

Group Exercise: Seven Steps of Using Information in Decision Making

Case Study: Improving Services for Female Commercial Sex Workers

Background

A cornerstone of the Government of Maldonia's HIV strategy is to reduce HIV incidence through interventions that prevent new infections. In a 2010 annual report on HIV and AIDS produced by the National Aids Control Commission, evidence suggested that female sex workers were a key driver of the HIV epidemic in Maldonia.

The government has made significant achievements in improving the delivery of HIV prevention activities. To further support these efforts, DANIDA, the Danish International Development Agency, has been providing financial support to five provinces in Maldonia.

Decision

DANIDA recently announced that additional funds will be made available to expand support to assist this high-risk target group of female commercial sex workers (FCSW). However, the funds are only sufficient to provide further support to one of the five provinces. One of these provinces must be selected.

Seven Steps to Use Information to Improve Programs

1. Identify questions
2. Prioritize questions
3. Identify data needs & potential sources
4. Transform data into information
5. Interpret information & draw conclusions
6. Craft solutions & take action
7. Continue to monitor key indicators

Your Task

Using the data provided, draft a recommendation to DANIDA on the province that should receive the additional funding. You are required to justify why you have made this selection and explain how you will determine if the extra funding improves the HIV prevention program in that province.

Instructions

To complete this task, follow the *Seven Steps of Using Information in Decision Making Framework*.

Steps 1 – 4 have been completed in this document. Review Steps 1 – 4, stopping along the way to assess and make key conclusions. Then continue with Steps 5 – 7 (further instructions provided below). After your team has completed Steps 1 – 7, draft a statement to DANIDA that includes:

- A) Which province your team recommends DANIDA support with additional funds.

- B) Why this province was selected (refer to available data).
- C) Recommended activities to improve services for FCSWs.
- D) At least 2 indicators to monitor performance.

Step 1 & 2: Identify and prioritize questions of interest

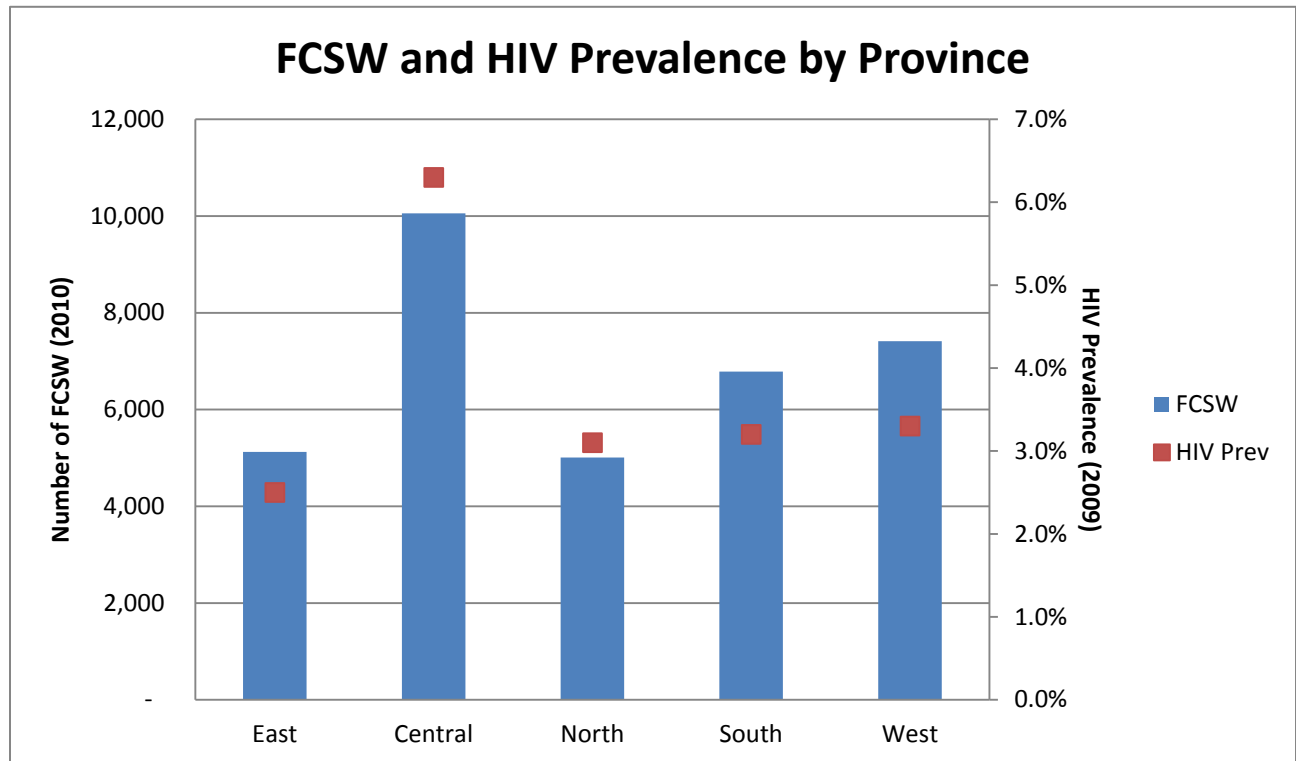
It has been decided that the priority questions of interest are:

- 1) What is the estimated size of the Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSW) population in each province?
- 2) What is the HIV prevalence in the FCSW population in each province?
- 3) What is the performance of HIV prevention activities in each province?
- 4) For the provinces with low performance, what were the problems?

Step 3 & 4: Identify data needs and potential data sources & transform data into information

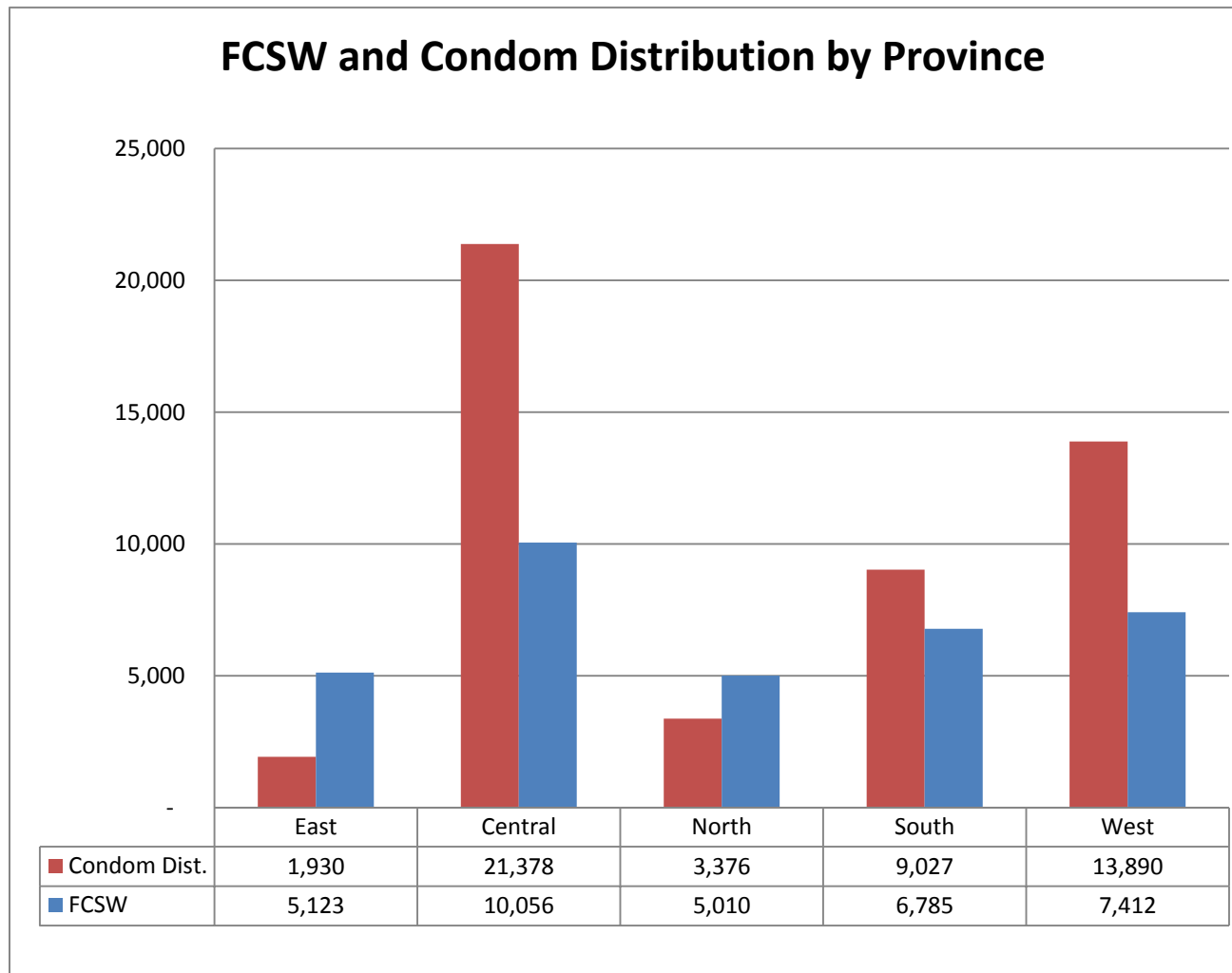
A “Modes of Transmission Study” conducted in Maldonia in 2008 estimated the prevalence of traditional, female sex workers and transactional sex workers as 1.4% of the population. Traditional sex workers included those who declared commercial sex as one or more of their professions. Transactional sex workers included those who exchanged sex for money or goods, but did not consider this transaction to be sex work. Using population projections from the 2002 census, the Ministry of Health calculated the number of females between the ages of 15 and 49 years living in Maldonia in 2010. HIV prevalence was available from the 2009 Demographic Health Survey (DHS).

Graph 1: 2010 Population Estimates of Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSW) and 2009 HIV Prevalence by Province.



Conclusions:

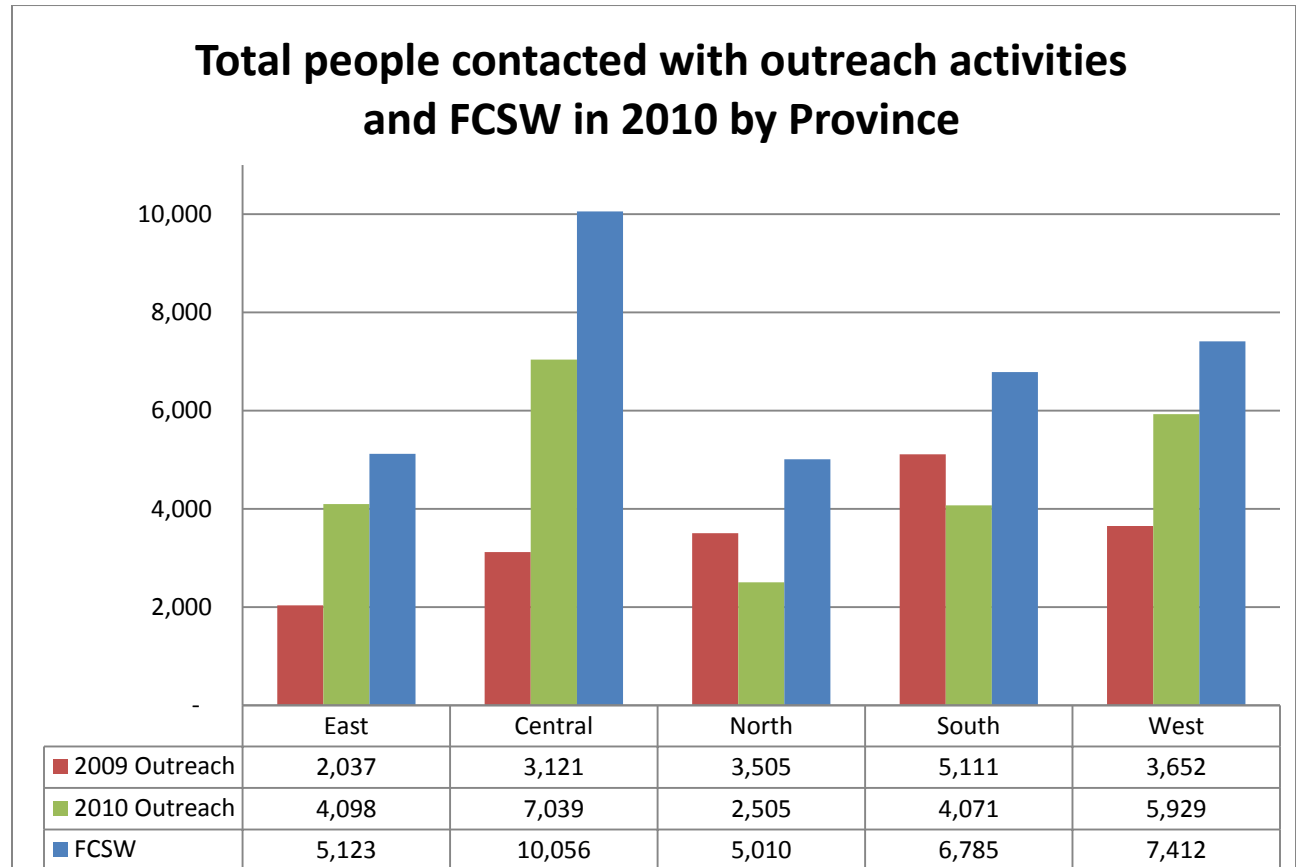
Graph 2: Population Estimates of Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSW) and Condom Distribution by Province in 2010



Conclusions:

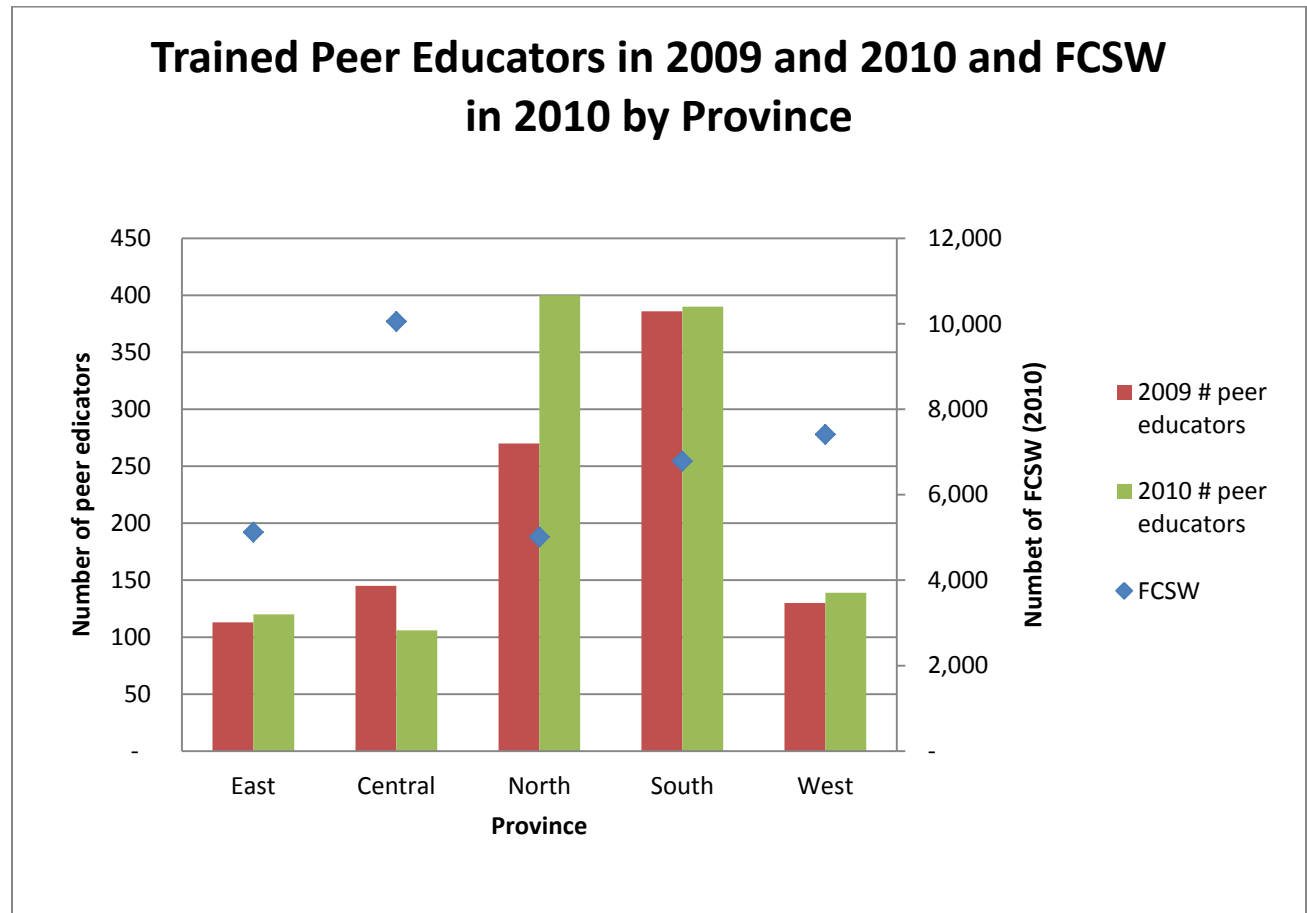
Graph 3 compares total number of people contacted with prevention and support services through outreach activities in 2009 and 2010 with FCSW population estimates in 2010 by province. Outreach activities included both small group and one-on-one meetings.

Graph 3: Total Outreach Activities for 2009 and 2010 and 2010 Population Estimates of Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSW) by Province



Conclusions:

Graph 4: Trained Peer Educators in 2009 and 2010 and 2010 Population Estimates of Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSW) by Province



Conclusions: (In addition to looking at changes in trained educators over time across all provinces, it may also be useful to compare Graph 3 and Graph 4 together. Compare total outreach over time to trained peer educators over time. What do you find? How does this inform your recommendation to DANIDA?)

- 1.) In your groups, discuss possible answers to the original questions listed on page 1. Look for any highs and lows in the data and relationships between data points. Based on the information provided, select the province to recommend to DANIDA and justify why you chose this province over the others.
- 2.) Identify other data that would have been helpful to you to answer the question.

Step 6: Craft solutions and take action

Prepare a data-informed statement for DANIDA on what should be done within the selected province to improve services for FCSWs. If your group has determined that more information is needed, explain the addition data sources, or how further research may be done to inform this decision.

Step 7: Continue to monitor key indicators

In the statement for DANIDA, identify at least two main indicators that you want to monitor to determine whether the province you selected was the best choice.

When you have completed the exercise, we will ask each group to briefly present their conclusions.

