

KABATAANG GABAY SA POSITIBONG PAMUMUHAY (KGPP), INC.

"Celebrating 15 Years in Battling Exploitation and Co-creating Solutions for the Youth"

## Get to Zero and Be a Hero Campaign: The MDG2015 Countdown

2<sup>nd</sup> Starbucks Creative Update

February 28, 2013

### Learning from unheard voices: how the River of Life tools made young men in exploitative and illicit work tell their journey toward the brighter side of life

Cebu City Philippines –The River of Life Initiative engages 30 emergent leaders reaching 162 male sex workers, those afflicted with drug abuse and exploited youth groups with their duty-bearers to implement the Get to Zero and Be a Hero Campaign by 2015. The project supported the development and use of the River of Life tools to enableyoung people to address their risk behaviors andfacilitate a dialogue that help them share their behavior change milestones with their duty-bearers particularly the HIV care providers and the law enforcement agencies.

The initiative is a youth-led undertaking of the KabataangGabaysaPositibongPamumuhay and the Peers Enabling Each other's Recovery Social (PEERS) Network as a contribution to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Through the community empowerment approach, the organization wishes to transition its members as power holders in the response to HIV as well as tocombat trafficking for exploitation andto battle the proliferation of illicit drugs that fuels risky behaviors among youth.

The River of Life Initiative was enabled by the Starbucks Youth Action Grants – a key component of the Starbucks<sup>™</sup> commitment to communities through the YouthActionNet Program of the International Youth Foundation. The "Learning from Unheard Voices: A Dialogue" was an offshoot of the Public Service Project of the Philippines Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative Class of 2011 through the fund-raising platform of GlobalGiving. This provided a sustainable avenue for dialogue and co-operation between sex workers and drug addicts' withstakeholders that support them.

Success stories of community-based organizations adopting the River of Life Tools from the cities of Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, Zamboanga and Davao was presented at the Global Village during the XIX International AIDS Conference, on July 22 - 27, Washington DC, USA with the support from the International HIV/AIDS Alliance through its linking organization, the Philippine NGO Support Program (PHANSuP), Inc. and the Philippine National AIDS Council. Starbucks Youth Action Grants built upon these success and sustained grassroots efforts of youth in communities needing prevention resources most.

See the ROL Tools in Annex 1-2 and CBOs adopting the Tools in Annex 3.

### The River of Life Workshops

A total of fifteen out of the forty five community groups of the organization was enrolled in the initiative and a total of 162 membersparticipated in the River of Life Workshops. These groups include ten community groups of youth exposed to commercial sex in Iloilo, Cebu, Tondo andQuiapo in Manila, Cubao in Quezon City, Mindoro, Boracay and Guimaras, Pasay Rotondaand two community groups of male sex workers in the cities of Manila and Baguio and one support group of male masseurs and dancers based in Quezon City. Two community groups of people who inject drugs in Cebu representing fathers and their sons were also enrolled.

### Accountability toward own and peer groups' behavior change

A dialogue and river of life workshops was initiated for a migrant Muslim clan, a PEERS Network member based in Quiapo Manila which gained them access to the social hygiene clinic of Manila. Migrant Muslim youth in Manila are marginalized due to their religious background as well as their location in Quiapo which has a negative reputation in Manila. They do not have access to health services despite being exposed to exploitation.

The dialogue found out the common barriers for their bid to visit the clinic: (1) being a moslem and clinic staff are Christians, (2) fear of being reported to their parents and religious (Muslim) authorities, (3) being ashamed of talking about their risk behavior as it is taboo, (4) and no one to help them go to the clinic.



A youth shares his River of Life Output to Dr. Mendoza of the Manila Social Hygiene Clinic and discussed which behavior needs improvement, the time frame to which they plan to change and which behavior should be maintained. The sharing builds trust and after being open about their risk behaviors, the Physician takes the opportunity to do sexual health counseling



After self-assessment of risk behavior, this is followed by an individual the river of life workshop, and then the Clan develops their group river of life where they integrate all their scores into one poster-size output. They present their outputs with the clinic Physician. The group called their tool "agosngbuhay" or "flow of life" and the term was adopted by the PEERS Network members who speak the Tagalog language particularly in Metro Manila and Southern Luzon areas.

"Gusto naming na mas madalas naming gagawinangAgosngBuhaypara mas matulunganangamingmgamyembronanasapanganibnabahagiparamasundan naming angmgapagbabagonanangyayarisaamingbuhay at maipagmamalakisamingmgamagulang" (We want to conduct our River of Life regularly so that we can maintain the protective behaviors of those in the safer side of the river and help those in the danger side and be proud of our achievements to our parents". --WalidAbdulrahim, President, OtsFamillia Clan

### Dignity, Rights and Responsibility, the three streams of the River of Life

The organization's mission is founded on the principles of dignity, human rights and responsibility in its work across development themes of leadership, stewardship and entrepreneurship as set out in its 2015 and Beyond Behavior Change EntrepreneurshipStrategic Plan. Three River of Life templates were developed, one devoted for dignity which focuses on issues on trafficking, exploitation, and abuse and another for human rights which focuses on access to health, justice and social services and the last one for responsibility which focuses on prevention of HIV and reproductive health outcomes of exploitation.

"Sa ayaw man namin o gusto, kasamatalagaangmgamgaisyuukolsa, exploytasyon, druga, paninigarilyo, pag-inomngalak, at pornograpiyasaamingarawarawnatrabaho, alam naming namasamaangmgaitoperokinakailangannaibangRiver of Life tools anggagamitinnaangtinututukan ay angdignidad naming bilangtao at ditoilagayangmgaisyunapang aabuso at hindisa HIV prevention. "(Whether we like it or not, the issues of exploitation, drugs, smoking, alcohol and pornography are part of our daily work, we are aware that these are not good but a separate River of Life Tools should be developed to address these which focuses on human dignity in order for us to separate our risk to HIV and our risk of our dignity taken away from us".-- "Mark", Executive President

Furthermore, the Internet has become a lifestyle of youth and the negative aspects of their online behavior has been left unaddressed such as gaming addiction, cyber violence, pornographic exposure, and on-line sexual solicitation which interferes academic performance, aspirations to complete schooling, productive use of time and live normally. Furthermore, the impact of HIV prevention efforts of the organization has been rendered ineffective; addiction to on-line gaming is an emerging driver for HIV risk behaviors where a number of young people 8-17 years old are exposed to commercial sex as a source of income for their internet use subsistence. The practice becomes widespread that sexually transmitted infections among youth comes batch by batch and from a single source of infection.

"We have numerous batches of children and youth who are infected by Gonorrhea from one source of infection after being exposed to sexual exploitation one after the other. The perpetrators uses their victims to recruit new victims who are their brothers and their friends, they are intentionally offered to watch pornography for free and later threatenthem of being reported to their parents that they watch porn to silence them...We are burdened emotionally that we are helpless not to provide legal support to facilitate justice among sexually exploited children and youth in our HV and AIDS work. "--NemiaNerecina, Social Worker

While the organization has focused its work on HIV prevention in the past years, it integrated in its strategic plan issues surrounding trafficking for sexual purposes, exploitative labor, and drug trafficking.

"We cannot effectively address HIV if we do not address its drivers such as sexual exploitation, trafficking and drugs that go with sexual risk behaviors. It is just imperative to incorporate drug abuse prevention and combating trafficking in every HIV efforts "-- Mark Vincent Velasco, VP for the Visayas

Among our most marginalized members are the male masseurs in the mushrooming Spa industrywho are recruited from the provinces and most are those currently in Metro Manila looking for a job. They do not receive a salary or other benefits which compels them to solicit sex or 'extra service' to their clients. Seven joined the River of Life workshop held in Quezon City and they expressed their degrading conditions as well as their hopes for a more decent and dignified work.

"Hindi kami sinisweldohandahildawbinabayadsarentang building at kuryenteang income, perolibreangbed space.Kinukuha naming sa 'extra service' yung pang arawaraw naming pangastoslalonasapagkain. Pagrecruitsaamin, dapatmatikmanmuna kami ng may arikung pasado, umpisaagadsatrabaho". (We do not receive salary because we are told that the income is used to pay for the rent of the facility and the electricity but they provide us free bed space. We get our daily needs from the 'extra service'. When we were recruited, we should first have sex with the owner and when we pass, we start our work immediately)" -- 'Martin' of PEERS Network in Cubao

### Tailoring outreach strategies that look into behaviors while acknowledging self identities

In Metro Manila, HIV prevention has been focused on "males having sex with males" or MSMs which are dominated by openly gay populations while other MSM groups have no representation and voice to articulate their distinct vulnerabilities and risks. While male sex workers and those exposed to commercial and transactional sex exhibits regular exposure to MSM behavior, they are left unreached by HIV prevention programs due to their self-identification as "straights".

"Hindi kami mgabakla at gusto naming nameronkaming peer educators nalalakenakatulad din naming para mas komportable kami napagusapanangamingmgaproblemaspakikipagtalik. Nagugustuhan naming ang 'agosngbuhay' dahilangpinaguusapan ditto ay an amingmganakakapahamakna Gawain hindi kung anoka man, bakla, silahis o lalake." (We are not gays and we want to have our own peer educators who are straight like us so that we are comfortable to talk about our sexual behaviors. We love the river of life because we talk about our risk behaviors and what to do about it and not about whether we are gays or bisexuals just because we engage in sex with the same sex").- Anton, 13 year old Rookie (Peer Learner), PEERS Network in Quiapo.

"hard There is such as to reach populations" according the no thing to KabataangGabaysaPositibongPamumuhay. There are unreached HIV populations such as the sex workers and drug users not because they are hard to reach but because there is a mismatch betweencommunications strategies, messages and messengers and the realities in the field.

For our male constituencies, there are meanings attached to their sexual behavior, if it is sex with the same sex, it is commercial and if it is sex with the opposite sex, it is intimate. Almost all consider themselves "straight" despite technically being bisexual. The meaning they attach to their sexual engagements should be considered in developing an outreach strategy, prevention messages and appropriate messengers in order to reach them effectively and promote both attitudinal and behavior change accordingly... "Furthermore, the River of Life Initiative values the concept of "belonging" given the sensitive nature of the information being drawn out from members; it's only the people around them they feel belonged and trusted the clinic physicians and licensed nurses that are allowed to access these confidential data and not the community outreach workers or other clinic staff or volunteers".--- John Piermont Montilla, KGPP President

The peer-to-peer approach of the River of Life Initiative that value the concept of "belonging" also help HIV service providers to improve their retention of their already reached clients, recruitment of new clients and roll-out of new peer educator.

"In the past, whenever we visit their cruising site, they (male sex workers) ran away from us and we find it very difficult to reach them. Currently, we have two peer educators based in Recto and a mall where they do sex work. Through them, reaching out the female sex workers was also made easier since a number of them are their spouses, live-in partners and their peers. Reaching them is an accomplishment because they are the unreached MSM groups that are having sexual contact with both sexes potential in transmitting HIV from one source to their female sexual partners and also their infants". --Dr. Diana Mendoza, Social Hygiene Clinic Physician

# Beyond needle exchange: rebuilding dreams of people who inject drugs in Cebu through the River of Life workshops

In Cebu City, We Are One (For a Drug-free and AIDS Free Cebu) was established in December 26, 2011 and adopted the River of Life Tool through the support of the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Ten emerging leaders of the group from cities of Cebu, Lapu-Lapu and Mandauewere enrolled in the Behavior Change Entrepreneurship project. The Starbuck Youth Action Grants supported the inclusion of their children who will serve as inspiration and be instrumental in the transformation of their parents through the River of Life initiative.

"Karamihansaamingmgabatanagtuturoknarindahilsaimpluwensyangamingmgananay at tatay. Noongbata pa kami, kami angbumibiling drugs... nagpapasalamatkamisa 'sapasgkinabuhi' nanagpapamulatsaaminnai-pursigiangamingmgapangarappara ma bigyanginspirasyonangmgatatay at nanay naming nahuminotonasilasapagtuturok" (most of us who have parents who inject drugs also are into injecting drug use, most often times we are the one who purchase drugs from sources... We are thankful for the River of Life tools that made us rebuild our dreams and become an inspiration to our parents for them to stop practicing injecting drugs". -- Rommel, son of a RecoveringInjecting Drug "Every time we do this workshop we felt that there are still people who believes in us, I support this program because every time we feel the support, it continues to inspire us to keep on dreaming it's not just about needle exchange that other people think, it is also about our dreams, our families and future... I will organize a We Are One chapter in Mandaue City and will partner with our City Government." -- "Richard" Recovering Injecting Drug User from Mandaue

"We have many plans and we wish to be instrumental in the fight against drugs in our City particularly in the Barangays... We hope that the Government will continue to trust us and engage us in the campaign against drugs. We plan to initiate a fun run against drug abuse and use the income to support our social business plans"-- "Charlie" Recovering Injecting Drug UserfromLapulapu City

Some success stories are about personal and family struggles that have facilitated in the reintegration of recovering drug addicts to their estrange families.

"Because of our River of Life Initiative, I was reunited with my wife and son and I wish to redeem myself to them and let them see my transformation. Sometimes I fall back and recognize the need for support from my peers and those people who support me" -- "Jun" Recovering Injecting Drug User fromCebu City



ROL Output of IDUs presented during a Knowledge Fair



First Year Anniversary of WAO-Cebu together with PEERS NEwtork Cebu during a ROL Knowledge Fair and Planning held at the City Health Department



ROL Workshop: A social worker mentors learners during a River of Life Workshop



"In the response to HIV and AIDS, what is lacking is community organizing and leadership building among those afflicted with drugs. There is still stigma towards injecting drug users despite the attempts of others to change. The River of Life Initiatives however, continue to inspire a number of recovering drugs addicts to keep their resilience and sustain the progress of their behavior change and continue their peer outreach that we still need at the City Health Department"-- Dr. IlyaTac-an, Physician, Cebu City Social Hygiene Clinic

### The Annual River of Life Knowledge Fair and Learning from Unheard Voices Dialogue

River of Life outputs were collected and consolidated and presented by 30 behavior change entrepreneurs during the National Knowledge Fair participated by ten members of the River of Life National Consultative and Advisory Panel held in Guimaras Island. The results of the Knowledge Fair helped in the preparation of the 2015 and Beyond Strategic plan of the organization to combat trafficking and the health and social outcomes of exploitation such as HIV, reproductive health concerns, gender-based violence, youth crimes and other anti-social behaviors.

The dialogues seeks to establish a venue for a growing and life-long partnership between claim holders and duty bearers with the aim in integrating the River of Life tools in the already-available services and how results can assist governments in developing policies, programs and improve service delivery .Stakeholders are inspired by the performance of the behavior change entrepreneurs on how they use the River of Life tools in sustaining their behavior change as well as in sharing the brighter side of their lifegenerated strong supportthat build momentum in the fight against HIV, drugs, exploitation and trafficking.

### Gains and Strategic Imperatives for 2015 and Beyond

Through the support of Starbucks YouthActionGrants, the initiative has assisted the organization in the preparation of the 2015 and Beyond Behavior Change Entrepreneurship Strategic Planthat articulates and restates the vision, mission, goals, strategic interventions and key result areas of the organization that incorporates anti-trafficking and drug abuse efforts with HIV prevention interventions. The strategic plan is valuable to guide the organization in the development of its strategic program delivery plan and operational plan to be conducted on March 25-28, 2013to set out key activities for 2013-2015 across leadership, stewardship and entrepreneurship development themes.

The project has developed 30 successful behavior change entrepreneurs in three key HIV priority cities – Iloilo, Cebu and Manila and strengthened fifteen (15) community groups of youth strategically organized in trafficking hotspots in urban and tourism areas across the country. This achievement is valuable to upscale and strengthen efforts to areas, communities and populations unreached by HIV prevention and ant-trafficking programs.

The project through its "Learning from Unheard Voices series of Dialogues also had established a River of Life National Consultative and Advisory Panel who meets annually to meet critique the River of Life outputs and behavior change progress of the Behavior Change Entrepreneurs. A River of Life Consultation report is being prepared to be published and disseminated to stakeholders that showcase the new River of Life Tools and the results of the dialogues, the river of life workshops and knowledge fairs and inspirational stories of youth in their the journey toward the brighter side of life.

A summary of insights from key duty-bearers during dialogues and advocacies are highlighted in the next pages of this report.



"We need additional government budgetary allocation for HIV prevention, however, one of our difficulties is the lack of data, and the River of Life Tools apart from being a behavior change tool can also be used togather dataamong most-at-risk populations. The results are valuableto inform policy thatwill strengthening of our local AIDS council and will inform better programming".

-- Dr. Gina Pardilla, Planning Officer, Manila Health Department

This is the output that we need or we should require from our peer educators and not just attendance sheets and reports of peer outreach and education work. It validates that indeed they are reaching verifiable people and measuring the impact of their work to their peers. The tools also help our clinic monitor the behavior change of people accessing our services"

-- Dr. Diana G. Mendoza, Physician, Manila Social Hygiene Clinic



Quezon City Health Department

"The tools are very interesting and important in our HIV and AIDS work. It ensures peer educators not just to keep on doing peer education activities... but also reflect... document and measure the outcomes of their actions and be aware of the progress of their work and impact to their own and their group's sexual behavior".

-- Dr. Antonietta V. Inumerable, City Health Officer



City Health Department of Cebu City

"The river-of-life tool is new and innovative tools that are developed by the community themselves. Is one of the practical, easy and comprehensible community-driven tools that help most-atrisk individuals and their groups driving their own behavior change program, which goes along with the prevention, treatment and care interventions that we provide for them".

-- Dr. IlyaTac-an, Physician, Social Hygiene Clinic



City Health Office of Davao City

"The unique part of the River of Life Toolsis its client-initiated and learner-centered approach where in assessment of risk behaviors are prepared and maintained by the learner or the client which is less intimidating and invasive to privacy compared to an intake interview. The Tools give clients the opportunity in taking ownership of their own behavior change. Sharing their work with their peers (and service providers once trust is developed) acted as a great motivator toward behavior change and increased uptake of services.

-- Dr. JordanaRamiterre, Physician, Reproductive Health and Wellness Center

"One of the Filipino values is to feel belong to a group. This sense of community is a feeling that members matter to one another and a shared faith that member's needs is met through their commitment to be together to enable each other's recovery"... "The River of Life Tools made manifest this value which helps promote accountability toward own and peer group's behaviors. It works in a practical, cost-effective and efficient way in promoting behavior change. As a nurse and health provider, the tools can also be used to generate quality evidence and monitoring processes for the appraisal on how I am an effective facilitator".

-- Pricilla Senoc, River of Life Facilitator, Davao City Reproductive Health and Wellness Center



LigangMga Barangay saPilipinas- Iloilo City Chapter (League of Barangays in the Philippines)

"Under my leadership, we will see to it that each Barangays (Villages) will adopt the Get to Zero and Be a Hero Campaign to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and ensure that this innovative project, the River of Life Initiative will be jointly implemented in Barangays that are mapped as high-risk zones particularly in the coastal areas. We are happy that these tools enable our young people to address their own risk behaviors such as smoking, early sexual engagement and other concerns that make them at-risk of HIV and TB"

-- Hon. Carlos P. Guarin, President, LigangMga Barangay saPilipinas, Iloilo City Chapter



Task Force Moral and Values Formation on the Protection of Women and Children against Abuse and Exploitation (Formerly Task Force Adams Apple)

"It is for the same reason that we changed the name of the taskforce from "Task Force Against Drug Abuse, Movies, Anti-Prostitution and Pornography and Lewd Shows or ADAMS APPLE into Task Force Moral and Values Formation for the Protection of Women and Children against Abuse and Exploitation. We do not want to be misconstrued that we conduct raids to criminalize the victims but we conduct rescue operations to prosecute the violators of human rights and link the victims to available government services such as the City Health, TESDA, the DSWD, the Children and Women's Desk and KGPP among others to promote their moral recovery."

"Working with the KabataangGabaysaPositibongPamumuhay inspires us and enriches our work to combat human trafficking, exploitation and abuse because through them, we gain the trust of the victims and they take the lead. The Behavior Change Entrepreneurs who are tasked in implementing the River of Life Initiatives are not just emergent leaders but also exemplary leaders. Despite their conditions, I believe that they can help the SangguiniangKabataan(Youth Council)— to become more relevant with their youth work if they closely work together."

"Our Honorable Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog is supportive of the Get to Zero and Be a Hero Campaign and is looking forward that through this initiative the Iloilo City HIV/AIDS Council will soon be reconstituted and activated."

-- Hon. Jorge L. Duron, Chairperson, Task Force Moral and Values Formation 2009 outstanding Barangay Captains in the Philippines



Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office VII

"We want this River of Life Knowledge Fair to be regular initiated in Cebu in order for each stakeholder to include the communities of people afflicted with drugs to have increased understanding of drug abuse and its consequences. There will also be increased role clarification among stakeholders with regards supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction which is all part of a holistic response to drugs. Our mandate is supply reduction and prosecution, the City Health is for harm reduction and prevention and the River of Life is for demand reduction and behavior change. The periodic self-assessment is an excellent demand reduction intervention that complements the needle exchange program in order to provide opportunities for IDUs to become accountable to their own health"

-- Atty. Mauro Licen Legal Counsel, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

### About The River of Life Tools (ROL)

The ROL are set of learner- assistive and appreciative inquiry tools for behavior change and peer learningfacilitation designed for most-at-risk and marginalized communities. It was started in the year 2007 by the pioneers of KGPP and originally termed as "the self-measurement of change tools" during the ADB Capacity building for NGOs in Asia through the Constellation for AIDS Competence. It took the organization 8 years to develop the tools through the successive support from the UNICEF Country Program for Children 6, Starbucks through the YouthActionNet Program of the IYF, the UNODC through the Global Youth Network Asia-pacific Region, the Global Fund against AIDS, TB and Malaria Round 5, the Coke Barkada award and the TAYO Awards Foundation.

The River of Life Initiative is part of a larger program on Behavior Change Entrepreneurship the tools are used for the Get to Zero and Be a Hero Campaign of the PadayonPlus Network and the PEERS Network. It comes with packaged activities for enrolled community groups: One, the ROL workshops that produce individual and group outputs that generate valuable data and strategic information for behavior change programming. Two, the ROL Dialogues where results are shared in series of learning and solutions exchange with stakeholders valuable for policy advocacy and service delivery, and Three, the ROL Knowledge Fair that enable community groups showcase their ROL outputs, share their behavior change progress (stepping stones, milestones and millstones), their lessons and the next steps which are all valuable for capturing grassroots actions, linking community-driven results to the Local AIDS Plan, the National AIDS Medium Term Plan (AMTP), the MDGs and other shared commitments.

The workshops are done quarterly by the community chapters of the organization, the dialogues are initiated regularly with duty-bearers in the regions and the knowledge fairs are held bi-annually during Midyear and Year-end youth conferences that falls every AIDS Candlelight memorial and World AIDS Campaign. See Annex 1-3 for the ROL Tools

### About the KabataangGabaysaPositibongPamumuhay (KGPP)



KGPP is an association of boys and young men thriving in exploitative working environments in the Philippines and founded in 1998 in Iloilo City. Since its founding, the organization seeks to respond to the needs of young men who are victims of trafficking and exploitative labor that are neglected due to strong sociocultural norms that considers their experiences a rite of passage. It works to address the health and social consequences exploitation brings about to their lives and the lives of people in their spheres of influence. Activities of the organization are linked to its three portfolios on community leadership, stewardship and entrepreneurship with the goal of transforming community groups of vulnerable youth into behavior change entrepreneurs who are able to co-create and outsource practical solutions

to their everyday life concerns, rise above them and set their life stories as example of hope and positive change. Please visit our FB Page: <u>http://www.facebook.com/peersforpositiveliving/info</u>

### About the International Youth Foundation (IYF)



The International Youth Foundation (IYF) invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil-society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts of change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills,

make healthy choices, and improve their communities. To learn more, visit:www.iyfnet.org.

### About the Starbucks Youth Action Grants Program



The Starbucks Youth Action Grants program helps young people realize their natural potential to reinvent their local communities. The program is the primary vehicle through which the Starbucks Foundation invests in communities globally as part of the Starbucks commitment to communities where the company does business. Since launching the Fund in 2007, more than \$1.5 million has been invested in programs

around the world. The Fund is integral to the company achieving its goal by 2015 of engaging 50,000 young social entrepreneurs to innovate and take action and, in turn, to inspire 100,000 additional individuals to take action in their communities. For more information, please visit<u>www.starbucksfoundation.com/sef.</u>

#### About the Asia Society and the Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative



The Asia Society is an international organization dedicated to strengthening relationships and deepening understanding among the peoples of Asia and the United States. It seeks to enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts, and culture. Founded in 1956, the Asia Society is a

nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, and Washington, DC. For more information, contact the Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.

The Asia Society's Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit is part of a larger initiative designed to help emerging leaders from across the region to develop common approaches to meet its shared challenges. "The Asia 21 Summit brings together the region's most impressive young leaders to develop relationships, trust, and mutual understanding that can drive collaborative approaches for addressing the region's greatest challenges. For more information, please visit: <u>http://www.AsiaSociety.org/Asia2</u>

John Piermont Montilla, YouthActionNet Fellow of 2005 is also is Asia21 Philippines Young Leaders Fellow Class of 2011 and spearheaded the Public Services Project entitled "Learning from Unheard Voices: A Dialogue which is linked to the River of Life Initiative which aims at empowering 30 emerging leaders from most unheard voices in the Philippine HIV response to embark in a dialogue with Asia Society Fellows to learn and share knowledge that stimulate community-driven response. The Dialogue was selected by GlobalGiving for an on-line fundraising challenge. For more information, please visit http://www.globalgiving.org/photo/PRO6759/learning-from-unheard-voices-a-dialogue/

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## ANNEX 1 The River of Life Tools

### Background

The ROL are set of learner- assistive and appreciative inquiry tools for behavior change and peer learning facilitation designed for most-at-risk and marginalized communities. It was started in the year 2007 by the pioneers of Kabataang Gabay sa Positibong Pamumuhay and originally termed as "the self-measurement of change tools" during the ADB Capacity building for NGOs in Asia through the Constellation for AIDS Competence. It took the organization 8 years to develop the tools through the successive support from the UNICEF Country Program for Children 6, Starbucks through the YouthActionNet Program of the IYF, the UNODC through the Global Youth Network Asia-pacific Region, the Global Fund against AIDS, TB and Malaria Round 5, the Coke Barkada award and the TAYO Awards Foundation.

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Currently, there are nine (9) CBOs, one (1) NGO, and five (5) HIV care providers who are adopting the River of Life Tools in their HIV prevention, treatment and care work across the country. A National River of Life National Consultative and Advisory Panel composed of stakeholders from the social hygiene clinics, law enforcement agencies and civil society organizations who meet every year to provide support for the River of Life Initiatives of the CBOs

### Introduction

The River of Life tools provides a compelling allegory of human experiences through its artisticallymotivated and learner-centered way of addressing risk behaviors. It illustrates the two sides of life, one the danger side and the other the safer side where the individual strives to cross one step at a time in which the tools serve as guide to the traveler all the steps of the way toward the brighter side of life.

The concept of which is the creative transformation of experiences from factual data symbolically substituted into an abstract idea through artistic representation of the vulnerabilities, and the risk and protective factors of the individual participant. The parts of the river represent the human environment and the river itself represents the journey of the individual toward his dreams and aspirations readying him for the "ocean" which is his future.

The river starts with the source which is allegorically termed as streams of life, embodying the principles of dignity, rights and responsibility. The bigger river where the small streams flow is termed as the "River" and is represented by the two sides, allegorically termed as the danger side and the safer side. The basin of the river is divided into six levels allegorically termed as stepping stones starting from the danger side and ends at the safer side. The stepping stones represent the risk scores and are described as: 5 = extreme, 4 = very high, 3 = high, 2 low, 1 = very low and 0 = zero risk. The risks scores originate from the Self-Assessment template and are incorporated in the ROL tool and are represented by sad and happy emoticons.

### The Toolkit

The ROL is composed of four tools, the dream-building template (tree of dreams), the selfassessment (SA) templates (SAs on dignity, rights and responsibility), and the individual and group river of life templates. The tree of dreams help the individual visualizes his dreams and aspirations, the SAs help the individual assess his behaviors and clearly benchmarks his change goals in the areas of dignity (risk of estrangement from own being), rights (risks of human rights being violated) and responsibility (risk of acquiring or transmitting HIV and other reproductive health consequences). The individual river of life template help the individual visualizes his behavior in a form of a risk map and the group river of life help the peer group visualizes the behaviors of its members and determines who among them are in the danger side and who are in the safer side.

<u>Self-assessment of Risk-behavior</u> -Many HIV key populations find it invasive no matter how respectful intake interviews are done with regards sexual risk behaviors. Majority would not tell their actual behavior out of fear and shame. The self-assessment of risk behavior addresses this concern as it promotes self-inquiry, self-recognition of risk behavior, and protection of privacy. It improves the individual's self-perception of risk and health-seeking behavior.

The self-assessment template consist of various risk behavior and a six level scales corresponding the levels of risk (0 = zero risk, 1 = very low risk, 2 = low risk, 3 = high risk, 4 = very high risk and 5 = extreme risk. After each items are the behavior change goals setting where the individual selects an appropriate change goals he wishes for a certain period.

### Figure 1: Sample SA Template (for Sex Workers and IDUs)

### **River of Life Tools**

TEMPLATE 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT OF F	RISK BEHAVIOR		Stream # 3: Responsibility
3ª version 01.12.12			
Name/Alias:	Sex: Ag	e: Group:	Chapter:
City/Region:	Peer Facilitator:	Clinic/Service Provider:	
Date of Current Assessment:	Period of Current Assessment:	Date of Next Asses	sment:

Instruction: In the past 3 months, please assess your current HIV behaviors surrounding risk factors: (1) injecting drug use, (2) various sexual activities, and (3) situations that lead you to unsafe injecting practice and unprotected sexual encounter. Put a check mark if you have "ever" had an exposure of the risk factor, if the response is a "yes"; assess your status by shading the number that represents the frequency of your exposure to the behaviour. Finally, provide a target benchmark for your change goal for the next assessment period for each behaviour by shading the number of your choice at the right portion under each assessment area. Do not leave any items blank.

#### 1 . . ... . . . . . . . .

I

<sup>1.</sup> Hav	e you <u>ever</u> used drugs through inje	ection?						
[])	fes, proceed to 1.1 and 1.2	[ ] No, sha	de zero to choice	es in items 1.1 and	d 1.2			
1.1	How frequent do you use illicit drugs through injection:	At least once a day 5	At least once a week (4)	At least once a month 3	Once in the past 2 months	Once in the past 6 months	abstained for the period	Change goal for the next assessment period (5) (4) (3) (2) (1) (0)
1.2	Safer injecting drug practice: How consistent is your harm reduction practice to reduce the harm of injecting	shared with same unsterile needles	shared with same needles but sterilised	shared but with new needles per person	injected drugs but did not shared	used drugs but did not inject	abstained for the period	000000
	drugs to your health?	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	$\odot$	543210
	e you <u>ever</u> had sexual experience							
[]]	es, proceed to 2.1 and 2.2	[ ] No, sha	de zero to all cho	pices in items und	er 2.1 and 2.2			
2.1	which behaviour and how frequent?	At least once a day	At least once a week	At least once a month	Once in the past 2 months	Once in the past 6 months	abstained for the period	Change goal for the next assessment period
	a. Oral Sex (ikaw ang tsinupa)	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
	b. Oral Sex (ikaw ang nag tsupa)	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210
	c. Vaginal Sex (tinira ang babae)	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
	d. Anal Sex (ikaw ang nagtira sa puwit)	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
	e. Anal Sex (ikaw ang tinira sa puwit)	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
22	Safer sexual practice: How consistent do you use condoms in every sexual activities you engage with	without condoms to all sexual activities with all partners	with condoms to selected sexual partners	with condoms to all partners but not to intimate partner	with condoms to all vaginal and anal sex except oral sex	with condoms to all sexual activities with all partner	abstained for the period/ practiced non- penetrative sexual activities	
	among your various sexual partners?	5	4	3	2	1	$\bigcirc$	543210
2								

<sup>3.</sup> Have you ever experienced situations or circumstances that lead to unsafe injecting practice and unprotected sexual encounter?

[]Yes,p	roceed to 3.1	[ ] No, sha	de zero to all cho	ices in items und	der 3.1			
<sup>3.1</sup> whi	ch situation and how frequent?	Always	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Change goal for the next assessment period
a.	Being under the influence of illicit drugs before and/or during sex and/or injecting drug use	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
b.	Being under the influence of alcohol before and/or during sex and/or injecting drug use	5	4	3	2	1	0	\$43210
C.	Being coerced not to use condoms	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	543210
d.	Having sex while pretending to be asleep	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	$\odot$	543210
e.	Going to sex without bringing enough condoms	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	543210

Facilitators of the ROL workshop assists individuals to perform dream-building activities and selfassessments using SA Tools. This tool is for Responsibility that tackles HIV risk behaviors

<u>The Individual River-of-Life</u> - HIV key populations who subject themselves to HIV prevention, treatment and continuum of care most often times leave the clinic and return to their communities to be again exposed peer pressure and to risk behaviors. Effects of counseling and education most-often time are rendered ineffective. The Individual River-of-Life addresses this concern and serves as a visual of the individual HIV risk behaviors which guide the individual to be regularly reminded of his/her risk as well as his/her behavior change goals and journey toward the safer side of the river.



The facilitator of the ROL workshop assists individuals to developing their individual ROL output by incorporating the dream, the SAscores and the change benchmarks to the Individual River of Life template and allow them to do color coding to identify the scores (in red), the benchmarks (yellow), the blue (the achieved change) and the green (the change to be achieved)

<u>The Group River-of-Life</u>- Peer influence is a driver for HIV risk behaviors, peer members who have higher risk are the one influencing those who have lower or no risk to engage in riskier behavior as part of their peer sexual subculture of the group. The group River-of-Life addresses this concern and serves as a visual of who among the member of the peer-group have higher risk known as "members who have something to learn" and those who have lower risk known as "members who have something to share" which guides the group in their peer helping activities to help their group reduce risk and make their group competent



Peer group members develop a group ROL by incorporating scores of all members to one poster size ROL and allow them to do color coding to identify the scores (names or nicknames of members), the blue (status of the group in terms of their competence or areas to be maintained) and the green (status of the group in terms of the areas to be worked on) then facilitate brainstorming, interpret and share results with peer group members, validation of results and identification of members with low risk and members with high behaviors and benchmark behavior change plan for a certain period.

As a rule, members with high-risk behavior are called "members who have something to learn" and members with low risk are called "members who have something to share" and jointly plan for HIV prevention, treatment, care and peer helping activities where those in the safer side of the river help those in the danger side.

The group ROL are collected and analyzed to generate strategic information for policy development through River of Life Dialogues with duty-bearers and develop their River-of-Life portfolio that showcases the progress of their behavior change and the new knowledge and skills to be maintained and shared to other groups and to influence policies and programs in their local communities

### The ROL Workshop: Making Behavior Change Fun and Exciting

Sexuality is a taboo issue and is only discussed in groups where an individual is associated and accepted. Since most information that are exchanged during group sessions are not accurate and most often times drive the group to experiment, explore and allow themselves to engage in risk behavior to gain experience, the River-of-Life workshop is designed as a fun way to discuss sexuality.

The template resembles a "river" with two sides, the safer side and the danger side. The risk levels scales 0-5 are transformed into "rocks of life" that resemble a bridge where the individual journeys from the danger side to the safer side of the river and attain the lowest or zero risk levels for both the individual and the group. The risk scores are shaded red, below the scores are shaded green and above the scores are shaded blue. The aim of the individual and the group is to have a river with more areas shaded in blue to reflect competence. During validation and subsequent workshops, progress is measured "improved", "no improvement" and "relapsed" during peer sharing and learning interactions.

<u>Peer-to-Peer and Peer Assisted</u> – Given the sensitive nature of the information being drawn out from individuals and their peer groups; it's only the people around them they feel belonged as well as their trusted confidants and those they have established trusts such as the clinic physicians and the licensed nurses that are allowed to access these confidential data and not the community outreach workers or other clinic staff or volunteers. It is for these reasons that the dynamics of the ROL workshops, referrals and behavior change communications strictly uses the peer to peer and peer assisted methodology for peer education, partner education and public education.

- Peer education: if the target is one's peer group whom he feels belongs and identified with,
- Partner education: if the target is one's sexual partner whether commercial or intimate
- Public education: if the target is the public

<u>Learner-centered</u> – The River-of-Life Toolkit encourages learner autonomy, competence-building and accountability towards own behavior change. It offers behavioral impact to exercise control over own behavior and evaluate own outcome which complements the already available interventions. It guarantees confidentiality, anonymity and privacy which influence services to be delivered with respect and dignity thus increasing uptake of services of people who are victims of exploitation. When conducting an ROL workshop, facilitators adopts the 5 steps of the workshop

- Step 1: **Performing:** Perform dream-building activities and self-assessments using SA Tools
- Step 2: **Transforming**: 2.1 Developing individual ROL output by incorporating the dream, the SAscores and the change benchmarks to the Individual River of Life template. 2.2 Developing a group ROL by incorporating scores of all members to one poster size ROL output
- Step 3: **Brainstorming:** interpret and share results with peer group members, validation of results and identification of members with low risk and members with high behaviors and benchmark behavior change plan for a certain period
- Step 4: **Norming:** members with high-risk behavior "have something to learn" and members with low risk "have something to share" and jointly plan for HIV prevention, treatment, care and peer helping activities to help lower the risk of those who are in the danger side of the river
- Step 5: **Forming:** peer groups engages in a dialogue with among themselves, other groups and their duty-bearers and develop their River-of-Life portfolio that showcases progress of their behavior change (stepping stones, milestones and millstones), the lessons (new knowledge, skills and practices) and next steps (behavior change, policy, program and service delivery recommendations).

<u>Appreciative Inquiry</u> - When adults are involved in community work and meet with communities they look for their strengths. They do not look for weaknesses. The ROL adopt SALT in each step of the process.

- **S**: stands for Stimulate, Support
- A: stands for Appreciate
- L: stands for Listen, Learn and Link
- **T** : stands for Transfer, Team

### The Sample Workshops

Workshops are done in serene and tranquil venues such as beaches, mountains, farms and islands to facilitate a deep reflection of the self, the ego, the "I". The Goal of the ROL is to facilitate behavior change among members of each groups or communities using their own resources in the journey of each member from the danger side to the safer side of the river and attain zero or at least level 1 risk for both the individual and the group.





MyPEERS.net Quiapohave completed 6 AgosngBuhay Workshops since its formation on 2010. The series of workshops generated 10 self assessments, 10 individual and 1 group "AgosngBuhay" outputs. In March and June of 2012, two AgosngBuhay workshops was held in Manila and one in the Manila Social Hygiene Clinic participated by 10 at-risk muslim youth. This one is held on March 27, 2010.



In Manila City, the Manila Social Hygienic Clinic facilitated a river-of-life workshop for a clan of Muslim migrant youth on March 10, 2012 to discuss their risk behaviors and develop their individual and group river of life. They called their output, "AgosngBuhay" or streams of life.

At the clinic, each member pasted their individual outputs at a wall and discussed the status of their behavior with the Dr. Mendoza, the SHC Physician. The group output was presented by their leader and identified the members who have high risk and members who have low risk and committed to help those at the danger side of the river to cross the safer side of the river through peer

education, referrals to the clinic and counseling.







## ANNEX 2 The Templates

### A. Self-Assessment

### **River of Life Tools**

TEMPLATE 1: SELF-ASSESSMENT OF RISK BEH	HAVIOR				Stream # 3: Responsibility
3 <sup>rd</sup> version 01.12.12					
Name/Alias:		Sex:	Age:	Group:	Chapter:
City/Region:	Peer Facilitator:			Clinic/Service Provider:	
Date of Current Assessment:	Period of Curre	ent Assessme	ent:	Date of Next Assessment:	

Instruction: In the past 3 months, please assess your current HIV behaviors surrounding risk factors: (1) injecting drug use, (2) various sexual activities, and (3) situations that lead you to unsafe injecting practice and unprotected sexual encounter. Put a check mark if you have "ever" had an exposure of the risk factor, if the response is a "yes"; assess your status by shading the number that represents the frequency of your exposure to the behaviour. Finally, provide a target benchmark for your change goal for the next assessment period for each behaviour by shading the number of your choice at the right portion under each assessment area. Do not leave any items blank.

<sup>1.</sup> Have you **ever** used drugs through injection?

[]Y	es, proceed to 1.1 and 1.2	[ ] No, sha	de zero to choice	es in items 1.1 and	d 1.2			
1.1	How frequent do you use illicit druas through injection:	At least once a day	At least once a week	At least once a month	Once in the past 2 months	Once in the past 6 months	abstained for the period	Change goal for the next assessment period
	drugs intougn njecion.	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210
1.2	Safer injecting drug practice: How consistent is your harm reduction practice to reduce the harm of injecting	shared with same unsterile needles	shared with same needles but sterilised	shared but with new needles per person	injected drugs but did not shared	used drugs but did not inject	abstained for the period	
	drugs to your health?	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210

#### <sup>2.</sup> Have you **ever** had sexual experience before?

[ ] Yes, proceed to 2.1 and 2.2	[ ] No, sha	de zero to all cho	pices in items une	der 2.1 and 2.2		
	At least	At least	Atleast	Once in the	Once in the	

2.1	which behaviour and how frequent?	At least once a day	At least once a week	At least once a month	Once in the past 2 months	Once in the past 6 months	abstained for the period	Change goal for the next assessment period
	a. Oral Sex (ikaw ang tsinupa)	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210
	b. Oral Sex (ikaw ang nag tsupa)	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210
	c. Vaginal Sex (tinira ang babae)	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
	d. Anal Sex (ikaw ang nagtira sa puwit)	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543210
	e. Anal Sex (ikaw ang tinira sa puwit)	(5)	4	3	2	1	0	543210
2.2	Safer sexual practice: How consistent do you use condoms in every sexual activities you engage with among your various sexual partners?	without condoms to all sexual activities with all partners	with condoms to selected sexual partners	with condoms to all partners but not to intimate partner	with condoms to all vaginal and anal sex except oral sex	with condoms to all sexual activities with all partner	abstained for the period/ practiced non- penetrative sexual activities	
	anong your various sexual partiers?	(5)	(4)	3	2	(1)	$\odot$	543210

<sup>3.</sup> Have you ever experienced situations or circumstances that lead to unsafe injecting practice and unprotected sexual encounter?

[] Yes, p	roceed to 3.1	[ ] No, sha	ade zero to all choi	ices in items un	der 3.1			
<sup>3.1</sup> whi	ch situation and how frequent?	Always	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Change goal for the next assessment period
a.	Being under the influence of illicit drugs before and/or during sex and/or injecting drug use	5	4	3	$\bigcirc$	1	0	543210
b.	Being under the influence of alcohol before and/or during sex and/or injecting drug use	5	4	3	2	1	0	\$43210
С.	Being coerced not to use condoms	5	4	3	2	1	0	543210
d.	Having sex while pretending to be asleep	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	$\bigcirc$	543210
e.	Going to sex without bringing enough condoms	5	4	3	2	$\bigcirc$	0	543200



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## B. Individual ROL Template

				S	AFER S	IDE /L	IGTAS	NA BA	HAGI					
0	(I:													
1	:													
2	:>>													
3	(ζ:													
4	4													
5	D:													
Beha	viours	Injecting Drugs	Safe Injecting Practice	Anal Sex	Anal Sex	Vaginal Sex	Oral Sex	Oral Sex	Safe Sex Practice	Sex Under the Influence of Drugs	Sex Under the Influence of Alcohol	Sex in exchnage to favors, privilges, and money	Exposure to porn during sex	
				DAN	IGER SI	DE/PA	ANGAN	IB NA	BAHA	GI				

### **B.1 Individual ROLMeasurement and Interpretation**



## Interpreting Results for Individual River of Life

LEGEND:	INTERPRETATION	SCALE 0	INTERPRETATION Zero Risk
Color Coding		-	
Green Shaded Area	Area of Improvement/Weakness	1	Very Low Risk
Blue Shaded Area	Area of Comptence/Strength	2	Low Risk
Red Shaded Area	Current Risk Score of Individual	3	High Risk
Yellow Stars/Circles	Change Objectives for the next Period	4	Very High Risk
		5	Extreme Risk

#### BEHAVIOR CHANGE OBJECTIVES

Quarterly Objectives	Annual Objectives	Lifetime Objective
Reduce Risk level of Risk -behavior	Reduce Green Area	Achieve 80-100% of river shaded blue by meeting zero
	Increase Blue Area	or at least level one in each risk behavior
MEASURING PROGRESS	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
Measuring progress starts during second river- of-life workshop done every quarter. The first	Maintained Protective Behavior	Maintained zero or level 1 status
output serves as baseline.	Improved	Progressed to at least one level toward safer side
	Maintained Risk Behavior	Remained at previous status (2-5 levels of risk)
	Relapsed	Retrogressed to at least one level toward danger side

### C. Group ROL Template



### C.1 Group ROL Measurement and Interpretation

## Measuring Progress for Group River-of-Life

PROGRESS	OUTCOME									
Maintained Protective Behavior										
Improved										
Maintained Risk Behavior										
Relapsed										

## **Interpreting Results for Group River of Life**

LEGEND:	INTERPRETATION	SCALE 0	INTERPRETATION Zero Risk
Color Coding	_		
Green Shaded Area	Area of Improvement/Weakness of Group	1	Very Low Risk
Blue Shaded Area	Area of Comptence/Strength of Group	2	Low Risk
Cells with names	Current Risk Score of Individual members	3	High Risk
Members at the safer side	Members who have something to share (lower risk)	4	Very High Risk
Members at the danger side	Members who have something to learn (higher risk)	5	Extreme Risk

#### BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVES

Quarterly Objectives	Annual Objectives	Lifetime Objective
For thiose in the safer side of the river, help members	Reduce Green Area of the group	Achieve 80-100% of river shaded blue by making at least 80% of members
who are in the danger side through peer education	Increase Blue Area of the group	at the safer side of the river
MEASURING PROGRESS	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
Measuring progress starts during second river- of-life workshop done every quarter. The first	Maintained Protective Behavior	Maintained zero or level 1 status
output serves as baseline.	Improved	Progressed to at least one level toward safer side
	Maintained Risk Behavior	Remained at previous status (2-5 levels of risk)
	Relapsed	Retrogressed to at least one level toward danger side

ANNEX 3 CBOs and NGOs adopting the River of Life Tools

