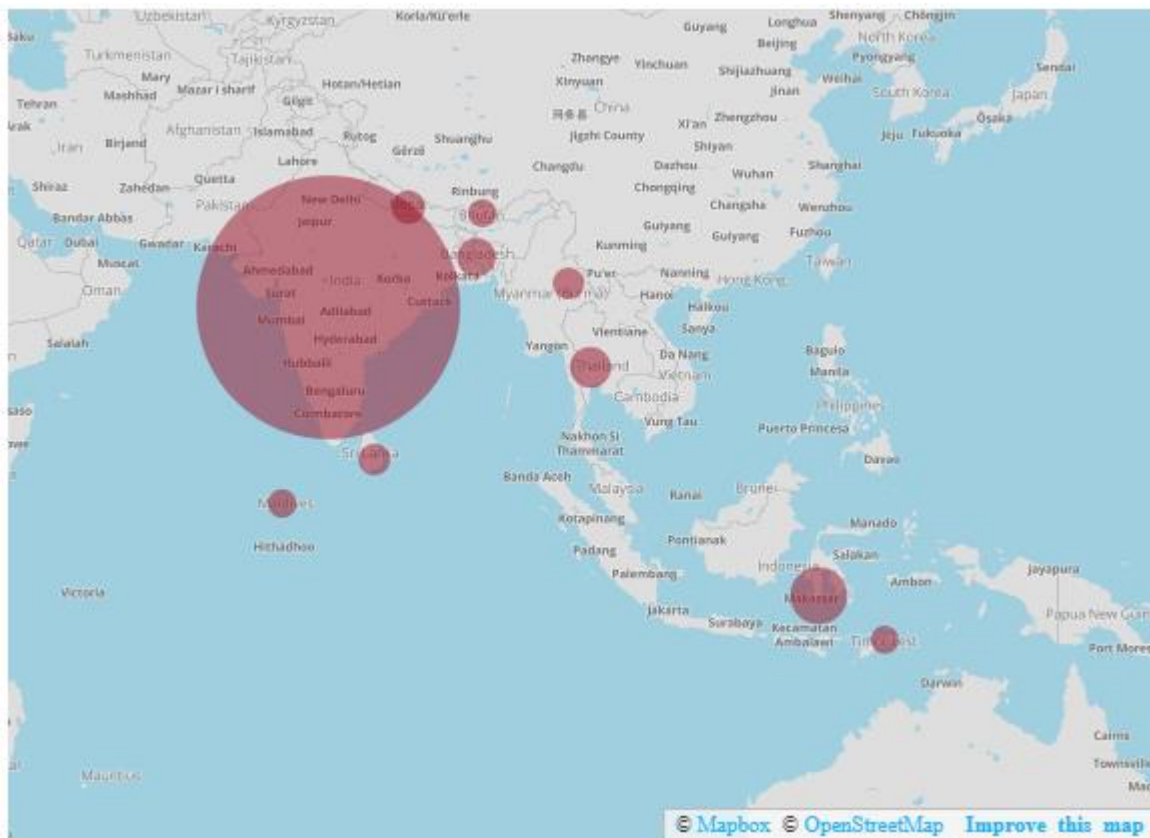


Impact of COVID-19 on HIV and Mitigation measures by SEA Countries

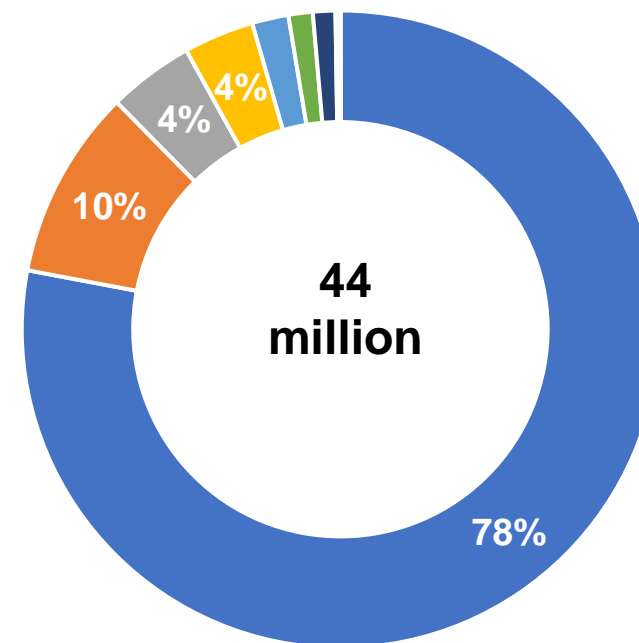


44 million confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia

Geographical distribution of cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia



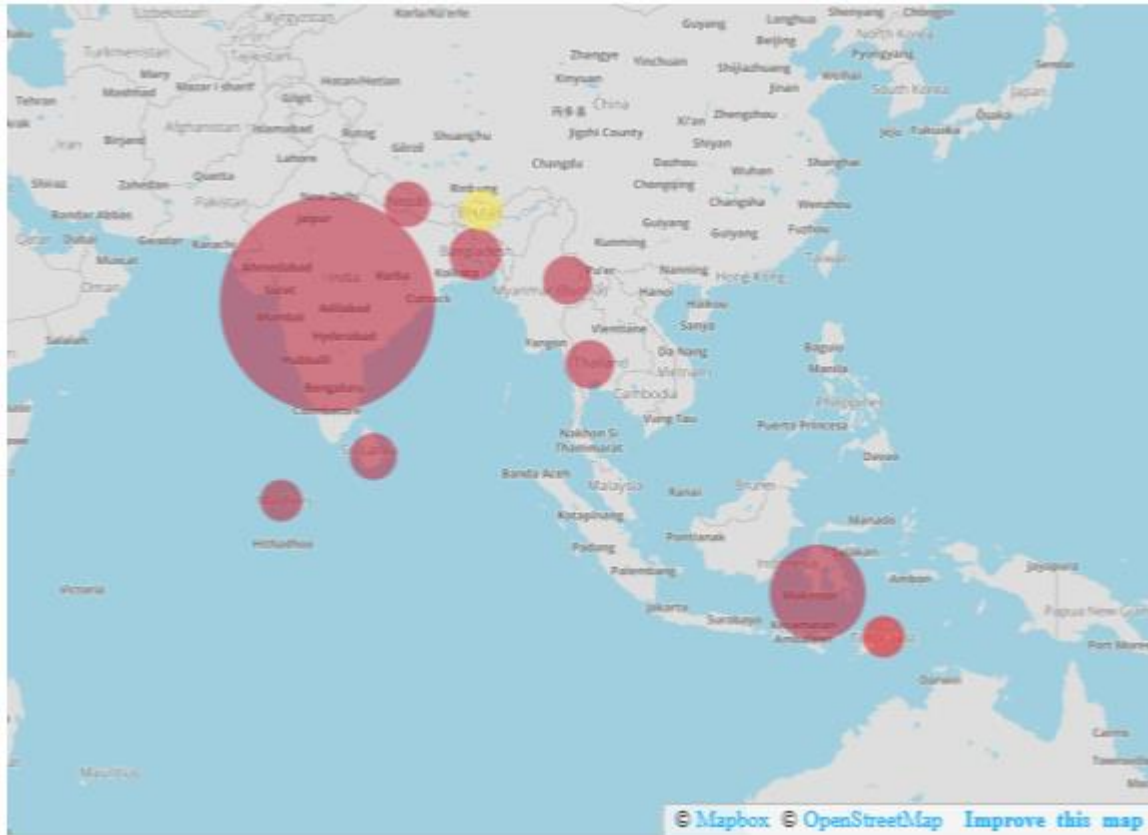
Proportion of COVID-19 confirmed cases in South East Asia by country, as of 31 October 2021



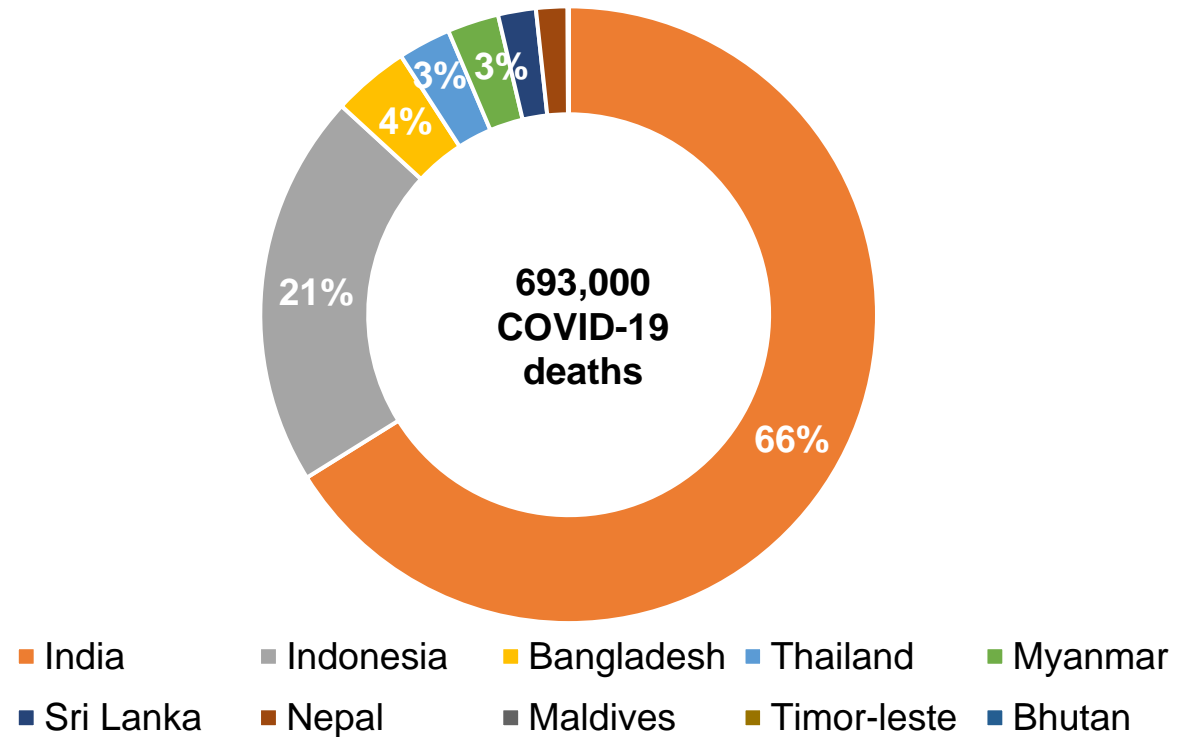
- India
- Indonesia
- Thailand
- Bangladesh
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- Myanmar
- Maldives
- Timor-leste
- Bhutan

693,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases in South East Asia

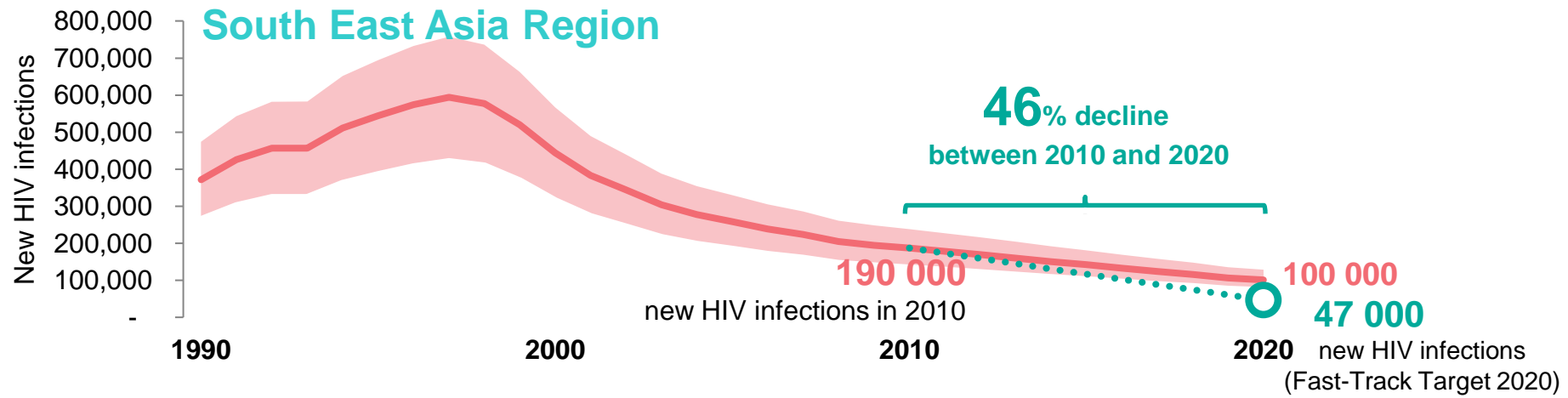
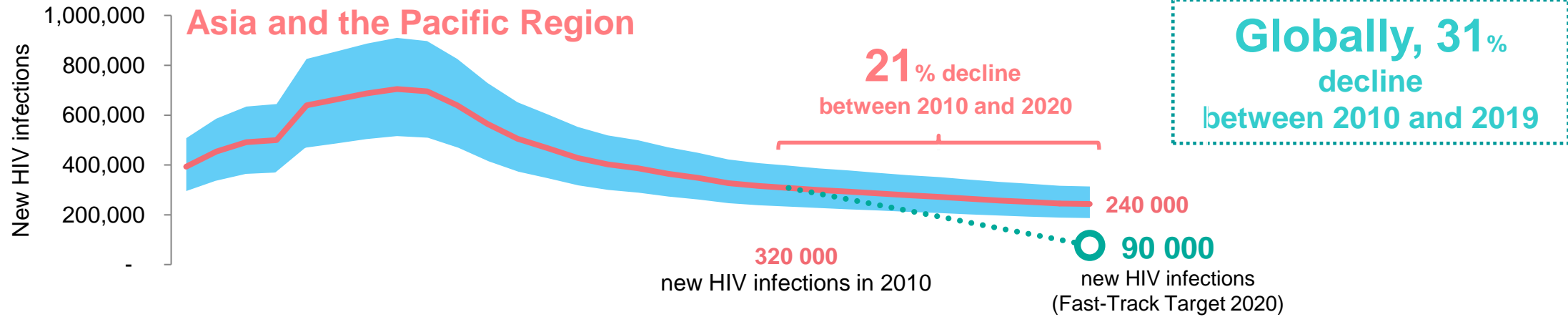
Geographical distribution of cumulative COVID-19 deaths in South East Asia



Proportion of COVID-19 deaths in South East Asia by country, as of 31 October 2021



New HIV infections continue to decline at global and regional level. However, the rate of decline has slowed down in the last 10 years



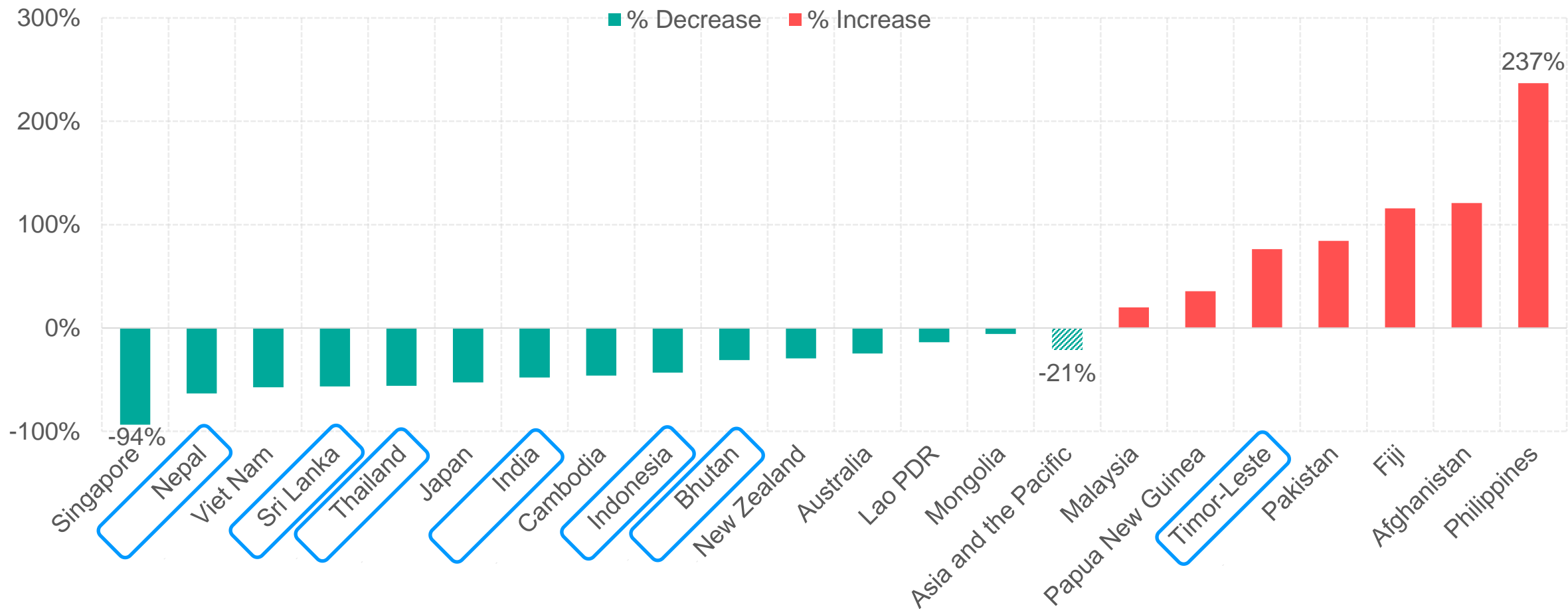
— New HIV infections

○ 2020 Fast-Track target*

*The 2020 target is equivalent to a 75% reduction since 2010.

Trends for new HIV infections are quite diverse across countries in Asia and the Pacific region

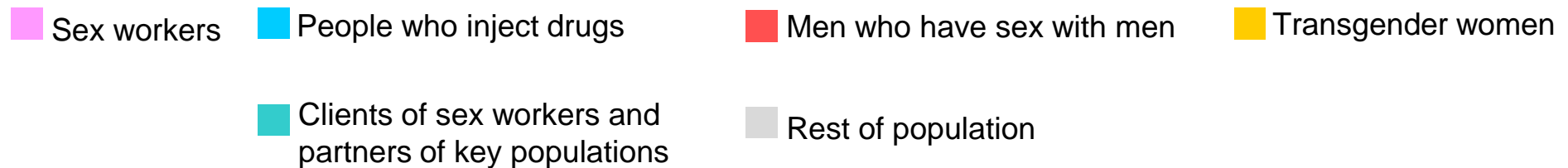
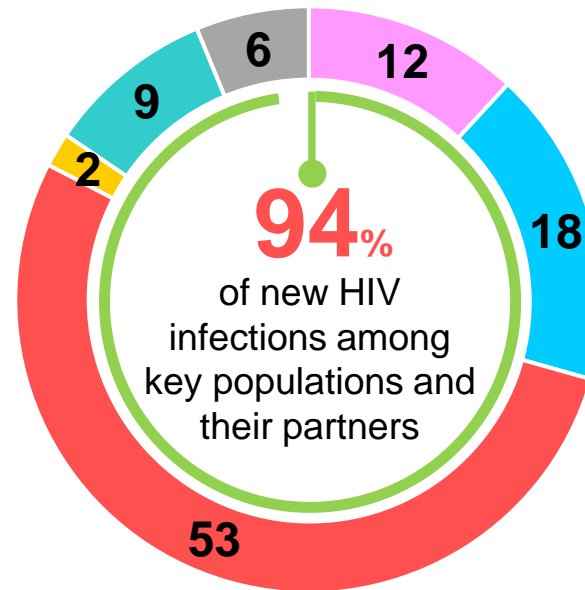
Percentage change in new HIV infections by country, Asia and the Pacific, 2010-2020



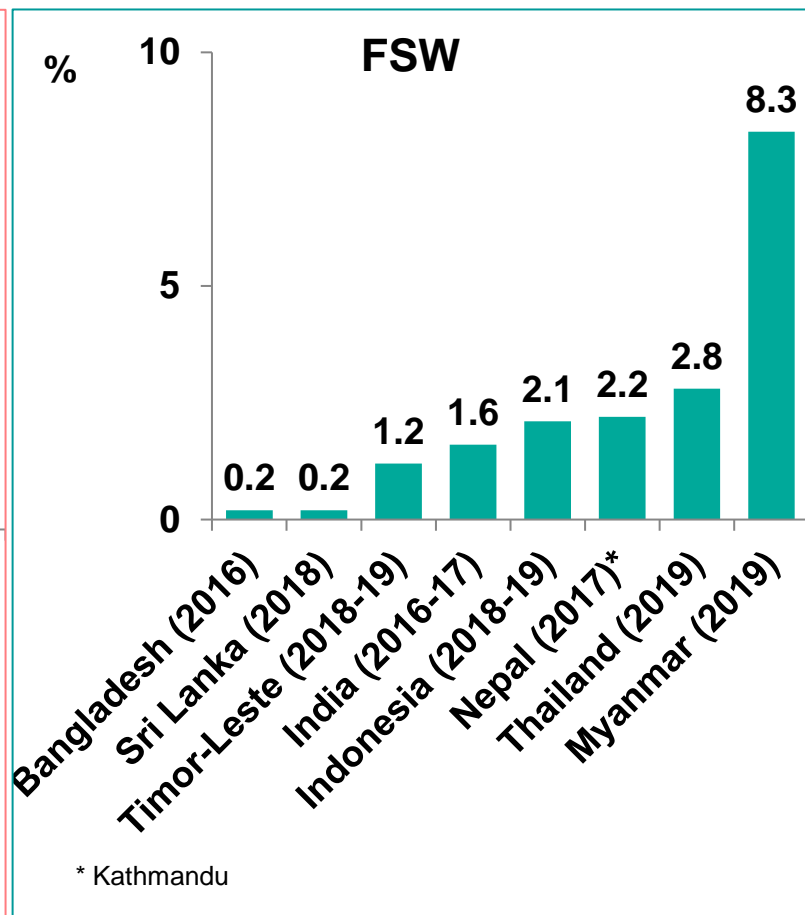
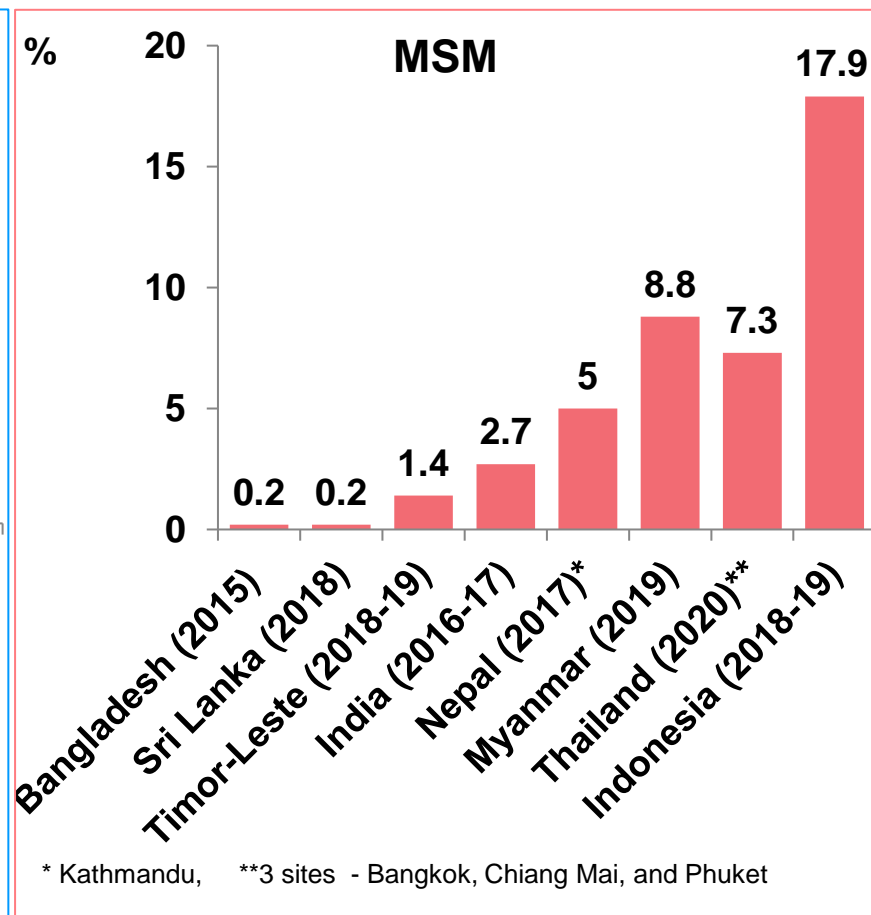
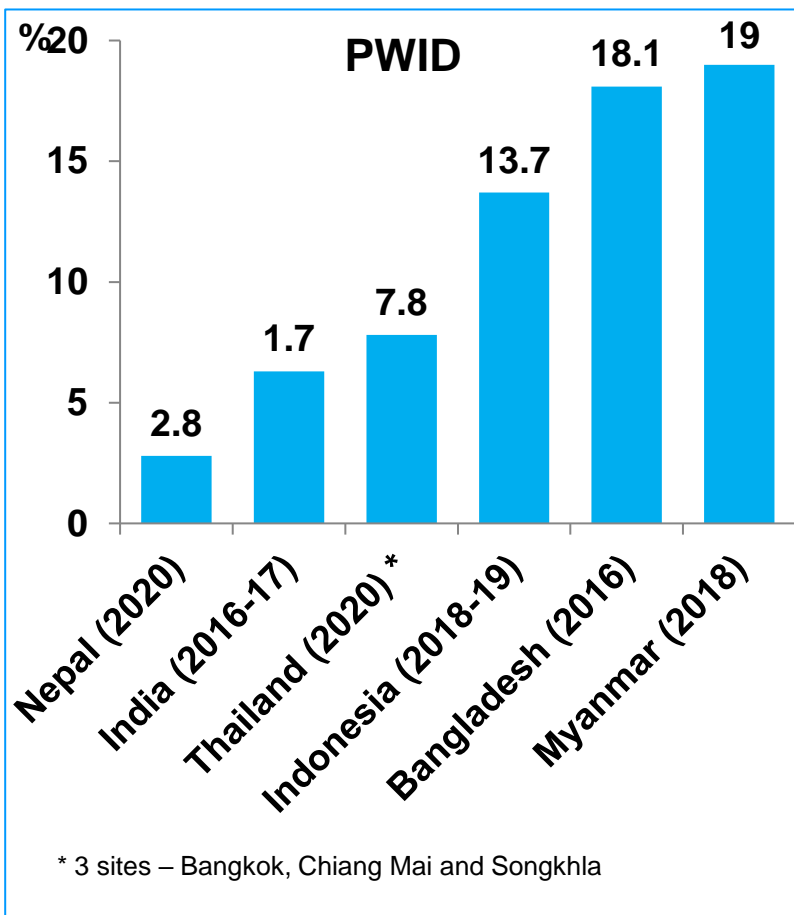
NOTE: Bangladesh, DPRK, Maldives and Myanmar did not publish their 2020 HIV estimates

Need for focused response in HIV: Epidemic mostly affecting key populations and their partners

Distribution of new HIV infections by population, 2020

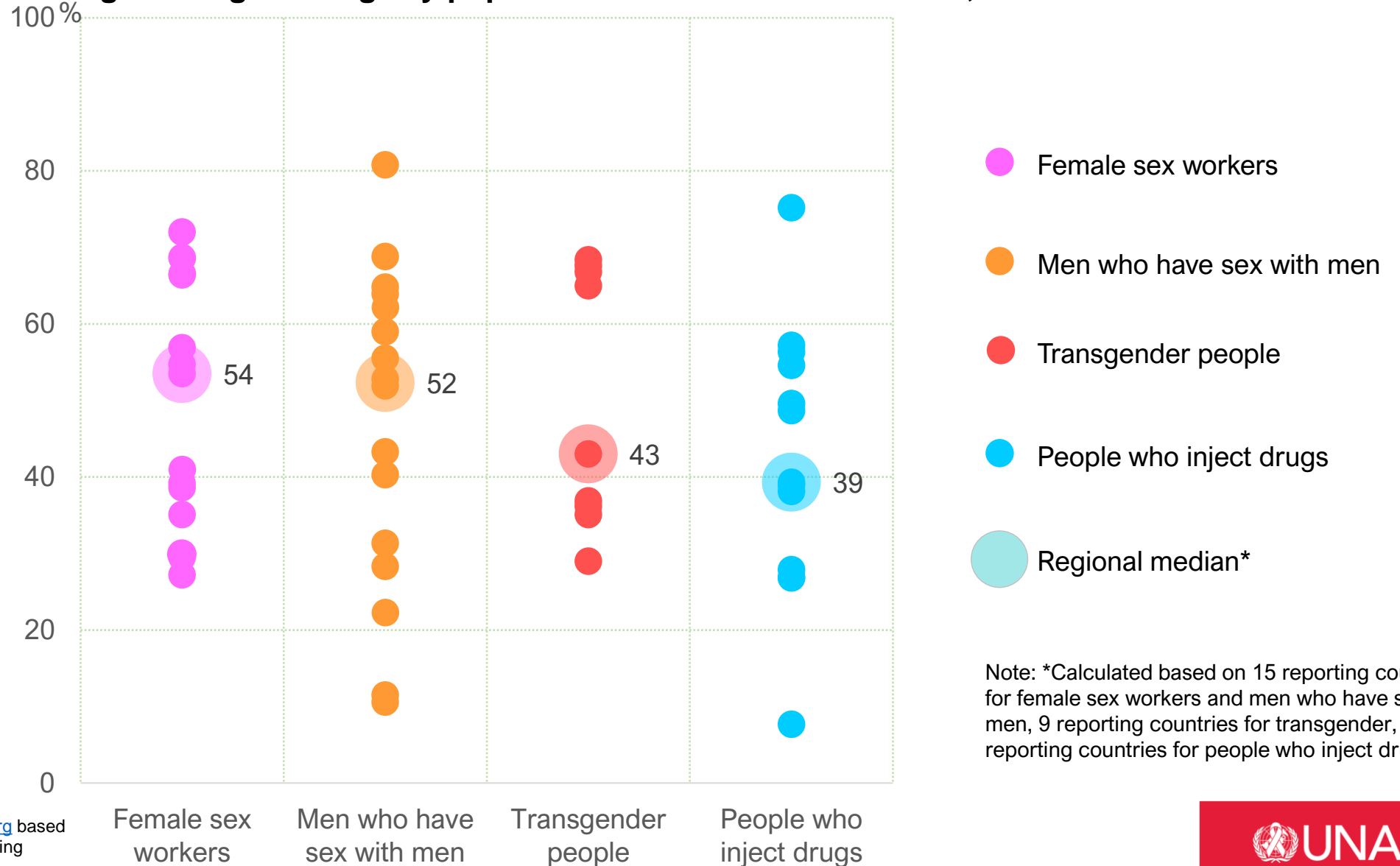


HIV prevalence among key population groups in South East Asia



About half of key populations do not know their HIV status, but assisted testing and self-testing could increase the rates of HIV diagnosis

HIV testing coverage among key populations in Asia and the Pacific, 2016-2020

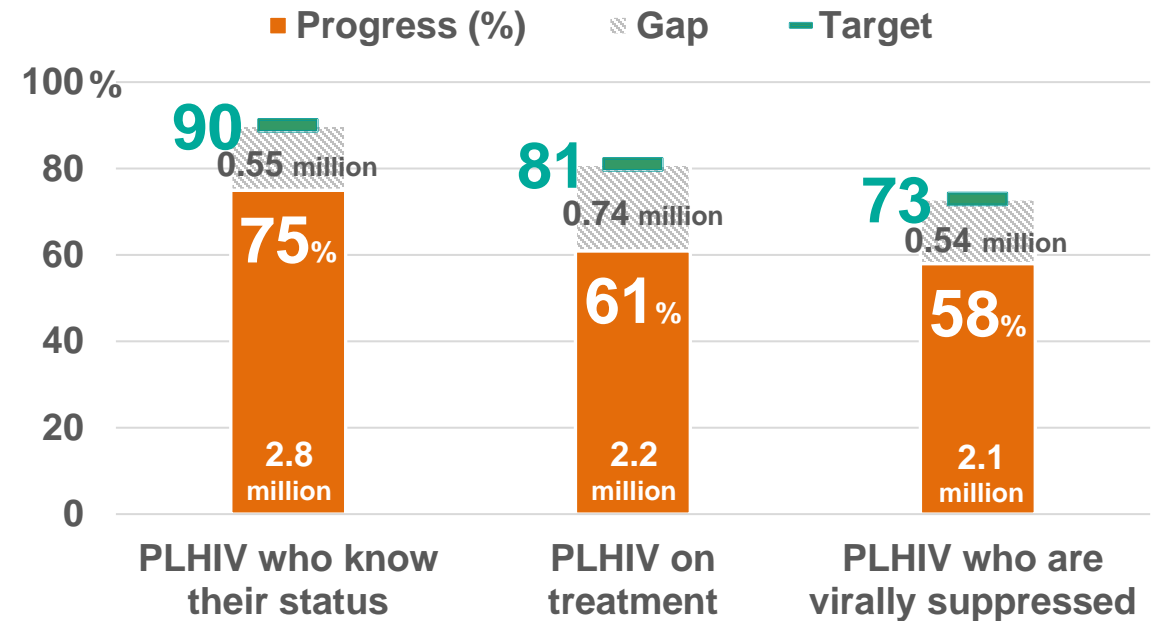
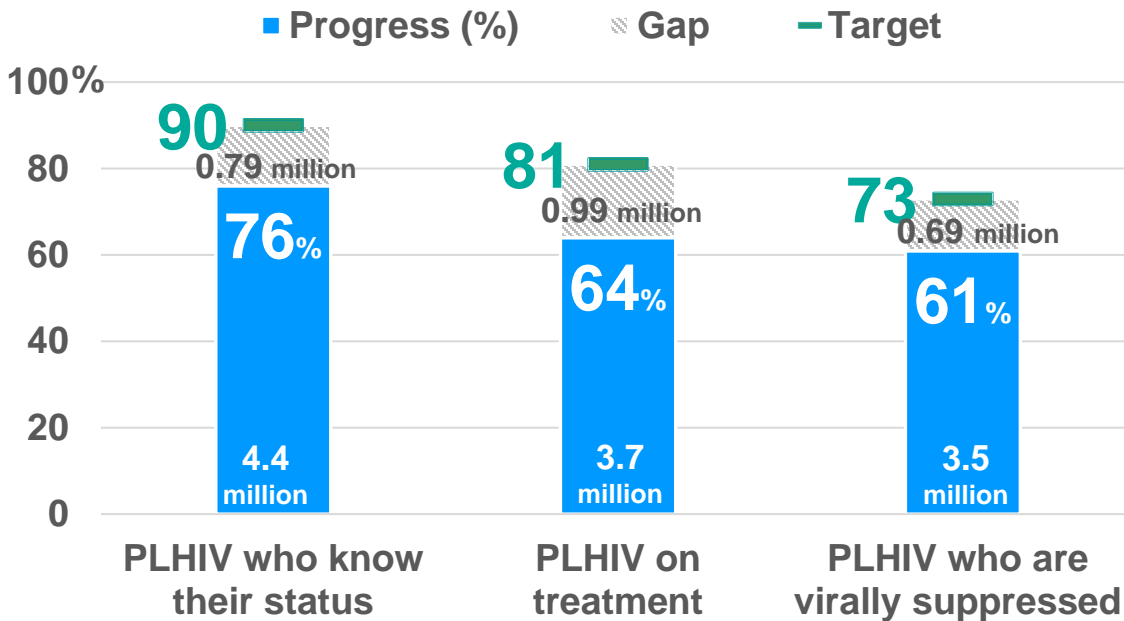


Regional overview: Treatment target and gaps

HIV testing and treatment cascade, 2020

Asia and the Pacific

South-East Asia



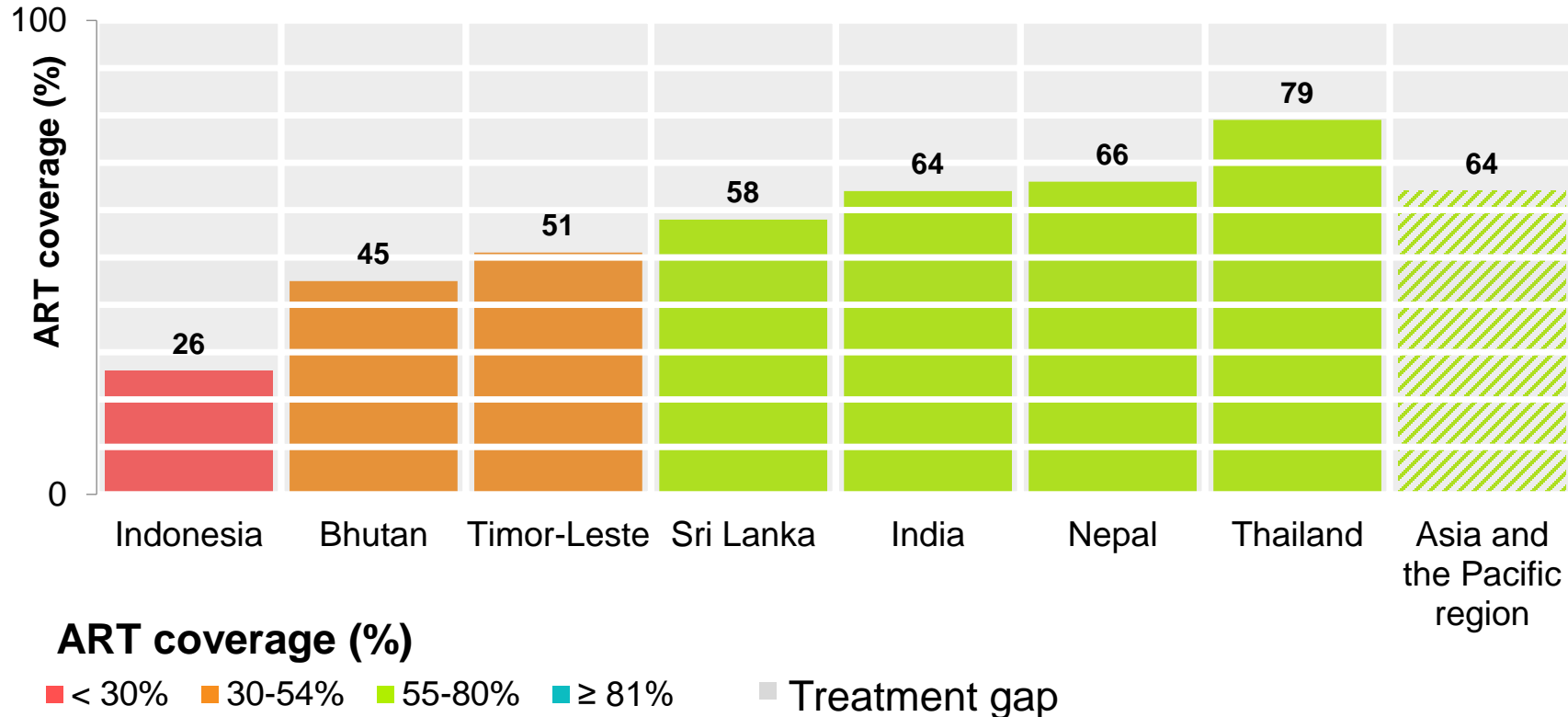
ACHIEVED 1st 90
Thailand, Timor-Leste

ACHIEVED 2nd 81
Australia; Cambodia

ACHIEVED 3rd 73
Singapore; Cambodia;
Thailand

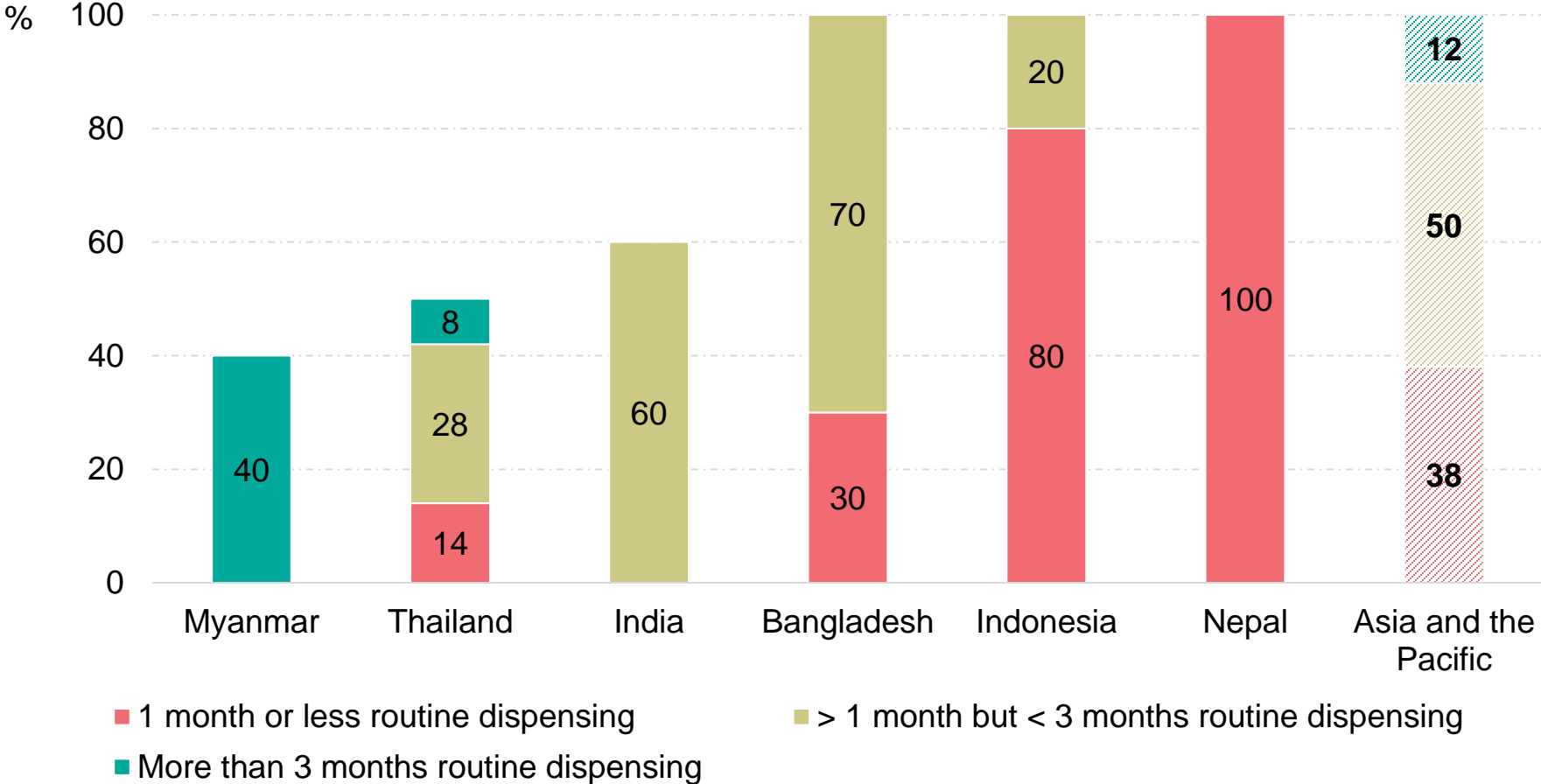
Overall, the region fell short of the 2020 treatment target. Achievements varied across countries in South East Asia

ART coverage and treatment gap in South East Asian countries, 2020

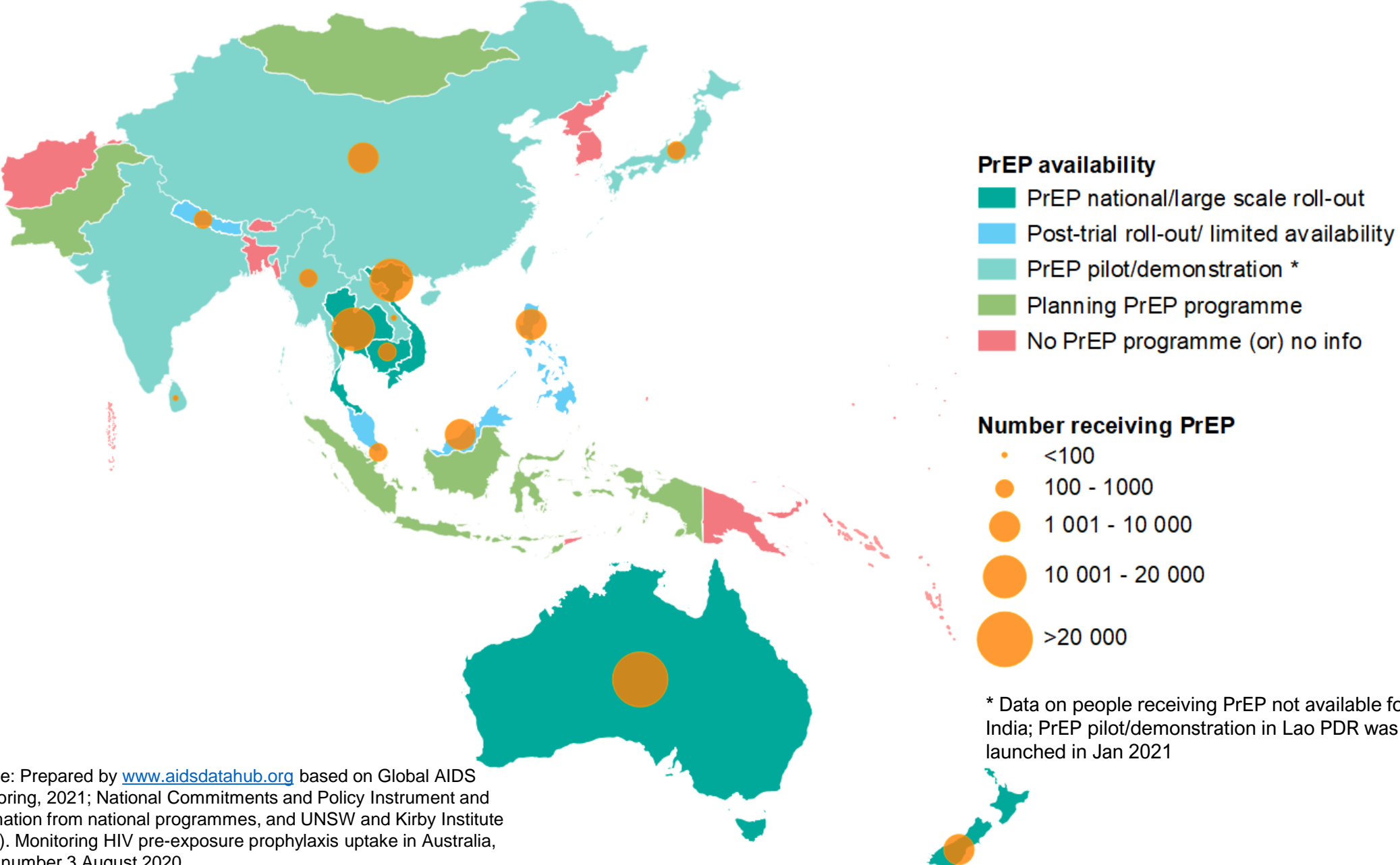


NOTE: Bangladesh, DPRK, Maldives and Myanmar did not publish their 2020 HIV estimates

Status of multi-month dispensing (MMD) of antiretroviral treatment in South East Asian countries



Status of PrEP availability and number of PrEP users in Asia and the Pacific, 2020



Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on Global AIDS Monitoring, 2021; National Commitments and Policy Instrument and information from national programmes, and UNSW and Kirby Institute (2020). Monitoring HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis uptake in Australia, Issue number 3 August 2020.



Snapshot of harm reduction in South East Asia, 2020

	Needle and syringe programmes operational	Needle and syringe programmes coverage	Possession of needle and syringe used as evidence for arrest	Opioid substitution therapy programmes operational	Opioid substitution therapy programmes coverage	Naloxone available through community distribution
Bangladesh*	Yes	High coverage: >200	No	Yes	Low coverage: <100	No
India	Yes	High coverage: >200	No	Yes	Medium coverage: >100–<200	Yes
Indonesia	Yes	Low coverage: <100	NO INFO	Yes	Low coverage: <100	NO INFO
Myanmar	Yes	High coverage: >200	No	Yes	Medium coverage: >100–<200	No
Nepal	Yes	Low coverage: <100	Yes	Yes	Low coverage: <100	No
Sri Lanka	No	No service	No	No	No service	No
Thailand	Yes	Low coverage: <100	Yes	Yes	Low coverage: <100	Yes


 Countries with HIV prevalence among PWID \geq 5%


NSP programme coverage
(syringes per PWID per year)

 High coverage: >200

 Medium coverage: >100–<200

 Low coverage: <100

 No service


 No info/ not reported


OST programme coverage
(% opioid injectors on OST)

 High coverage: >40%

 Medium coverage: 20 – \leq 40%

 Low coverage: < 20%

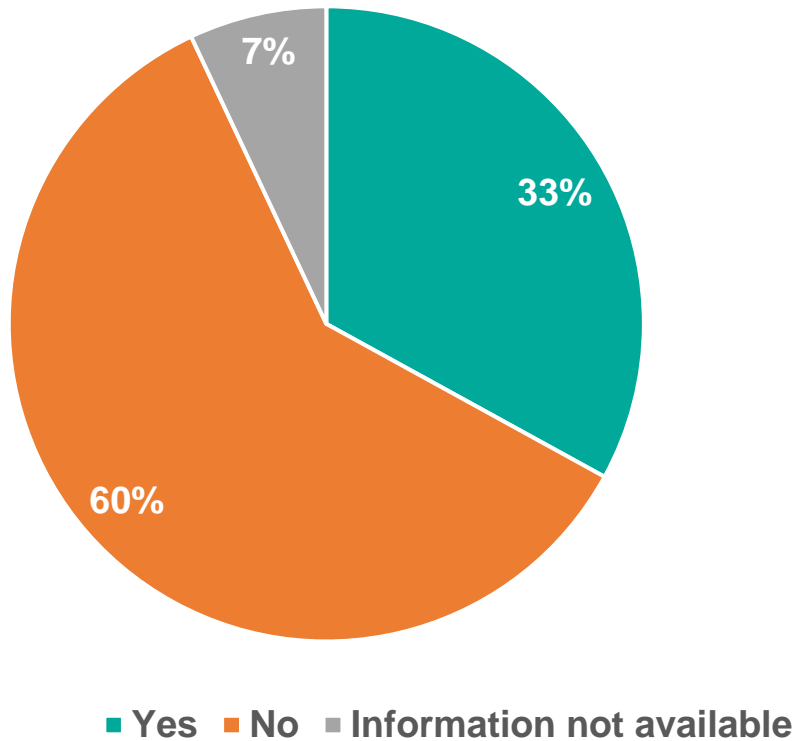
 No service

 No info/ not reported

* HIV prevalence from sentinel sites – Dhaka A1, A2 and Hili

Needle exchange program: Secondary distribution or distribution of large volumes permitted?

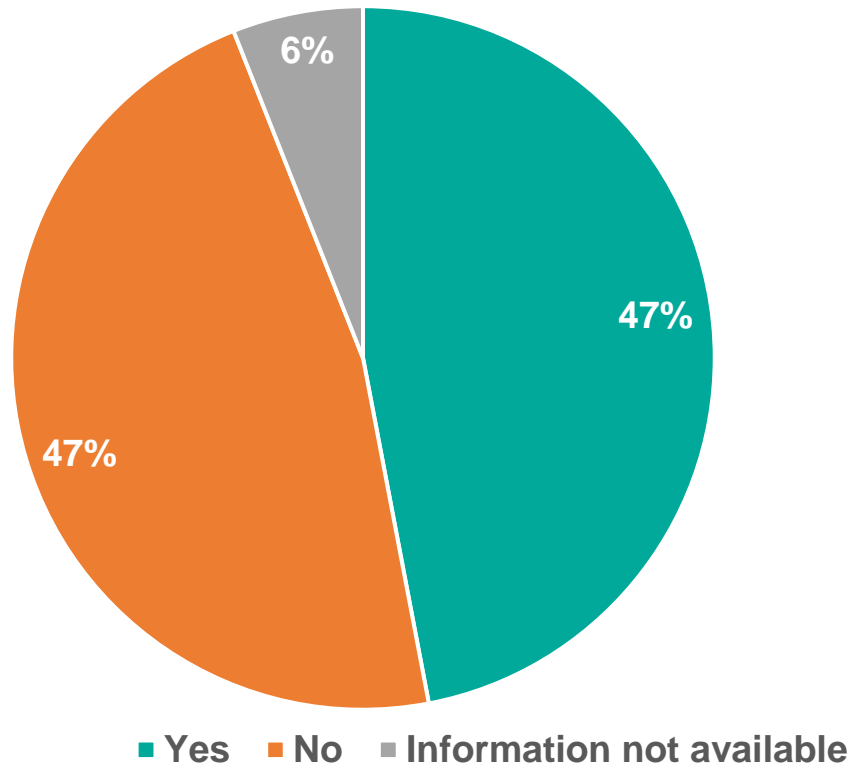
Proportion of countries permitting secondary distribution of needles in Asia and the Pacific region



Country	Overview of NSP during the COVID-19 pandemic
Thailand	Program implemented within the Global Fund implementation area
Nepal	Demand for NSP services diminished during the lockdowns. Out-reach/in-reach workers continued to reach their clients through social media and telephone follow-up for counseling, supplies and information on HIV.
India	Community based needle exchange and secondary distribution hubs are in place in the North-East states.
Bangladesh	Under the COVID-19 response the NSEP was disrupted
Myanmar	Secondary distribution of needle and syringes through shop owners, community health workers to PWID peers expanded and utilized even more during the COVID-19.

Opioid Substitution Therapy: Take home dosages in response to COVID-19

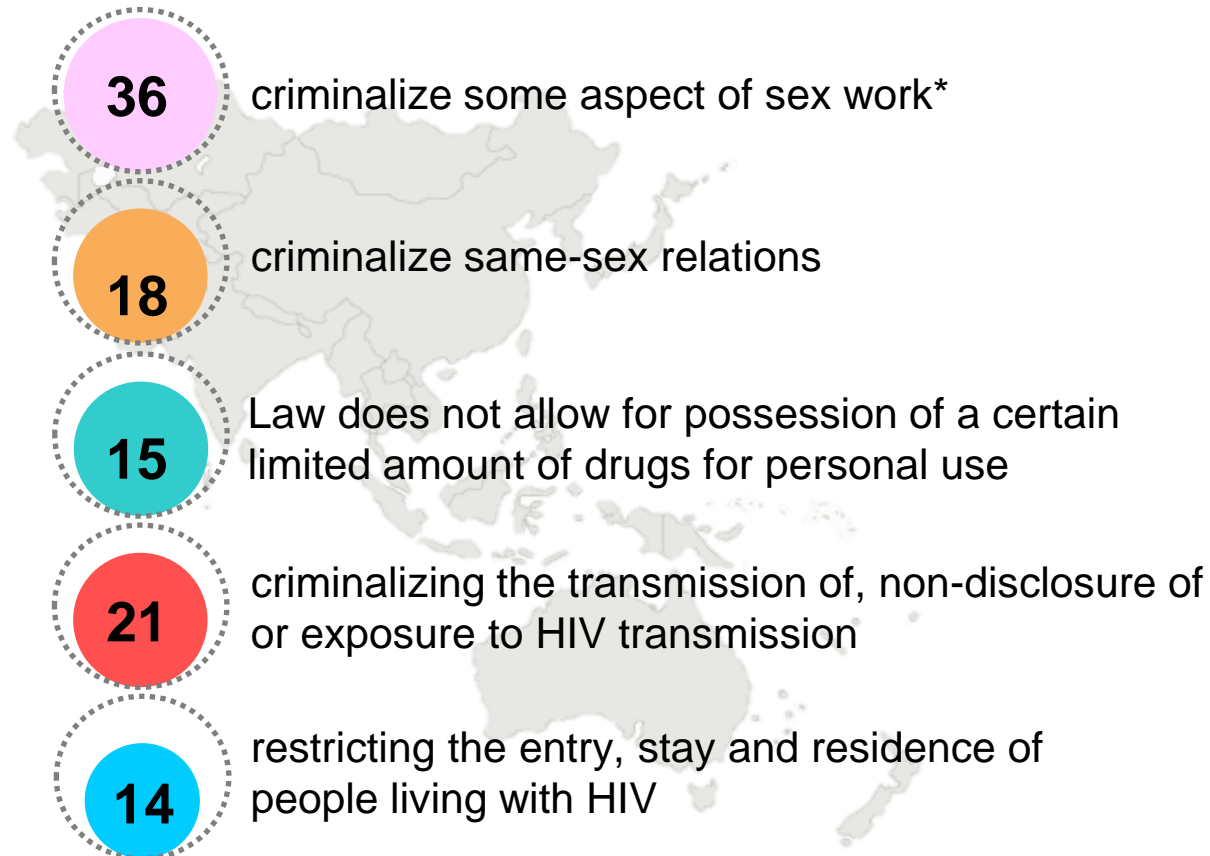
Proportion of countries in Asia and the Pacific region permitting take home dosages of OST as a result of COVID-19



Country	Overview of OST program during the COVID-19 pandemic
Bangladesh	Take home dosages applicable only to PWID who have homes. OST supply to street-based PWID was disrupted, but has since resumed
India	Through drug users' forum and OST clinics services are sustained including take home doses
Myanmar	Recent data shows that up to 75% of MMT users are receiving take-home doses for 7 to 14 days
Nepal	In contrast with the OST guidelines from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the clinical guidelines developed by Ministry of Health include the takeaway dose.
Thailand	Government allows home methadone up to 420 mg only patients who met assessment and criteria. Government announced guideline how to manage substitution therapy during COVID-19 (April ,2020)

Enabling Environment

Legal barriers to HIV response remain in 38 UN Member States in Asia Pacific



38 countries in Asia and the Pacific region

Countries with punitive laws

*Data for Timor-Leste not available

Changing legal framework and mobilizing political commitment

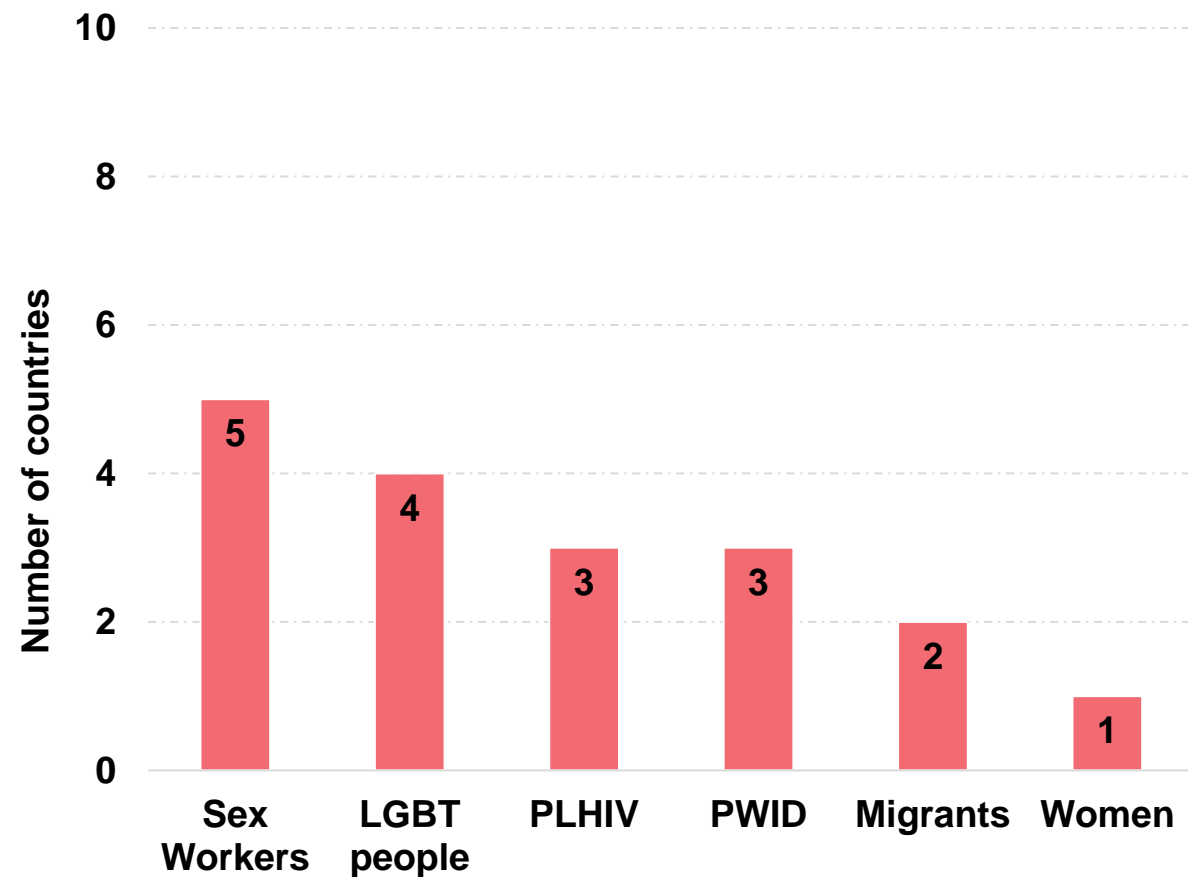
- Recent removal of all travel restrictions for PLHIV in New Zealand
- Ground-breaking Decision by India's Supreme Court strikes down law criminalizing same sex behaviors
- Adoption of comprehensive HIV legislations in India and the Philippines
- Enaction of Transgender persons Act in Pakistan
- CCDUs: Renewed focus on transition to voluntary community-based treatment and care for drug use and dependence.
- Renewed political commitment to strengthen HIV response with focus on Prevention, Integration, Innovation and Sustainability

Punitive and discriminatory laws in South-East Asia, 2021

	Criminalization of TG people	Criminalization of sex work	Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts	Law allows for possession of a certain limited amount of drugs for personal use	Parental consent for adolescents to access HIV testing	Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV
Bangladesh	NO	YES	YES	No info	No info	NO
Bhutan	NO	YES	YES	No info	YES (for adolescents <18yr)	NO
DPRK	No info	YES	NO	No info	No info	NO
India	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES (for adolescents <18yr)	NO
Indonesia	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Maldives	NO	YES	YES	No info	No info	YES
Myanmar	YES	YES	YES	No info	NO	NO
Nepal	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES (for adolescents <16yr)	NO
Sri Lanka	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Thailand	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Timor-Leste	No info	No info	NO	No info	No info	NO

Populations who reported experiencing barriers in accessing COVID-19 related special social protection measures

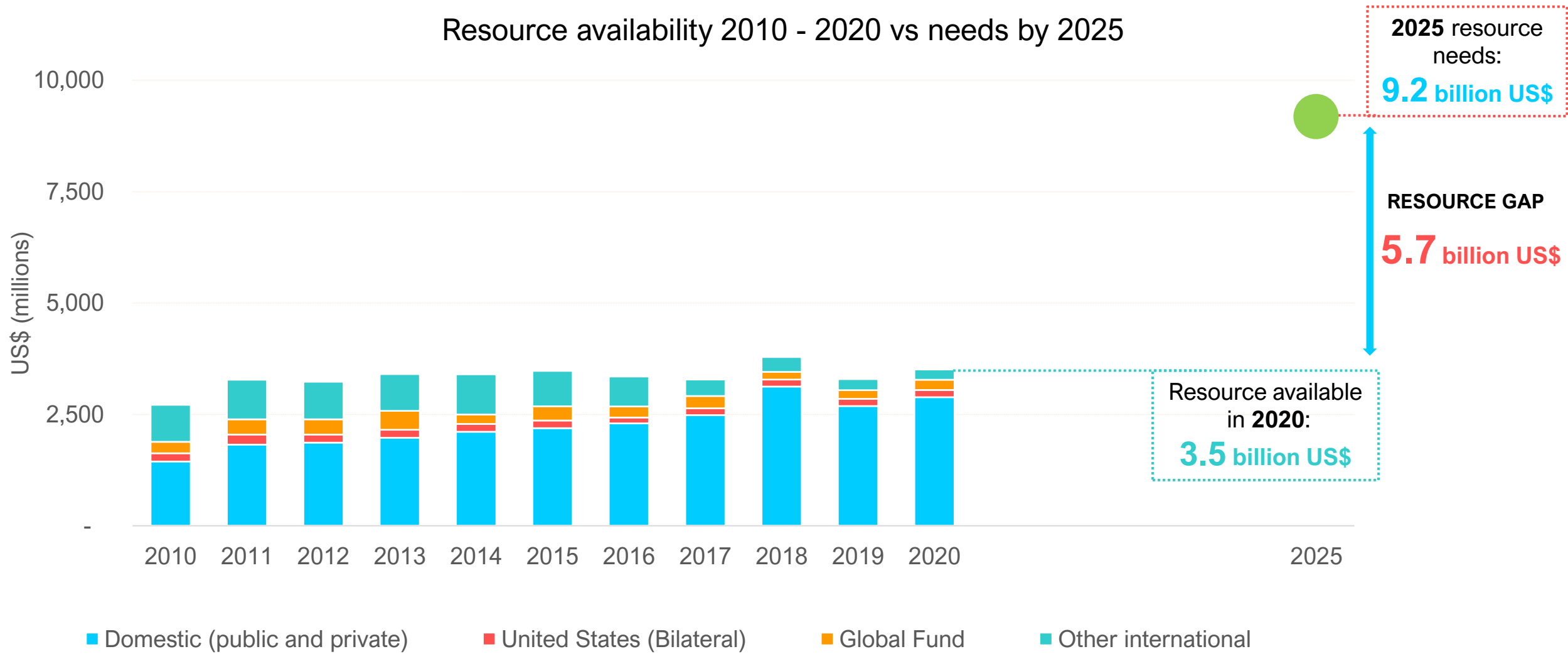
Number of countries in Asia and the Pacific region where different populations faced barriers



Overview of key issues in South East Asia

Country	Summary of key issues
Bangladesh	Most of the key population groups were not able to access government food aid
India	Some members failed to access government social protection programmes due to lack of required identification documents, not because of sexual orientation or HIV status
Indonesia	Government social protection targeted poor families, excluding poor individuals not in family set up (e.g., TG, MSM, PWUD, FSW)
Nepal	Women living with HIV faced challenges in accessing ARVs and COVID-19 related services
Thailand	LGBT working in the entertainment industry, sex workers and undocumented migrants were not eligible to government social protection measures

Resource availability by source and resource needs in 2025, Asia and the Pacific



Conclusions

- **Highly unequal progress** has been seen in AIDS response in Asia and the Pacific region.
- Because the achievements have not been shared equally within and between countries, the global and regional HIV targets set for 2020 were missed.
- The **COVID-19 pandemic** caused disruptions to HIV services, but community resilience and innovation has shown the way in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on HIV
- **Innovation matters** – innovative tools and programmes such as PrEP and HIV self-testing have been introduced, but these need to be scaled up
- **Stigma and discrimination, together with other social inequalities and exclusion**, are proving to be key barriers in region's AIDS response
- The gains made could be lost and progress further stalled if we fail to act, and there is an **urgent need for countries to double down** and act with urgency to reach those that are still left behind.
- **Greater global and regional solidarity** is needed to tackle entrenched inequalities to end the COVID-19 pandemic and the HIV epidemic

THANK YOU

www.aidsdatahub.org