2013 Thailand study on homophobic bullying

- First study of its kind
- Supported by UNESCO and Plan International Thailand, undertaken by Mahidol University
- TAG with civil society and LGBT youth
- 2,070 students (grades 7-12, aged 13-20) completed a computerized, self-administered survey
- Qualitative data were collected from >450 people (students, teachers and school administrators)
Study findings

**SCOPE**
- Nearly 6 in 10 LGBT youth had been bullied in past month because of SOGI
- More than 1 in 4 non-LGBT youth were bullied because they were perceived to be LGBT
- Range of behaviours: Verbal, physical and social abuse, sexual harassment
- Nearly 7 out of 10 bullied LGBT youth did not react. Nearly 1 in 4 that did nothing said this was because “nothing would happen even if someone were told”
- Of those who did something; 63% fought back, 51% spoke to a friend; < 10% approached a teacher, a disciplinarian, or a school director
- Compared to non-bullied peers, bullied LGBT youth were:
  - 2 times more likely to have missed school in the month
  - Nearly 4 times more likely to be depressed
  - 7 times more likely to have tried to commit suicide

**RESPONSE**

**IMPACT**
In response...3-year programme of action

• Funded by SIDA, Dutch Ministry of Education Science and Culture through UNESCO and Plan International Thailand

• Implemented in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, whole school support to 10 schools, led by 2 civil society organizations

• Theory of change with four key strategies:
  • Change attitudes and behaviours of students and teachers towards SRGBV using gender transformative approaches
  • Create enabling environments to help sustain individual attitudinal and behaviour change
  • Establish response mechanism for reporting and responding to incidents
  • Advocate and support for policy and institutional change
Principles of the programme

• Promotes whole school approaches supporting primary prevention of violence and response mechanisms for those affected
• Affirms the rights of all learners to be safe, regardless of their SOGI or other characteristics
• Build school leadership in ensuring safe & positive learning environments and overall Ministry of Education responsibility
• Engage all school members, including youth, teachers and counsellors
• Establish broader outreach to communities to address social norms and practices
Watch this space for...

- Civil society engagement with governments for change
- Improved understanding of SOGI
- Safe spaces for LGBT students in schools
- Sexuality education programmes that recognize diversity
- Improved teacher attitudes and skills on SOGI issues
- Channels of assistance for those affected