Regional overview of HIV among transgender people

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From barriers to bridges: Increasing access to HIV and other health services for trans people in Asia
20 September 2017
Bangkok, Thailand
Asia and the Pacific Fast-Track Targets

By 2020

Fewer than
90,000
new infections

More than
4.2 million
on treatment

ZERO
discrimination

Source: UNAIDS. (2016). Fast-Track Commitments to End AIDS by 2030
Regional snapshot of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths

HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, 2016

People living with HIV 5.1 million

Women living with HIV 1.8 million

Children living with HIV 190,000

Young people living with HIV 510,000

Deaths 170,000

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on UNAIDS 2017 HIV Estimates
ENDING AIDS BY 2030:
Fast-Track and reduce new infections by 2020

Estimated new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific

- **Fast-Track Target 2020:** 90,000 new HIV infections
- **2020 estimate based on current trend:** 241,000 new HIV infections
- **Falls short of target by:** 151,000

Source: Prepared by [www.aidsdatahub.org](http://www.aidsdatahub.org) based on UNAIDS 2017 HIV Estimates
A significant variation in new HIV infections trends in Asia and the Pacific countries

Percent change in new HIV infections between 2010 and 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>-21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>-26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>-50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>-34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Distribution of new HIV infections by country, 2016

270 000 new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific in 2016

- China (22%)
- Indonesia (48 000, 18%)
- India (80 000, 30%)
- Pakistan (19 000, 7%)
- Viet Nam (11 000, 4%)
- Thailand (6 400, 2%)
- Philippines (10 000, 4%)
- Myanmar (11 000, 4%)
- Others (9%)

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on UNAIDS 2017 HIV Estimates
High HIV prevalence observed in some cities and geographical locations

HIV prevalence among transgender people, 2012-2017

Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on HIV Sentinel Surveillance Reports, Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance Reports and other serological survey reports

* TG sex workers in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka, Labasa
Available data indicate higher HIV prevalence among transgender people in certain geographical areas in select countries.

National versus location specific HIV prevalence among transgender, countries where data is available, 2014 - 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Jakarta</th>
<th>Thane</th>
<th>Kuala Lumpur</th>
<th>Larkana</th>
<th>Banteay Meanchey</th>
<th>Cebu</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Progress towards the 90–90–90 targets: Asia and the Pacific, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of people living with HIV know their status</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>[47 – &gt;89%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>[44 – &gt;89%]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of people on treatment are virally suppressed</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>[55 – &gt;89%]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by [www.aidsdatahub.org](http://www.aidsdatahub.org) based on UNAIDS special analysis, 2017
Urgent and serious data need for key population specific 90-90-90 treatment target tracking

- % of transgender people living with HIV know their status: NO DATA
- % of transgender people living with HIV who know their status are on treatment: NO DATA
- % of transgender people on treatment are virally suppressed: NO DATA
HIV testing is the entry point for prevention and treatment but low HIV testing coverage among key populations particularly among transgender people.

HIV testing coverage among key populations:

- Female sex workers: 47
- Men who have sex with men: 53
- Transgender people: 41
- People who inject drugs: 44

With current level of response, we cannot end AIDS among transgender, and we cannot end AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

HIV prevention and testing coverage among transgender women

**Bangladesh**

- **Prevention coverage:** 46
- **HIV testing:** 35

**Philippines**

- **Prevention coverage:** 27
- **HIV testing:** 15

**90% Fast-Track Target by 2020**

Social justice and human rights are fundamental to address the public health needs of transgender women

- In India: 1 in 5 transgender women experienced sexual violence in last 12 months.
- In Bangladesh: 1 in 4 transgender women reported being raped in last 12 months.
- In Cambodia: 1 in 5 transgender women have been denied/thrown out of a housing in their life time.
- In Pakistan: 1 in 6 transgender women have been denied healthcare in their life time.

Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveys
Transphobia: a serious health risk to address

Reported murder of a trans person

- Blue: No documented cases
- Red: Documented cases
- Light blue: No data

Transgender people have multiple health needs beyond HIV and need to bridge the divide between services

- Integration and synergies between harm reduction and sexual and reproductive health services (SRH)
  - Lack of access to trans-competent health services leads to increased risk of infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C through sharing needles for self-injection of substances for gender-affirmation (self-prescribed hormones, soft-tissue fillers, etc),

- Cross-referral between HIV and SRH services for contraceptive services and discussion on reproductive options through service providers who are sensitive and knowledgeable to the needs of transgender people
  - Higher risk of thrombotic events particularly among TG women who use OC pills
  - Possibility of conception, teratogenic effect of testosterone in pregnancy (TG men)

- Gender affirmation services - important entry points for HIV testing and linkages to treatment services

- Prevention and management of co-infections and co-morbidities such as TB, viral hepatitis

- Counselling and management of depression, psychosocial stress, drug and alcohol dependency etc in a non-stigmatizing, and gender-affirming setting with the clear understanding that transgender identity itself should not be considered a mental illness
Regional and global technical guidance for comprehensive HIV response among transgender people

Key recommendations

- **Implement a comprehensive health package** - that includes 1) HIV prevention, harm reduction, testing and linkages to care; 2) HIV treatment and care services including co-infections (TB, viral hepatitis, etc.) and co-morbidities management; 3) services for sexual and reproductive health including gender affirmation (hormone, surgery, etc) and 4) services for psychological issues (such as stress, anxiety, depression, etc)

- **Make the services tailored to the needs of transgender people** – community-based and -led service provision; mobile health services; peer-based initiatives; integrated health services rather than focusing on one disease/issue; decentralization, task-shifting and differentiated treatment service delivery; and non-coercive, non-stigmatizing trans-competent health services

- **Address punitive laws and policies, stigma, discrimination and violence** against transgender people, particularly in health care settings, workplaces and community

- **Community engagement and empowerment** at all levels of HIV and health response

Source: Prepared by [www.aidsdatahub.org](http://www.aidsdatahub.org)
THANK YOU
www.aidsdatahub.org