

# PILOTING ACTIVITIES OF PrEP IN VIETNAM

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November 2016



## Overview

### How PrEP was introduced in Vietnam?

**9/2015** "PrEP" started to become a topic among MSM in Vietnam. There was a lot of controversies over the effectiveness, side effect, price, feasibility etc.

**End of 2015**, CARMAH (Centre for Applied Research of Male Health) based in Saigon, with support of APCOM launched a social media campaign on PrEP: localize information of PrEP into Vietnamese, organize consultation workshop and produce video interviewing MSM-TG on PrEP



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## What is PrEP?

Does this mean I need to take PrEP for the rest of my life once I take it?



## Activities to introduce PrEP (cont.) – By the CBOs

- **Area: HCMC and other cities/provinces**
- **To introduce PrEP further to MSM-TG community**
- **Community communication:**
  - ✓ MSM and TG community-based organizations integrates the knowledge of PrEP into group communication sessions to MSM-TG community in HCMC;
  - ✓ Social media communication, e-newsletter on PrEP;
- **Community Outreach:** Outreach workers also include PrEP information in conversation with MSM-TG clients;



## Activities to introduce PrEP (preparation)

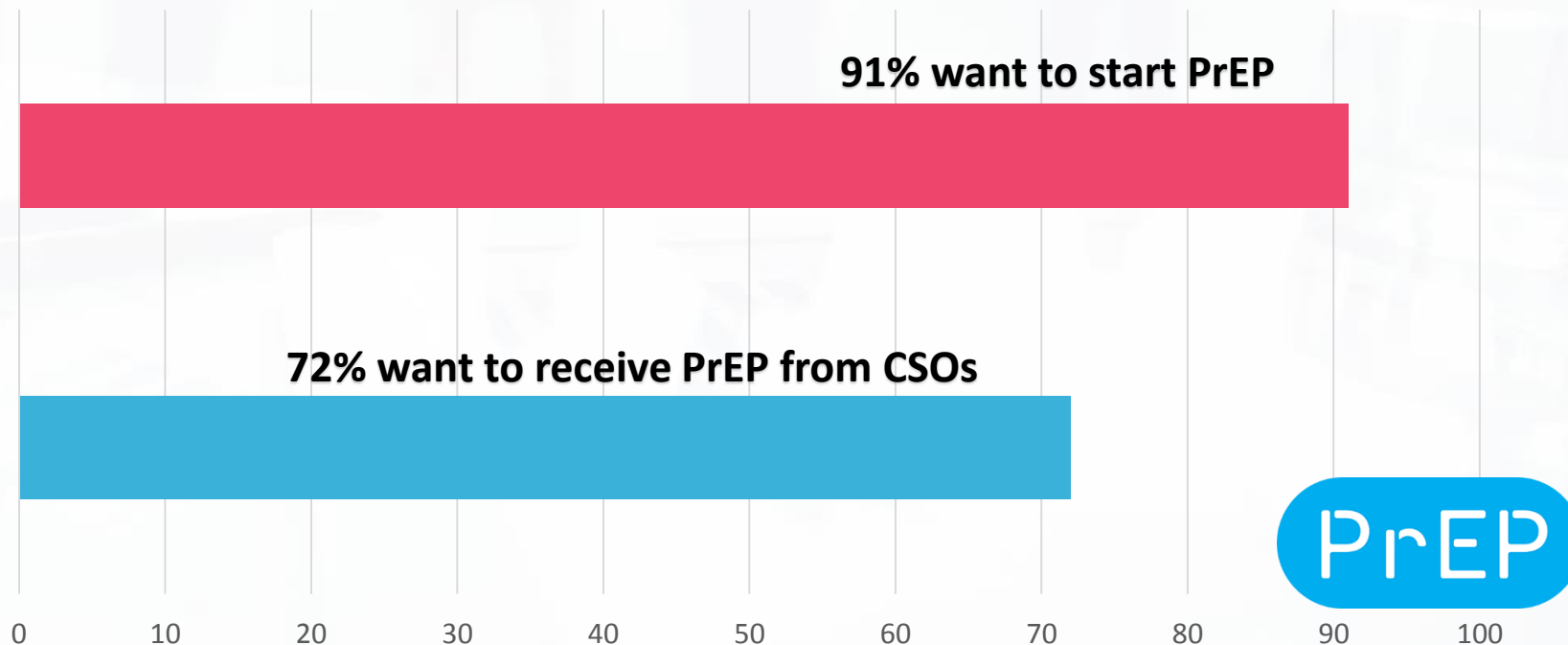
- **Area: Ho Chi Minh City**
- **11/2015, Community Consultation Meeting on PrEP (UNAIDS & Center for Applied Research in Male Health CARRMAH);**
- **03/2016, PrEP Technical Update Conference (WHO & USAID);**
- **08/2016, Training for PrEP Survey in MSM-TG (USAID, PATH & CCIHP);**
- **09/2016, Meeting on implementation of PrEP piloting plan in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam Agency of AIDS Control (VAAC) & PATH);**
- **09/2016, PrEP Study Tour in Thailand for CSOs (USAID & PATH);**
- **11/2016, Orientation workshop on PrEP piloting plan in Ho Chi Minh City (VAAC, HCMC AIDS Center, USAID & PATH);**
- **10-11/11/2016, Training workshop on PrEP (PATH & Center for Promoting Life Quality LIFE).**



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## PrEP Use Needs

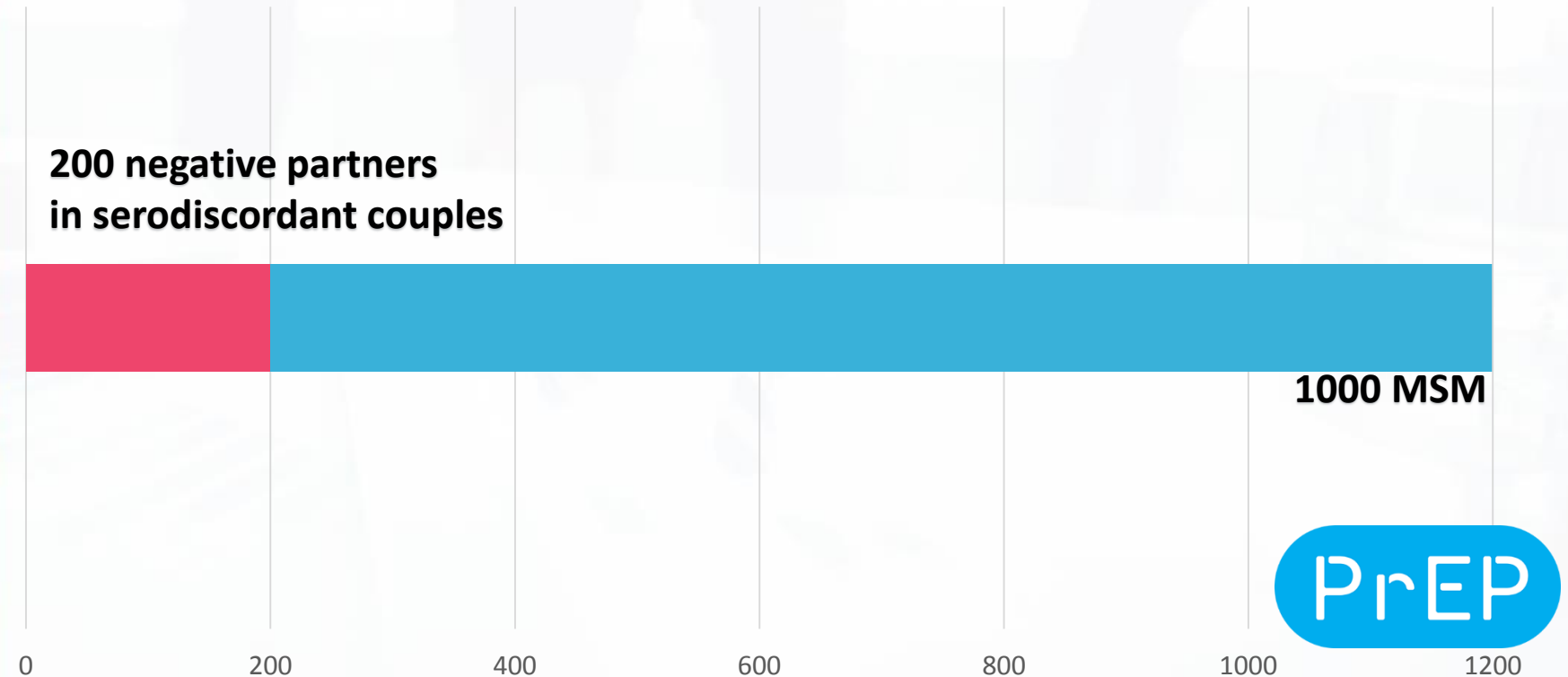
Recent baseline survey (July – September 2016) conducted **Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH)** and **Center for Creative Initiatives in Health and Population (CCIHP)** in 799 MSM and TGW in Ho Chi Minh City has found:





## PrEP piloting plan in Ho Chi Minh City

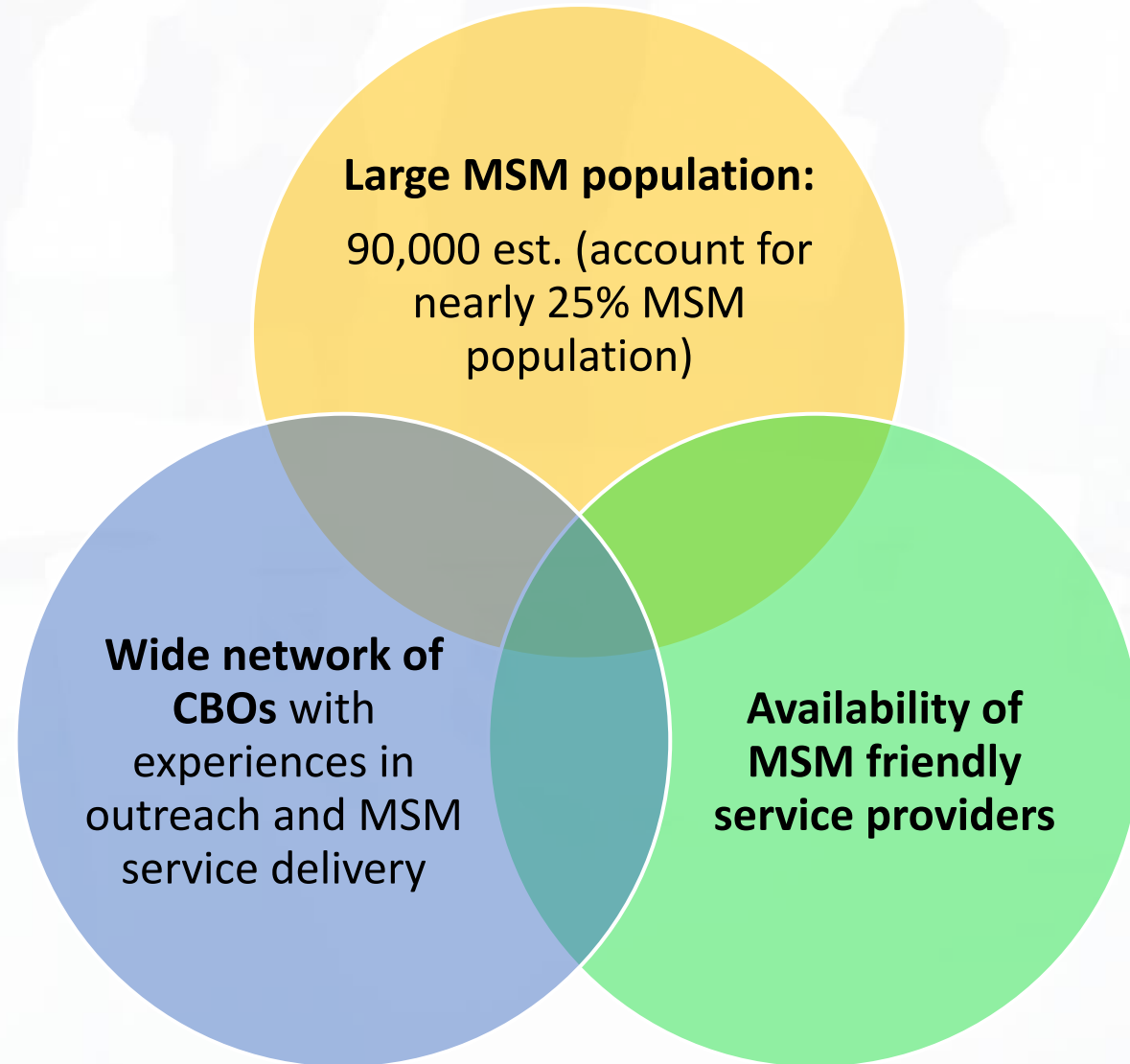
Vietnam Agency of AIDS Control (VAAC) has approved the PrEP piloting plan for 1,200 people in Ho Chi Minh City (implemented by PATH) in 18 months, including:





## PrEP Piloting Plan in Ho Chi Minh City (cont.)

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## First community-based friendly clinic for MSM G-link Vietnam

- **The first community-based clinic in Vietnam:** G-link clinic and pharmacist's have opened in June 2016, targeting MSM and TG women;
- **Wide ranges of services:** HIV testing, treatment of ART, PEP, STI and other health care services;
- **Friendly services – Flexible Time,** provide financial support for clients who have financial difficulties;
- **Have access to subsidized medicine sources:** Successfully negotiate to reduce the price of ARV for ARV, PEP treatment.







## PrEP Piloting Plan in Ho Chi Minh City (cont.)

Will be implemented in two models:

### Via Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- CBOs will implement outreach targeting key populations (MSM);
- Health screening tests and treatment will be delivered by doctors from health centers/clinics in CBOs offices;
- Upon doctor's prescription, PrEP can be bought in listed pharmacist's.

Services are provided directly in Clinics:

- **Community – based clinics;**
- **Expanding to private clinics**



## Challenges:

The piloting implementation of PrEP in Vietnam encounter following challenges:

- Because it is piloting program, local CBOs have little experiences while global knowledge on PrEP implementation is limitedly documented;
- MSM-TG community still have concern that PrEP intake will have side effects disturbing their life in terms of health, ability to work/study, etc.
- Medicine cost is one factor affecting the PrEP treatment adherence because most MSM-TG have unstable income;
- No financial plan to scale up the implementation;



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**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**