

Background

Indonesia, a geographically diverse country, has a relatively low HIV prevalence. However, cumulating epidemiologic evidence shows epidemics are emerging among some high risk groups, particularly including sex workers in its eastern Irian Jaya Province and intravenous drug users (IDUs) in Jakarta. Three years of political upheaval and economic crisis have challenged development and health programs and threatened the integrity of this culturally and geographically diverse country. Commercial sex is common in urban areas, sexually transmitted infections (STI) prevalence is high, knowledge of HIV high, but condom use relatively low. Measures to address IDU have been moralistic and legalistic, and harm reduction is just starting to be recognized as a viable intervention strategy.



Strategy

The Aksi Stop AIDS (ASA) Program, a USAID/Indonesia contract implemented by FHI, focuses on high-risk centers in ten sites : Irian Jaya, three provinces in Sumatera, North Sulawesi, Maluku, and all of Java. The program works with the Government of Indonesia and key international and local partners to achieve the following principal results :

- Increase risk reduction behavior and practices among individuals at high risk;
- Strengthen quality, accessibility, and utilization of HIV and STI prevention services;
- Enhance capacity and quality of Government of Indonesia HIV/STI surveillance systems and their use in key decision-making;
- Strengthen capacity of local organizations to plan, finance, manage and coordinate HIV/STI responses; and
- Increase leveraging of non-project programmatic interventions and financial resources.

Program Focus

1. **Peer education in high-risk groups, primarily via NGOs, to promote condom use, STI clinical services, and harm reduction:** High levels of HIV awareness have been achieved among high-risk populations, but STIs remain high and condom use relatively low. Several NGO partners have been identified and some already supported to expand their coverage and improve their campaigns.



2. **Leveraged additional interventions by local organizations:** Local AIDS coordinating bodies are attracting private support through Governor's offices in North Sulawesi, East Java, Jakarta, Irian Jaya and Riau.
3. **Condom promotion to reach clients of sex workers and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM):** The most recent round of behavior surveillance done in Manado, Surabaya and Jakarta in October 2000 shows gradual improvement in reported condom use among sex workers and their clients, but the program reach still appears to be limited. New prevention/promotion marketing is planned.
4. **Support to model clinics serving high-risk populations with quality, integrated STI services:** Model clinical services have been developed and will serve as training and service points. Training module for Universal Precautions have been produced and tested. Some training has been conducted.
5. **HIV/IDU Interventions:** A comprehensive array of intervention programming is required to address the threat of HIV epidemic outbreaks among IDU in each priority geographic area. This will include both community-based and institution-based activities. Institution based interventions will explore partner agreements with schools, military bases, correctional facilities and drug abuse treatment programs.
6. **Development of high quality reference laboratories:** Reference laboratories have been assessed and preliminary plans completed for strengthening quality and capabilities, supplemented by a quality control/quality assurance program.
7. **Research for improved STI treatment of high-risk women:** FHI is working in collaboration with the University of California, San Francisco to improve the treatment of sex workers in Irian Jaya.
8. **HIV/STI behavioral integrated surveillance:** FHI has assisted local officials to plan, carry out, analyze, and apply HIV and behavioral surveillance. Local governments in East Java and North Sulawesi are already applying findings locally.
9. **Advocate to commercial organizations to provide better information and STI services to their employees:** FHI has already received substantial commitment for travel related support to Irian Jaya by PT Freeport mining company. The local AIDS commissions advocating for support in Surabaya and Manado. The Thai Business Coalition for AIDS has agreed to expand these efforts.

The Challenges

- Inadequacy of appropriate testing and treatment commodities.
- Legal curbs to effective harm reduction interventions.
- Urgency to initiate and scale up efforts in many different sites amid the challenges of instability and violence.

Future Program Priorities

- Development and scale up of interventions in 10 budgeted provinces.
- Broad-based prevention marketing to promote behavior change.
- Private sector involvement.
- Advocacy to National and Local leaders to promote support.

Partner Agencies

Research Triangle International (Indonesia), Population Council (Indonesia), Atma Jaya University, Lentera, Macfarlane Burnet, Remdec, Business Dynamics, Howard Delafield International, University of California San Francisco, Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN), Thai Business Coalition for AIDS (TBCA), Yayasan Insist

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