Fast Track the MSM Response in Asia!

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What I will cover

• Regional MSM realities
• APCOM and its strategies and current programmes
• Australia’s support to the MSM response
• Need for much more support to fast track the MSM response

Regional Overview

• Overall declining infection rates, increasing numbers on ARV, some increases in domestic funding.
  • Many challenges remain – range of legal and other barriers (laws, stigma & discrimination); policy and programme neglect of key populations (especially MSM, transgender populations, sex workers, people using drugs) with rising infection trends.
  • Treatment coverage is 51%, which is below the global average. Most people start treatment late, with implications for treatment effectiveness, individual health and long-term survival.
  • Punitive laws and practices that criminalise same-sex behaviour are still prevalent in 18 out of the 38 countries
  • Many countries will graduate to middle- and upper-middle income status in coming years – no longer eligible for international donor support.

Regional Overview

• By 2015 it is estimated that 5,000,000 people in the region will be living with HIV.
  • Close to a thousand new HIV infections occur each day – or 350,000 a year
  • HIV is concentrated in key populations – Commission on AIDS in Asia predicted that if no action was taken to increase the investment to MSM programming then they will account for nearly 50% of new HIV infections by 2020
  • An overwhelming majority (95%) of new infections within key populations occur in young people between the ages of 15 to 24.
  • HIV in Asia and the Pacific is geographically concentrated, particularly in major cities and capitals.

12 countries

In Asia and the Pacific the following countries contribute to 90% of PLHIV and 90% of new infections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Income</th>
<th>Lower Low Middle Income</th>
<th>Upper Low Middle Income</th>
<th>Upper Middle Income</th>
<th>Not eligible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>the Philippines</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>


The modelling done in 2008 shows the expanding HIV epidemic among MSM

Low consistent condom usage

Proportion of consistent condom use among men who have sex with men, 2009-2012

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on Behavioral Surveillance Surveys and Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveys

MSM in cities: At least 2 times higher than national MSM HIV prevalence in most countries

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on Behavioral Surveillance Surveys and Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveys

How to ensure “no one left behind” if 2 in 3 MSM do not even know their HIV status

HIV testing coverage among men who have sex with men, 2009-2013

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on behavioral surveillance surveys

Spend does not match the need

Prevention spending on men who have sex with men out of total prevention spending, 2010-2012

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on www.aidsinfoonline.org

Working for and with the community in the region

A coalition of MSM and transgender community networks

Note: HIV spending data by service category is not available for China and India
Raising our game. Raising our voices: The APCOM 2014-2019 Strategic Plan

Goal: Improved sexual health through increased investment, coverage and quality of sexual health services for our communities

Strategic Results:
1 – Advocacy for sexual health services
2 – Advocacy for an enabling environment for supportive policies
3 – Gathering, generating and sharing strategic information
4 – Building a cadre of advocates at all levels

Strengthening the skills of community leaders

Strategic Information Development and Sharing

Engagement with the Global Fund

Promote HIV Testing
Regional HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Program

The program links Australian organisations with counterparts in the Asia Pacific region.

Goal: Strengthened role of organisations and individuals in the Asia Pacific region to respond effectively to HIV/AIDS.

Program purpose: To foster strategic partnerships and linkages between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region to increase the capacity of partners to contribute to effective HIV responses.

Program objective: To develop the capacity of the most affected communities and their peer-based organisations to actively participate in national and regional responses to HIV.

Country level Partnership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Working in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bandar Choktumok (BC)</td>
<td>Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia MSM and TG Network (myISEAN)</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar MSM Network (MMN)</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar Youth Stars</td>
<td>Myanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWL-INA</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao Positive Health Association (LaoPHA)</td>
<td>Laos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dangal</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Paz Home Centre</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam National MSM and Transgender Network (VNMSMTG)</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam Community Development (VCDL)</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assess 11 Key Areas

- Network Function: governance, membership, key population involvement, partnerships
- Network Activities and Action: advocacy priority, strategic information usage and development, communication
- Network organisational development: staffing, project design, technical capacity, financial management, resource mobilisation

Key findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRONG</th>
<th>GAPS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership and Networking</td>
<td>Capacity to mobilise resources and expand long-term funding base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Technical capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical capacity</td>
<td>Finance and administration systems and procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication with members and stakeholders</td>
<td>Governance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocacy capacity</td>
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Evaluation findings

1: Strategic and logical initiative considering the HIV context in Asia and the Pacific, the needs of MSM and transgender organizations and the stage in development of APCOM.

2: Systematic approach to capacity building based on a well-conceived package of support, combined with straightforward project management.

3: Strong peer-based and partnership approach, based on strong interpersonal communication.

4: JumpStart enables APCOM to further get to know the needs and dynamics of its constituency and to build its credibility and profile among civil society in Asia and the Pacific.

5: JumpStart produced invaluable lessons learned that should be incorporated into the future work of APCOM/AFAO and others working in this field.

6: Value of AFAO and its International programme to help strengthen APCOM through peer-peer learning and sharing the Australian experience.

Conclusion

- MSM programmes under financed, particularly on prevention, community institutional capacity strengthening and sustainability
- HIV epidemic in the region will continue to rise if we continue what we are currently doing
- Invest in community