 others took place in the afternoon. The sessions were themed across a range of topics identified and finalized by the MSMGF pre-conference planning committee including one special session dedicated to a dialogue around the Asia-Pacific's regional response to HIV. Break-out session rooms were assigned based on participant interest as expressed in an MSMGF-generated survey in the lead up to the pre-conference.

The 11 streams for the break-out sessions were themed around the following broad topic areas:

1. HIV Prevention
2. Intersection of LGBT Rights and HIV
3. Community Systems Strengthening
4. Information and Communications Technology
5. Health Systems Strengthening
6. Building Effective Sexual Health Programs
7. Addressing Funding Disparities
8. Community-Based Participatory Research
9. Government-Ratified Homophobia
10. Ethical Considerations
11. Asia-Pacific Regional Response

Each session was assigned a rapporteur whose responsibility was to summarize 3 key actions items and/or outcomes from each session. Based on input provided by rapporteurs, a summary of the major outcomes is listed below across three thematic categories (see figure).



*Human Rights, Funding and Policy*

Within sessions covering the themes of human rights, funding and policy, there was a clarion call for advocacy around the elimination of laws, systems and policies that contribute to the stigmatization, discrimination and harm to LGBTI communities, and the promotion of and access to justice. This includes the need to protect and support individuals and activists "on the ground" in hostile environments, to ensure their rights needs and voices are heard. HIV stakeholders and communities must recognize that continued investment in building alliances at a local and national level with social movements, and building leadership capacity in sexual health rights, benefits and enhances human rights. Direct resourcing of communities and community-led responses will ensure that programming is targeted to the needs of individuals at a local level, which is turn is based on an appropriate understanding of culture and epidemics.

*Community Involvement in Knowledge Production*

Although community was a central focus across all pre-conference sessions, two streams at the pre-conference were dedicated to community systems strengthening and community-based participatory research. Identifying *sustainable* leadership from within community is essential, as marginalized people trust those like them, rather than professionals in the health system. More work must be done around how we measure community systems strengthening impact and programme performance. In the research-related sessions, a repeated theme was the call for collaborative approaches that equitably involve all partners in the research process, especially community. Researchers and community can both learn from each other but community must be involved in every aspect of the process, including

planning, methodology development and research implementation. In general, global health still doesn't think of the community sector as an asset, or core part of the response.

### *Health Sector Engagement*

MSM are incredibly diverse within and between countries and regions and this context will have a significant impact on the type and scope of service that is optimal. HIV prevention therefore works best when offered together in combination so MSM don't have to choose between using condoms, TasP and PreP but instead have a choice from a suite of available options. New guidelines from the WHO suggest that sexually active men should also be offered treatment as prevention but social stigma is a major barrier to men accessing or coming forward to access ARV-related prevention services. It is not necessary to “serosort” services, but important to provide integrated services for both HIV negative and positive people.

When training mainstream healthcare providers – a critical component in strengthening health systems - organizations must go beyond sensitization and ensure that appropriate clinical competencies are included to meet the specific needs of MSM. Training should also include all the staff at an organization to ensure the cultural competence is embedded across the entire service.

## **FEEDBACK FROM PRE-CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

Participants to the preconference were invited to give feedback on the event through a brief anonymous paper survey at the end of the first day and again at the end of the second day.

Most respondents were between ages 30 and 60 - of those who responded, 13% (5) were under 30, and 23% (9) were over 60. Three quarters of the respondents (75.61%) identified as male, 20% identified as female, and 4.8% identified as transgender. Most participants (78%) identified as Gay / MSM while 18% identified as Bisexual and 5% as heterosexual. The majority of respondents were from Australia (38%) and USA (28%). Other countries represented were Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, Russia, Singapore and the United Kingdom. Most respondents reported their primary role to be Researcher (50%), Service Provider (27%), Policy Advocate (17%).

The MSMGF asked attendees to rate on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) the various program components of the pre-conference. Averages were then tabulated and summarized below:

### Day 1

- Check-In/Registration = 3.9
- Overview, Intros & Acknowledgements = 4
- Welcome/Salutatory Remarks = 4.1
- Opening Plenary = 4.4
- Morning Sessions = 4.2
- Afternoon Session = 3.9
- Afternoon Plenary = 4.2

## Day 2

- Welcome = 4.1
- Panel Discussion = 3.7
- Closing Plenary = 4.6
- Closing Remarks = 4.25

The MSMGF also asked attendees to indicate what they liked the most as well as to offer suggestions for making the Pre-Conference better the next time. The main points made from feedback offered are listed below in bullet form (a number of points were repeated by several attendees).

*Please let us know what you liked most:*

- Emotional impacts
- Impressive and inspiring speech of PEPFAR ambassador
- Thanks - this is the only part of the conference where MSM presentations and functions are concentrated in one place. Also, thanks for the tea, coffee and lunch! This means there was more time to talk to people
- Friendly atmosphere!
- Very interesting speakers and abstracts (presentations) very good organization
- PrEP – I was really pleased that we could learn about PrEP and the afternoon sessions with really good sessions about HIV prevention programs in New Zealand, Russia, India and Australia presented
- It was really good to see a global perspective to a global problem. The lunch and coffee breaks were great. The whole organization was great!
- Opening plenary presentation by Peter Aggleton of the event was first class.
- The opportunity to gain perspective on the global approach...in the fight against HIV – there are few other opportunities to gain this apart from this kind of forum
- Sean's talk was great
- Laurindo was "one of us" speaking as an openly gay man with the agenda of sharing his life-authentically Great to include Michael Ighodaro
- The diversity of sessions with themed tracks was great!
- The awareness of what the sex worker organization was doing to promote organization goals
- The opportunity to network
- It was wonderful to network with old friends and colleagues. It was a nice combination of plenary and smaller group presentations discussions
- There was a clear effort to stay on schedule instead of waiting for everyone to arrive / settle in.
- Good representation of nationalities/experiences in the sessions I attended
- Lovely venue
- Nice simple t-shirt design. Wearable!
- Connecting to other groups and learning varying experiences
- The location
- The friendly volunteers, very patient
- The vegetarian food



- Thank you for organizing!

*Please let us know what we could do to make this event better next time:*

- Some technical issues - nothing else
- I think it could have been better advertised to the general community
- Pick a controversial issue and have a plenary panel presentation plus debate. e.g. PrEP or PEP for policy - to continue funding despite human rights abuse, etc.
- The afternoon plenary was disorganized. Presentations (some) were unprepared and presenters were unable to answer many questions – maybe if they had to send something in advance or check quality of work before accepting them as presentations
- I understand budget concerns, but lunch was a bit light – it felt more like tea-break.
- Some of the power point slides in the main all were hardly legible - perhaps some proofing / guidelines on minimum font size?
- It was a bit hard to find this feedback form in all the stuff in the bag. Perhaps print it on brightly-colored paper?
- Provide free Wi-Fi at the venue
- I would have started one day earlier – this would allow us to attend more than 1 session for the breakouts – in addition, there were too many other competing pre-conference meetings
- Scheduling two breakouts in one room with a curtain between does not work - it was very distracting trying to hear speakers over the sound of speeches on the other side of the curtain!
- I know it is difficult but keeping to time schedule would be nice especially in terms of sessions in the main hall going over so everyone else had to wait outside when break times came
- Layout of the registration could have been better
- Maybe an activist stream
- Situating food service outside from where presentations are occurring
- Insist on better promotion of the event by local organizations
- Size of font on presentations
- I could appreciate restrooms being turned into all gender restrooms for this event
- Maybe provide a trans 101 training for volunteers, organizations tabling, etc. (I was misgendered a few times throughout the day by people staffing the event)
- The afternoon session was in a very cold room
- A wider variety of speakers from a wider range of countries, especially from Europe
- More on innovation
- I believe that there is a real question about the added value of the pre-conference – nothing new – same people – would perhaps be better to focus on one issue and go into it in depth. i.e. PreP. To me the conference was a missed opportunity
- Consider developing this forum into a separate biannual conference that operates independently of IAS International Conference and extend over three days
- Report back could include opportunity for participants to add points missed
- No explanation for speakers who could not make it
- No one to speak on public policy
- Use time to hear from group-(participants) an open mic

- Start on time
- The attention to Black Diaspora was far less than in the past and left a gap – if there were not enough persons from Africa consideration to addressing this from podium could have happened
- Greater interaction during breakouts
- An opportunity to question and dialogue with plenary speakers from the floor, e.g, Q&A with Mark Dybul

## MSMGF AT AIDS 2014

The MSMGF actively contributed to the main conference through presentations, workshops and panel discussions. This included the following:

### **Social Research and the Response to HIV – legacy and future**

A symposium jointly sponsored by Centre for Social Research in Health (CSRH), UNSW Australia Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), and La Trobe University. This Pre-Conference included four sessions focused on the past present and future of social research especially focused on key populations. It was attended by approximately 90 social scientists from around the world. MSMGF Senior Research Advisor, Sonya Arreola gave a presentation entitled: *Participatory Praxis: Advocacy & Research at MSMGF*, in which she described the importance of advocacy in research using the Global Men’s Health and Rights studies from 2010, 2012, and 2014 as case studies.

The MSMGF also gave presentations in the following sessions:

**Criminalization of same-sex behavior is harmful to public health: significant reductions in access to HIV prevention and care services associated with arrest and convictions for sex between men.**

**High prevalence of HIV-related risk behaviors among mobile app-using men who have sex with men (MSM): opportunities for public health interventions through mobile social media.**

**Exploring gaps for young MSM: Bullying, health Services and advocacy around the globe.**

**Young Arab men who have sex with men deserve more: An overview of challenges faced by the young MSM community in the Arab world.**

**Passing the torch: A U.S. model for engaging and mobilizing Black gay men to end the HIV epidemic.**

**Homophobia and Access to HIV prevention services among young men who have sex with men: Results from the Global Men's Health and Human Rights Survey.**

In addition to conference presentations, the MSMGF was actively involved in side meetings and advocacy actions during the week. What follows is a roundup of the week's activities. The MSMGF:

Attended the first day of a meeting entitled **“Fostering Quality and Quality Improvement (QI) in the Context of HIV Scale Up”**, hosted by ICAP. The meeting convened a wide range of experts in HIV program implementation and leaders in quality and QI research. From the floor, MSMGF Sr. Research and Programs Associate Keletso Makofane raised the issue of stigma as an important aspect of quality for Key Population programs, and the need to integrate community-led organizations in QI and scale-up efforts. Page | 10

Presented at the launch of the new **Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention, Treatment and Care For Key Populations by the World Health Organization**. Mr. Makofane was a member of the Guidelines Development Group which made decisions on the structure and content of the guidelines. At the event, he delivered a presentation entitled: “Working despite legal and social constraints: How effective programmes for key populations can be delivered in difficult environments” which was based on a recently published MSMGF report entitled: “MSM in Sub-Saharan Africa: Health, Access, & HIV”.

**Attended Bridging the Gaps panel discussion focused on the report: “Bridging the Gaps: Key Populations in the Driver’s Seat”**, highlighting the achievements and challenges of the Bridging the Gaps program according to its mid-term evaluation. There was a discussion involving organizations present in the room (including The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs) on whether the alliance between UNAIDS, The Dutch Government and organizations in the Bridging the Gaps alliance was fruitful. Mr. Makofane, representing the MSMGF, highlighted the opportunities that this alliance presents in Kenya.

**Presented at a press conference on HIV Prevention**, where ground-breaking results were announced from the latest studies on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Treatment as Prevention (TasP), and Medical Male Circumcision (MCC). Mr. Makofane presented summary findings from an MSMGF report: “MSM in Sub-Saharan Africa: Health, Access, & HIV” and discussed the challenges of implementing innovative biomedical prevention methods in MSM programs and the wide range of strategies that community-based organizations employ to overcome those challenges.

**Co-Chaired an abstract-led plenary session entitled “Effort Where it Counts: Key Populations at the Centre”** with Kate Gilmore – Deputy Executive Director of UFFPA. In this session, presenters discussed community-led programming; dissemination of strategic information; research, monitoring and evaluation; and funding for key populations programs. Mr. Makofane and Ms. Gilmore moderated a discussion on these themes.

**Co-chaired a community discussion on the Launch of Global Fund Key Population Action Plan** with Marijke Wijnroks – Chief of Staff of UNAIDS. In this session, presenters discussed the newly completed Key Population Action Plan in light of their experiencing engaging with in-country Global

Fund application processes as Key Populations groups. Mr. Makofane and Wijnoks moderated a discussion.

**Attended an informal gathering of the WHO Civil Society Reference Group** which aimed to provide an opportunity to strengthen the engagement of civil society in WHO processes and enhance the dialogue between WHO and civil society on HIV-related work. In this gathering, Mr. Makofane had brief discussion with WHO HIV Department staff on possible joint work to disseminate the newly released Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Diagnosis, Prevention, Treatment and Care For Key Populations in different regions. MSMGF Director of Policy, Noah Metheny, presented a poster put together by Nadia Rafif (MSMGF Senior Policy Advisor) and Liesl Messerschmidt (M&E Consultant) on the results of the **external evaluation of pilot phase of the Speaking Out Initiative**. Noah discussed the key findings and recommendations coming out of the evaluation process, including ongoing work on developing and implementing an M&E framework for the MSMGF's advocacy work.

**Convened an in-person meeting of all the CLAC partners (ARASA, ITPC, INPUND, GATE, GNP+, MSMGF, and NSWP)**. As the CLAC hub, MSMGF staff gave all the partners updates about the technical support work we are providing in Cameroon and Tunisia, along with discussion about providing technical support since the CLAC was selected as a pre-qualified TA provider by the Global Fund. Material, design and layout of the CLAC website was also finalized at this meeting, allowing for the website's launch at IAC (see [press release](#)).

**Participated in a satellite session on community involvement in HIV treatment scale up, organized by ITPC, ARASA, and Pangea**. The satellite session was well attended and the interactive debate among the panelists and with the audience allowed for a very constructive discussion focused on treatment issues. Some of the common themes discussed included, the structural barriers (political, social, economic, legal) that many key population communities face; the need to build partnerships across broader human rights/social justice movements; the need for greater and more meaningful participation of key population communities (particularly youth and trans\*) around treatment issues; and the role targets play in treatment scale up.



**Participated on a panel hosted by Oxfam and the University of LaTrobe focused on discussing sexual rights and HIV within the development field**. Each of the panelists discussed doing development from their organizational perspective (e.g. academia, multilateral, community-based).

MSMGF staff member, Noah Metheny focused his comments on the health and rights impact created by criminalization of homosexuality, drawing examples from the work the MSMGF has ongoing in Uganda and Nigeria. The discussion with audience members centered around the role Australia can play in international development to better address rights and HIV, including: more targeted funding (e.g. more regional focus in Asia-Pacific); creating spaces for South-South knowledge exchange; convening a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss these issues; and working through the Commonwealth system to amplify Australian aid work in Africa.

**Participated on a panel hosted by GFAN and organized by APCASO titled: *Civil Society and Key Population Engagement at the Centre of Global Fund's New Funding Model – What We Learned as Technical Assistance Providers*.** This session provided a space for TA providers to present their experiences in four countries (Cameroon, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Vietnam) and discuss issues relating to different approaches used, challenges to civil society/key population engagement vis-à-vis the Global Fund's new funding model (NFM).

**Participated in an in-person meeting of the IAS Key Affected Populations Advisory Group during IAC 2014.** Each Advisory Group member present offered their feedback about how the conference was going. MSMGF staff discussed some of the overarching themes that emerged coming out of our preconference, along with commenting on the visibility of other key populations at Melbourne, including a more visible (though still under-represented) presence of the trans\* community.

**Contributed to the Nobody Left Behind campaign on Key Affected Populations, including the International AIDS Society's publication "[Code of Conduct for HIV and Health](#)".** The aim of the Code is to accelerate access to comprehensive HIV treatment, prevention, care and support for all people living with HIV, by using human rights as a framework and HIV professionals as the means to achieve this. The Code of Conduct contributes to reinforcing existing rules and setting new norms and standards. The recognition of good practice and champions in human rights among HIV professionals will set examples for the wider health and development community to emulate.

**Contributed to the International AIDS Society's "[White paper maximizing the treatment and prevention benefits of ART for Key Affected Populations](#)" in collaboration with the IAS Key Affected Population Advisory Group.** The White Paper aims to bring a better understanding and greater clarity on the benefits and challenges of expanding treatment among key affected population across different contexts. The paper is a collation of the evidence and programme experience that maximizes the treatment and prevention benefits of ART for key populations in different contexts.

**Attended an informal meeting of the WHO Civil Society Reference Group.** The meeting focused mostly on the successful launch of the Consolidated Guidelines for Key Populations (see our [press release](#)), with the MSMGF getting significant recognition from WHO secretariat staff for the role various MSMGF staff members played in the development of the guidelines.

**Moderated a panel hosted by the MENA networking zone and organized by ITPC MENA, AFE and M-Coalition titled: *MSM in MENA: What do we know?*** In the Middle East & North Africa (MENA), men who have sex with men face numerous human rights violations, increased risk for HIV, and multiple barriers that hinder access to quality HIV services among other problems that MSM

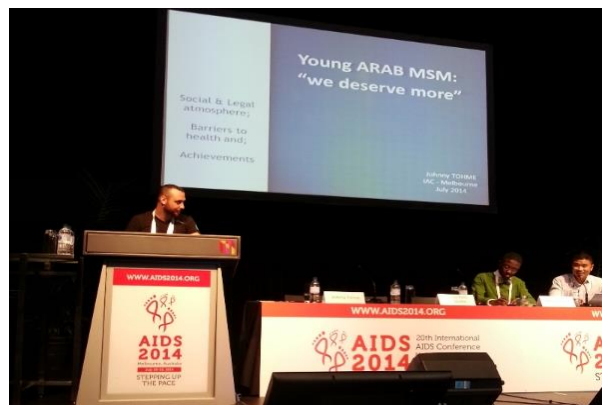
meet at MENA. During this session, ALCS Morocco and Association MARSAs presented their studies of MSM and answered many questions on human rights and access to health services. The session was moderated by MSMGF staff Nadia Rafif.

**Moderated a panel hosted by the MENA networking zone and organized by ITPC MENA, AFE and M-Coalition titles: *MENA Regional Networks, who we are? How to work together?***  
ITPC-RANAA-MENHARA-AFE-M-COALITION-MENA ROSA-GNP+



**Helped Launch the M-Coalition.** The M-Coalition was officially launched and presented to the International community in a workshop at the Clarendon room D&E followed by a series of sessions/interventions across the global village. [A press release](#) in 3 languages has been disseminated. Along with the Arab Foundation for Freedoms & Equality (AFE) and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC MENA), with the support of the MSMGF, the M-Coalition was responsible for organizing the MENA networking zone with the main theme of "[Key Populations, Key Solutions](#)" at booth 817 within the global village, attended by hundreds of people every day.

M-Coalition was also asked to speak at other sessions outside of the MENA networking zone. Saja Michael (co-chair) and Johnny Tohme (executive director) presented M-Coalition at the **MSM Global Forum Networking zone**, as well as at the **MSM Global Forum pre-conference**, and the **Youth Pavillon**.



**Shared Strategies for Combatting LGBTI-hostile Governments.** MSMGF Board Co-Chair Don Baxter set out to maximize opportunities to stimulate a more effective and globally coordinated

response to the range of governments enacting legislation (or threatening it) against LGBTI citizens – and thereby also preventing effective HIV responses.

This strategy included:

- ensuring that the relevant prominent MSM HIV activists from the respective countries/regions were able to attend AIDS2014 (i.e., Africa, MENA, Eastern Europe, Caribbean, Malaysia and India;
- encouraging and facilitating these advocates to speak out forcefully through-out the AIDS2014 Conference in sessions and with the media; and
- arranging their attendance at key strategizing meetings.

**Engaged the new Australian Human Rights Commissioner with responsibility for SOGI issues, Mr. Tim Wilson,** in the weeks prior to AIDS2014, encouraging him to meet with key African advocates and possible funders to under-pin the development of a more coordinated global strategy on combatting LGBTI-hostile Governments.

**Promoted MSM & Transgender Participation in the Global Fund’s New Funding Model.** In conjunction with Don’s responsibilities as a member of the Developed Countries’ NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board, he participated in several sessions in the Global Village explaining the operations of the GFATM’s New Funding Model and the previously unheralded opportunities for KAPs – including MSM and Trans people – to have direct influence in the nations’ Country Dialogue and re-shaping of each country’s national HIV response.

**Raised awareness about the world’s most explosive HIV epidemic - MSM in the Philippines** Throughout AIDS2014 Don worked closely with Jonas Bagas (CEO of TLF Share, Manila) and Laurindo Garcia (B-Change) to enhance awareness of this emergency and mobilize support both internal within the Philippines and externally for fundamental changes in direction by the Philippines Government.

These actions included ensuring a delegation led by the Mayor of Quezon City in Metro Manila (where most of the MSM HIV infections are occurring) to Australia will be well-organized, including meetings with the Victorian and NSW Governments – and assisting facilitating a visit to Manila by the Hon Michael Kirby, one of the drivers of the Global Commission on HIV & the Law.

### **Launched a New Curriculum for Healthcare Providers on Gay Men’s Health**

At the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, the MSMGF, in partnership with Johns Hopkins University launched a nine-module curriculum for training healthcare providers worldwide. Designed for easy adaptation at the country level, the curriculum features a 188-page publication accompanied by a deck of slides to go with each module. The MSMGF and Johns Hopkins University issued a press-release signaling the launch which is available here: [http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1efcb45b2d3a4abde06876054&id=2101fa81bf&e=\[UNIQID\]](http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=1efcb45b2d3a4abde06876054&id=2101fa81bf&e=[UNIQID])

The complete curriculum is available for download at the msmgf.org website: [www.msmgf.org/promotinghealth](http://www.msmgf.org/promotinghealth)



## MSM NETWORKING ZONE AT THE GLOBAL VILLAGE

The MSMGF partnered with Victorian AIDS Council (VAC) and several MSM regional networks including AMShEr, APCOM, COC, PSN, the M-Coalition, and Youth Voices Count to produce the MSM Networking Zone devoted to the health and human rights of gay men and other MSM worldwide. Located in the Global Village area of the Conference, the Networking Zone's primary objective was to offer a safe and creative space for MSM advocates to network, share experiences, exchange ideas, and coordinate advocacy strategies towards stronger, more inclusive HIV responses across our respective regions.

Titled *MSM: Setting the Pace for Action*, the MSM Networking Zone (MSM NWZ) had an average of 200 visitors per day from Monday, July 21st, to Thursday, July 24th, for an estimated 800 visitors during the week. Visitors and attendees included MSM and transgender advocates from different regions, researchers, health educators, people living with HIV, women, sexologists, doctors, students, and community members from the Melbourne area.

The MSM NWZ had 5 main activities: (1) a photo booth where visitors could have their portrait made, then receive a printed copy while another was hung on an evolving photo mural; (2) collateral material display and distribution, including condoms and lubricants, policy documents on MSM and HIV, HIV prevention material, and human rights documents; (3) the participatory text installation, "When the Rainbow Isn't Enough," in which participants wrote messages on thought bubbles in various languages, responding to prompts about love, loss, desire and conflict; (4) a small reception for MSM advocates to network jointly hosted with VAC on Monday, July 21st; and (5) 17 sessions, presentations and workshops where participants engaged in conversations and exchanged experiences and ideas. On average, each session had between 15 and 20 attendees.

The following is a list of sessions that took place at the MSM NWZ:

1. Pacific MSM & Transgender Communities "Discuss" – "Talanoa". Convened by Pacific Sexual Diversity Network.
2. Evidence in Action: Creating Evidence-based Programming for Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender People. Convened by amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.
3. Do You Swallow? Unique Approaches to Engagement and Awareness of PrEP – Building on Success. Convened by AVAC.
4. Designing and Conducting a Successful Therapeutic Group for Gay Men Diagnosed with HIV before the Advent of Combination Anti- Retroviral Therapy (cART). Convened by Victorian AIDS Council (VAC).
5. The Pleasure of Self-Protection. Convened by Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC).
6. Peer to Peer Testing PRONTO! – VAC's Rapid Testing Service in Melbourne. Convened by Victorian AIDS Council (VAC).
7. How We Saved Our Lives: The Gay Community and HIV/AIDS in Australia. Convened by Australian Gay and Lesbian Archives (ALGA).
8. And LUBE... the Global Lubricant Access Mobilization (GLAM) Campaign. Convened by amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.



9. Getting Down an' Dirty – Engaging Sexually Adventurous Men Down Under. Convened by Victorian AIDS Council (VAC).
10. Strategies for increasing providers' knowledge, attitude and skills to improve services for men who have sex with men. Convened by the MSMGF.
11. Rewired: Risk Reduction in Gay Men Who Use Methamphetamine. Convened by Victorian AIDS Council (VAC).
12. Bridging the Gaps: Country and Regional Level Technical Support Approaches for Increasing Advocacy Capacity. Convened by INPUD, MSMGF and NSWP.
13. Civil Society and Key Population Engagement at the Centre of Global Fund's New Funding Model – panel discussion with Q & A. Convened by CLAC and MSMGF.
14. Self-stigma Amongst Young People and the Importance of Building an Ideal HIV Testing Program and Health Services for Young MSM and TG. Convened by Youth Voices Count.
15. “Difficult Decisions”: Introduction to New Ethical Decision-making Tool for Care Workers. Convened by The Coalition for Children Affected by AIDS.
16. Come and discuss the health and rights needs of MSM living in the complex and dynamic context of Africa. Convened by African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHer).
17. Presentation of the Coalition on MSM/HIV in the Arab World. Convened by the M-Coalition.



## MEDIA

The MSMGF received strong media coverage in the lead up to, during and after AIDS 2014. The following is a list of stories covering the MSMGF and MSMGF projects:

- [AIDS2014: THE COMPLETE VIDEO BLOG COLLECTION](#)  
PositiveLite.com  
August 3, 2014
- [Aidsconferentie in Melbourne en Aidsfonds herdenken slachtoffers van vliegtuigramp](#)  
Buddyzorg Lumburg  
July 31, 2014
- [AIDS 2014: iPrEP PrEP Users Talk Condoms, Pills, Anxiety, and Relief](#)  
HIVandHepatitis.com  
July 29, 2014
- [Of Guidelines Targets, and Resources -- Documents that Defined AIDS 2014](#)

HIVandHepatitis.com

July 29, 2014

- [ACON: From AIDS 2014 to Bingham Cup Sydney](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 27, 2014
- [Of guidelines, targets and resources: the documents that defined the 2014 International AIDS Conference](#)  
NAM aidsmap  
July 26, 2014
- [International AIDS Conference criticized over lack of trans speakers](#)  
Washington Blade  
July 24, 2014
- [AIDS Conference 'Stepping Up the Pace'](#)  
The Edge  
July 24, 2014
- [AIDS confab looks to future](#)  
The Bay Area Reporter  
July 24, 2014
- [VIDEO: Press Conference - Stigma and Discrimination](#)  
International AIDS Conference  
July 23, 2014
- [Globally, 1 in 12 MSM have been arrested for same-sex behaviour](#)  
NAM aidsmap  
July 23, 2014
- [Progress and Hopeful Study Results with PrEP but Stigma on the Rise](#)  
Star Observer  
July 23, 2014
- [Melbourne 2014 AIDS - A Few Stats](#)  
Andy Kopsa  
July 23, 2014
- [Overall PrEP effectiveness in iPrEx OLE study 50%, but 100% in those taking four or more doses a week](#)  
European AIDS Treatment Group  
July 23, 2014
- [US Ambassador Calls for LGBT Rights](#)  
GBM News  
July 23, 2014
- [Aids 2014: Agree to disagree](#)  
Poz & Proud  
July 23, 2014
- [FORMER LES SOIGNANTS POUR UNE MEILLEURE OFFRE AUX HSH ET AUX TRANSGENRES](#)  
Sidaction  
July 22, 2014

- [Des droits pour vivre](#)  
Sidaction  
July 22, 2014
- [MSMGF, Johns Hopkins University unveils new gay men's health curriculum](#)  
Outrage Magazine  
July 22, 2014
- [Nueva Salud de los Hombres Gay Plan de Estudios para Proveedores de Salud](#)  
Concepto VIH/SIDA  
July 22, 2014
- [MSMGF, Johns Hopkins University Unveils New Gay Men's Health Curriculum for Healthcare Providers](#)  
The Body PRO  
July 22, 2014
- [Overall PrEP effectiveness in iPrEx OLE study 50%, but 100% in those taking four or more doses a week](#)  
NAM Aidsmap  
July 22, 2014
- [Global Forum on MSM and HIV and our Center Unveils New Gay Men's Health Curriculum for Healthcare Providers](#)  
Center for Public Health and Human Rights - Johns Hopkins  
July 21, 2014
- [Aids Fonds: 'Verlies van onze geliefde collega's' // Politiek & emancipatie](#)  
gay.blog.nl  
July 21, 2014
- [Blog Provides Live Updates From AIDS 2014](#)  
Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report  
July 21, 2014
- [AIDS 2014: WHO Prevention Strategies to Focus on Key Populations](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 21, 2014
- [AIDS 2014: When HIV Research and Data Collection Is at Odds with "Do No Harm"](#)  
Science Speaks  
July 21, 2014
- [AIDS 2014 : Garder le rythme !](#)  
Sida Info Service  
July 20, 2014
- [AIDS 2014 Video Blog #1: At MSM Global Forum, the Shock of Tragedy and the Road Forward](#)  
TheBodyPRO.com  
July 20, 2014
- [Fórum mundial de homens gays questiona a adoção da PrEP](#)  
Agência de Notícias da Aids  
July 20, 2014
- [MSMGF: Stigma and HIV](#)

- Gay News Network  
July 20, 2014
- ['Do not be a statistic, but own the information that shapes programmes'](#)  
Asian Tribune  
July 20, 2014
  - [MSMGF: 'We Still Face Prejudice, Discrimination and Exclusion'](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 20, 2014
  - [Victorian Government to Amend HIV-Specific Criminal Law to Remove Discrimination](#)  
Star Observer  
July 20, 2014
  - [MSMGF: The HIV Response and the Implications for Our Community](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 20, 2014
  - [MSMGF: Injustice for Africa's HIV Positive People](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 20, 2014
  - [Setting the pace: global forum explores the way forward for men who have sex with men and transgender people](#)  
UNAIDS  
July 19, 2014
  - ['Do not be a statistic, but own the information that shapes programmes'](#)  
Citizen News Service  
July 19, 2014
  - [Australia's Strict Immigration Laws May Be a Barrier for AIDS 2014 Delegates: MSMGF](#)  
Star Observer  
July 19, 2014
  - [AIDS 2014: Gay Men, MSM and Transgender Pre-Conference Kicks Off in Melbourne](#)  
Science Speaks  
July 19, 2014
  - [Delegates Shaken by Loss of Colleagues as AIDS 2014 Pre-Conference on MSM and HIV Opens](#)  
Star Observer  
July 19, 2014
  - [The meaning of community and saying "No More to Exclusion"](#)  
Hispanic Health Equity  
July 19, 2014
  - [AIDS Activists Vow to Keep the Work of Perished Researchers Alive at Health Conference in Australia](#)  
Yotta Fire  
July 19, 2014
  - [Stepping Up the Pace Means Leaving Nobody Behind](#)  
Huffington Post  
July 17, 2014

- [US Global AIDS coordinator Deborah Birx to kick off Setting the Pace pre-conference](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 15, 2014
- [NZAF to Take Its Distinctive Perspective to AIDS 2014 in Melbourne](#)  
NZ Doctor  
July 15, 2014
- [World Health Organisation release guidelines for HIV prevention and treatment](#)  
Gay News Network  
July 14, 2014
- [ACON and AIDS 2014](#)  
Gay News Network  
June 29, 2014  
[Stories Covering General LGBT at AIDS 2014](#)
- [Nations oppressing gays 'a headache'](#)  
IOL News  
July 28, 2014
- [International AIDS Conference wraps up with a warning](#)  
Deutsche Welle  
July 25, 2014
- [Philippines in global radar due to high HIV infections](#)  
Yahoo! News  
July 25, 2014
- [Anti-gay laws can fuel spread of HIV, research finds](#)  
Detroit Free Press  
July 23, 2014
- [Anti-Gay Laws Impeding the Fight against HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)  
Star Observer  
July 23, 2014
- [HIV, homophobia and historical regression: where next for Uganda?](#)  
50.50  
July 23, 2014
- [HIV successes under threat from anti-gay crackdowns](#)  
Channel 4 News  
July 23, 2014
- [Anti-gay laws threatening HIV fight, South Asians tell AIDS conference](#)  
LGBT Weekly  
July 23, 2014
- [Sida: Chercheurs et activistes s'insurgent contre les lois homophobes](#)  
Huffington Post: Maghreb  
July 22, 2014
- [AIDS medicines unaffordable for many victims](#)  
Deutsche Welle  
July 21, 2014

- [World AIDS Conference speakers take aim at countries with anti-gay laws](#)  
Pink News  
July 21, 2014
- [AIDS: Anger flares at homophobic laws](#)  
Philippine Inquirer  
July 21, 2014
- [Calls to cut drug funding to nations with anti-homosexual laws](#)  
Radio Australia  
July 21, 2014
- ['Bad' laws hurt sex workers, gays from Uganda to Nepal, AIDS meeting told](#)  
Reuters  
July 21, 2014
- [African Anti-Gay Laws Challenge Health Care](#)  
BigNewsNetwork.com  
July 21, 2014
- [Discrimination Against Gays Threatens Spread of HIV/AIDS](#)  
Voice of America  
July 11, 2014
- [Las leyes contra los homosexuales potencian la propagación del VIH](#)  
El Universal  
July 21, 2014
- [Colère contre les lois homophobes](#)  
20 Minutes  
July 21, 2014
- [Leis que discriminam homossexuais ajudam na propagação do HIV](#)  
Saude Plena  
July 21, 2014
- [Activistas da sida em guerra contra países com leis homofóbicas](#)  
Publico  
July 21, 2014

MSMGF Co-Chair, Don Baxter also met with AIDS2014 Media Centre Director Michael Kessler to discuss entry points and media opportunities for optimum coverage of MSM and Trans people's issues throughout the MSMGF Pre-Conference and AIDS2014. This resulted in:

- Prominent, varied coverage throughout the Conference of African MSM activists' priorities and issues, focusing on Uganda and Nigeria but also other hostile African Governments (involving: Ifeanyi Orazulike [MSMGF Board member, Nigeria], Kene Esom [AMSHeR Director of Programs], Geoffrey Ogwaro [Uganda], Michael Ighodaro [Nigeria], Adonis Tchoudja [Cameroun] and Paul Semugoma [South Africa/Uganda] across both Anglophone and Francophone media);
- Keletso Makofane (MSMGF Senior Research Associate, based in Johannesburg), being included on the panel of the Centre's Media Confernece on 'Prevention' (Tuesday, July 22, 11am);

- Ifeanyi Orazulike (MSMGF), Gennady Roshchupkin (MSMGF) and Abina Aher (GATE) participating prominently as members of the panel of the Centre's Media Conference on 'Stigma & Discrimination' (Wednesday, 23 July 3pm);
- Attendance of 30+ MSM and Trans people from low/middle income countries at the Centre's 'Stigma & Discrimination' media conference, as requested by Centre Director Michael Kessler, a number of whom provided interviews individually to interested journalists after the media conference concluded;
- Detailed coverage of the launch of the M-Coalition (first Arab Coalition on MSM & HIV, launched at AIDS2014) in the Francophone media (Le Monde; Radio France; and Agence France Presse interviewing Johnny Tohme and Georges Azzi);
- Francophone coverage of MSM & Male Sex Worker issues in West Africa (Le Monde and Radio France with Adonis Tchoudja (MSMGF Steering C'tte);
- Linking MSM activists from the Philippines – which arguably has the most explosive epidemic of acute HIV infection in the world at present – with Filipino journalists at AIDS2014 (Jonas Bagas and Laurindo Garcia).

In addition, Baxter arranged an extended personal de-briefing discussion with Michael Kessler (held in Sydney on July 30) to review media outcomes from AIDS2014 and discuss media strategies and planning for the IAS Pathogenesis 2015 Conference (Vancouver) and AIDS2016 in Durban.

## INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP ON TRANSGENDER ISSUES

The MSMGF hosted a meeting of the International Reference Group on Transgender and HIV Issues (IRGT) on July 18 and 19 in Melbourne. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the group's mission and vision. The group laid the ground work for developing a policy and advocacy agenda. All IRGT members, except one, attended the two-day meeting. Other stakeholders also participated in the meeting (see list below) as the group felt it was important to have their input.

The two-day meeting provided an opportunity for all IRGT members to share time and network. They shared frank conversations about the state of the group and how to move the group forward. The discussions included: having a strong and unified voice as a global trans advocacy group; what and how to continue the relationship with the MSMGF (some members feel that the MSMGF may no longer be the most appropriate organization to house the group); and the need to develop infrastructure and resources for the group. The final strategic plan will provide a detailed analysis and recommendations on these issues based on the input provided during the meeting. Rachel Rubin, the strategic development consultant who facilitated the meeting, will have a final strategic plan by end of August.

UNAIDS Executive Director, Michel Sidibe, met with the IRTG group on Saturday July 19th to discuss the involvement of trans advocates in decision making processes, policy and programmatic agendas. It was an important opportunity for the UNAIDS director to have a formal introduction to the group as it sets the stage for future engagement with UNAIDS and other international allies.

IRGT participants included:

JoAnne Keatley, IRGT Co-Chair, USA  
Amitava Sarkar, IRGT Co-Chair, India  
Abhena Aher, member, India  
Justus Einfeld, member, USA  
Mauro Cabral, member, Argentina  
Jana Villayzan, member, Peru  
Aram Hosie, member, Australia  
Leigh Ann Van der Werme, member, South Africa  
Maria Sundin, member, Sweden  
Cecilia Chung, stakeholder, USA  
Nada Chaiyajit, stakeholder, Thailand  
Whitney Booysen, stakeholder, South Africa  
Sirman Shaikh, stakeholder, India  
Marcela Romero, stakeholder, Argentina  
Brenda Appleton, stakeholder, Australia  
Rachel Rubin, Consultant  
Omar Banos, MSMGF staff



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For more information about our pre-conference co-sponsors, please visit [www.msmsgf.org/aids2014](http://www.msmsgf.org/aids2014)

## EXPENSE REPORT

<b>MSMGF Pre-Conference</b>	<b>154,422</b>
Event Space Rental	29,281
Equipment Rental	37,999
Catering	14,884
Participant Materials	9,562
Printing & Shipping	1,019
Event Services and Volunteer Support	3,569
Conference Call Services	92
Speaker Travel & AIDS 2014 Registration	16,642
Staff Travel & AIDS 2014 Registration (for event production & advocacy)	41,374
<b>MSM Networking Zone at Global Village</b>	<b>5,403</b>
<b>Reception</b>	<b>11,977</b>
<b>MSMGF Board Meeting</b>	<b>44,962</b>
<b>International Reference Group on Trans* &amp; HIV Meeting</b>	<b>58,238</b>
Venue & Catering	8,532
Consultant Fee & Travel Expenses	10,078
Member Travel	28,569
Staff Support	2,641
Translation Services	3,737
Global Village Activities	4,681
<b>Indirect/Managed Services Agreement</b>	<b>9,315</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>284,317</b>