HIV epidemic and response in Asia and the Pacific

Steven J. Kraus
Director
UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Asia and the Pacific
HIV in Asia and the Pacific 2011

- 4.9 million people living with HIV
- 1.6 million women living with HIV
- 370,000 new infections every year
- 310,000 deaths every year
- 21,000 children newly infected every year
## Snapshot of high HIV burden countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>People living with HIV</th>
<th>New HIV Infections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Estimate</strong></td>
<td><strong>Low estimate</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2,090,000</td>
<td>1,720,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>780,000</td>
<td>620,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>490,000</td>
<td>450,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>220,000</td>
<td>180,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>76,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>81,000</td>
<td>72,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>64,000</td>
<td>52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>49,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source:
## Epidemic overview in Asia and the Pacific

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Epidemic Pattern</th>
<th>Adults and children newly Infected</th>
<th>Adults and children living with HIV</th>
<th>Adults and children AIDS Deaths</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Declining Epidemic:</strong> New infections and PLHIV declining, deaths stable.</td>
<td><img src="triangle-green" alt="Declining Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-green" alt="Declining Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-orange" alt="Declining Trend" /></td>
<td>India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maturing Epidemic:</strong> New infections declining, PLHIV still increasing or stabilizing, death trends vary.</td>
<td><img src="triangle-green" alt="Declining Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-orange" alt="Stable Trend" /> or <img src="triangle-green" alt="Declining Trend" /></td>
<td>varies</td>
<td>China, Viet Nam, Malaysia, PNG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expanding Epidemic:</strong> New infections, PLHIV and deaths increasing.</td>
<td><img src="triangle-red" alt="Expanding Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-red" alt="Expanding Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-red" alt="Expanding Trend" /></td>
<td>Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Latent Epidemic:</strong> New infections increasing or stable at around 1,000 per year, PLHIV increasing but &lt; 10,000, and deaths &lt; 500.</td>
<td><img src="triangle-red" alt="Stable Trend" /> or <img src="triangle-red" alt="Expanding Trend" /></td>
<td><img src="triangle-red" alt="Stable Trend" /></td>
<td>&lt;500</td>
<td>Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low Prevalence:</strong> Low levels of HIV infections detected but risk factors exist.</td>
<td>&lt;500</td>
<td>&lt;1,000</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>Bhutan, Fiji, Maldives, Mongolia, Timor Leste, PICT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**
- ![Expanding Trend](triangle-red): Expanding Trend
- ![Declining Trend](triangle-green): Declining Trend
- ![Stabilizing Trend](triangle-orange): Stabilizing Trend

**Source:** UNAIDS Regional Support Team Asia and the Pacific- HIV and AIDS Data Hub, Country epidemic patterns from DRAFT HIV estimates and projections data for the UNAIDS Report on the Global Epidemic 2012
Modes of transmission of HIV

• **Unprotected sex** – unprotected transactional sex is the main mode of HIV transmission in Asia and the Pacific

• **Infected Blood**
  – Blood transfusion
  – Unsafe injecting drug use

• **Mother-to-child transmission**
HIV: Risk and vulnerability

• **HIV risk:**
  – individual, unsafe sexual practices, including inconsistent condom use and multiple partners.

• **HIV vulnerability** influenced by:
  – Membership in groups/subcultures with higher HIV prevalence
  – Social and legal influences which contribute to creating a hostile environment
  – Lower quality and coverage (in total numbers and in terms of population groups covered) of HIV and health services
In Asia and the Pacific, HIV is concentrated among key populations at higher risk and their intimate partners

- **People who inject drugs (PWID):** Wide variations in HIV prevalence and in some geographic locations over 50% of PWID are living with HIV

- **Female sex workers (FSW):** Progress in reducing HIV, but high prevalence still found in some geographic ‘hotspots’ in countries

- **Clients of FSW:** Largest population at risk and determines extent of HIV spread, but poorly addressed by current interventions
(Continued)

- **Men who have sex with men (MSM):** Rising epidemics across Asia - in major cities 7% to 31% MSM are living with HIV

- **Male sex workers (MSW):** Where there is data, generally MSW have higher HIV levels than FSW – as high as 18% in some geographical locations

- **Transgender (TG) including TG sex workers:** No data on population sizes. Limited data on HIV prevalence available; where there is data, it indicates high HIV prevalence in cities
Key populations are central to the epidemic but not enough are reached by prevention services....

![Key populations reached by prevention services, 2011 (Regional median)](image)

- Female sex workers: 51%
- Male sex workers: 37%
- Men who have sex with men: 57%
- People who inject drugs: 118

Additionally, less than half of key populations know their HIV status…

![HIV testing coverage among key populations, 2011 (Regional median)](chart)

**Female sex workers**: 44%
**Male sex workers**: 44%
**Men who have sex with men**: 33%
**People who inject drugs**: 29%

1.1 million people are receiving antiretroviral therapy – expanding but lagging behind global trend …..

Recent trends in global and Asia and the Pacific ART and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) coverage

2011 General Assembly Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: A Global Commitment to Eliminate HIV/AIDS

Bold new targets and commitments

Recognized key populations: men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, and sex workers

Committed to: creating enabling legal, social and policy frameworks
Why the law matters?

WHY THE LAW MATTERS

Annual number of new HIV infections among adults aged 15–49

- historical trend
- current trend
- structural change*

* change to legal and policy environment

Source: Global Commission on HIV and the Law
ZERO DISCRIMINATION:
Legal and political challenges remain in the 38 UN Member States in Asia-Pacific

11 impose some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV based on their HIV status

37 criminalize some aspect of sex work

11 compulsory detention centres for people who use drugs

15 provide for the death penalty for drug-related offences

18 criminalize same-sex relations
Other aspects of the legal environment that impact on the HIV response:

- Criminalization of HIV transmission
- Violence against women and children
- Gender-based discrimination in marriage, property and inheritance rights
- Intellectual property regimes that hinder production and trade of generic medicines
- Access to services in prisons/detention
- Access to HIV services for young people
Progress towards zero discrimination

- **India:** Delhi High Court decriminalised same sex practices through annulment of *Section 377* of the Penal Code
- **Fiji:** Parliamentary law reform to decriminalize same sex practices in 2010
- **Nepal and Pakistan:** Supreme Courts directing governments to recognize/protect rights of transgender people
- **Vietnam:** Law reform to end compulsory detention of sex workers in administrative detention centres in 2012
- **Malaysia:** Moving away from punitive approaches to drug use through “Cure and Care” Centres
- **China:** World’s largest expansion of opiate substitution therapy ever!
- **Mongolia:** Amended HIV law in 2013 removed HIV-related travel restrictions and eliminated criminalization of HIV transmission
“Today, we have a chance to end this epidemic once and for all. This is our goal: Zero new HIV infections, Zero discrimination, and Zero AIDS-related deaths.”

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AIDS, JUNE 2011