



The 10th International Congress on **AIDS** in Asia and the Pacific
26–30 August, 2011 BEXCO, Busan, Republic of Korea

Sat, 27 August 2011

Plenary Session 2 Getting to Zero in the Asia and Pacific Region

Chair : David Wilson (World Bank & Regional CS, USA)

**Co-Chair : Vince Chrisostomo (Coalition of Asia Pacific Regional
Networks on AIDS, Seven Sisters, Thailand)**

SaSp1-01 Sex Getting to Zero in the Asia and the Pacific:

Steve Kraus, UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Asia Pacific, USA

- **ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS**
- **ZERO DISCRIMINATION**
- **ZERO AIDS-RELATED DEATHS**

J.V.R Prasada Rao

A pivotal moment for AIDS

2011 High-Level Meeting:

UN moment States commit to new targets for 2015:

- Halve sexual transmission of HIV
- Reduce transmission of HIV among people who use drugs by 50%
- Ensure no children are born with HIV
- Get 15 million people on ART
- Reduce TB deaths in people living with HIV by 50%
- Close the global resource gap for AIDS and increase funding to US\$ 22-24 billion per year through
 - more domestic ownership & funding
 - developed countries reaching target of 0.7% of GNP for ODA

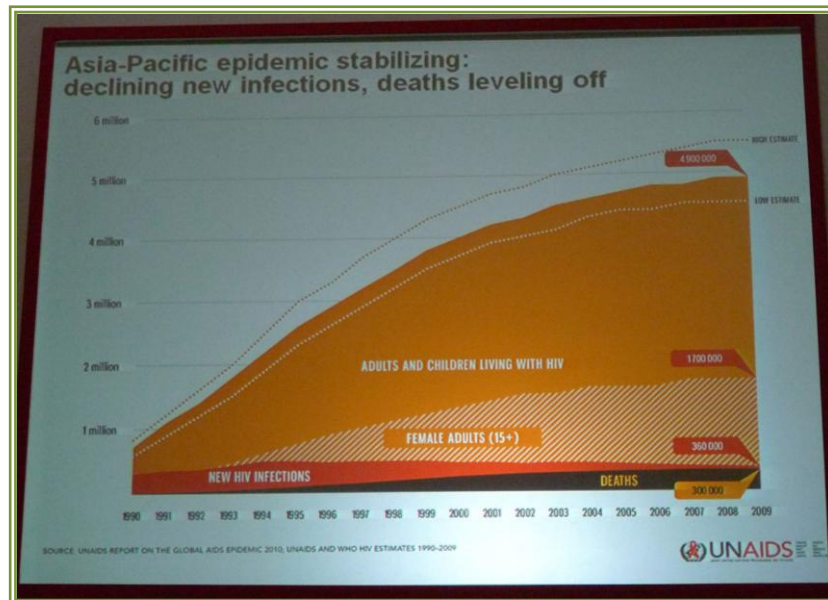
Countries also committed to critical enablers such as:

- Involve people living with HIV and young people;
- Eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based violence;

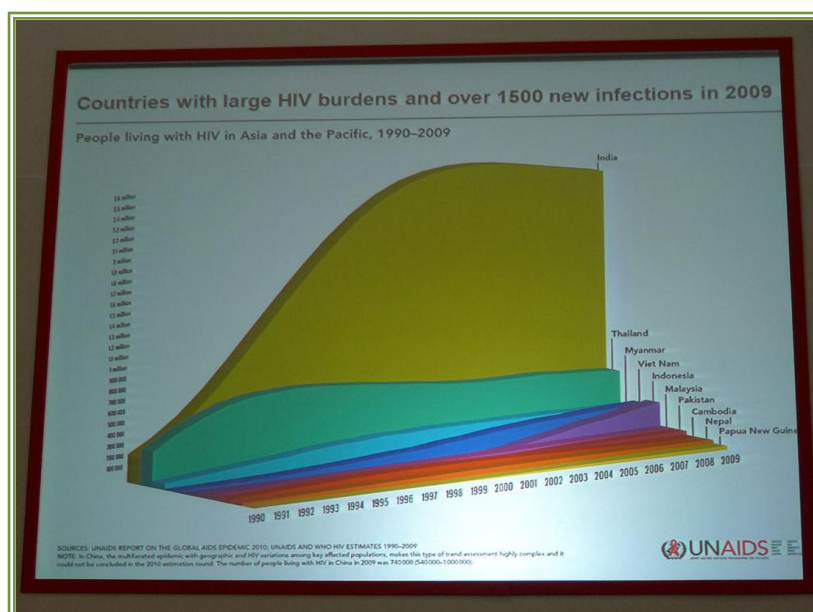
- Ensure human rights based responses;
- Eliminate remaining HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence;
- Remove obstacles such as laws and policies to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products

ZERO NEW HIV INFECTIONS

- Asia-Pacific epidemic stabilizing: declining new infections, deaths leveling off



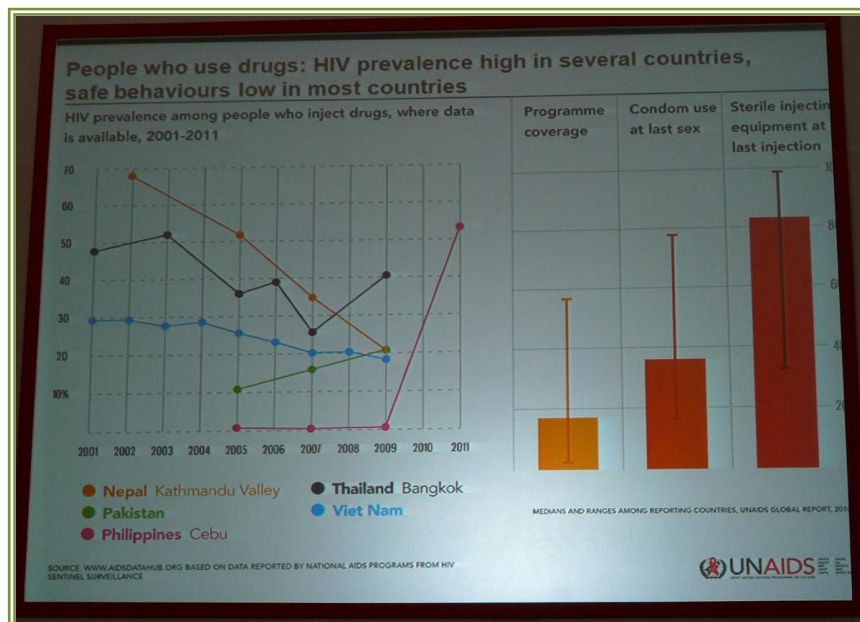
- Countries with large HIV burdens and over 1500 new infections in 2009



People who use drugs: the big picture

- 3-4 million men and women inject drugs
- 7-fold increase in number of needle and syringe programmes, but coverage still only 17%
- 180,000 opioid dependent persons receiving drug treatment represents only 5% coverage
- 300,000 people detained in compulsory detention centers

People who use drugs: HIV prevalence high in several countries, safe behaviors low in most countries



Preventing HIV among people who inject drugs: challenges and opportunities

Compulsory detention centers Public health and human rights concerns:

- Compulsory HIV testing
- High risk of disease transmission
- No access to treatment
- High relapse rates

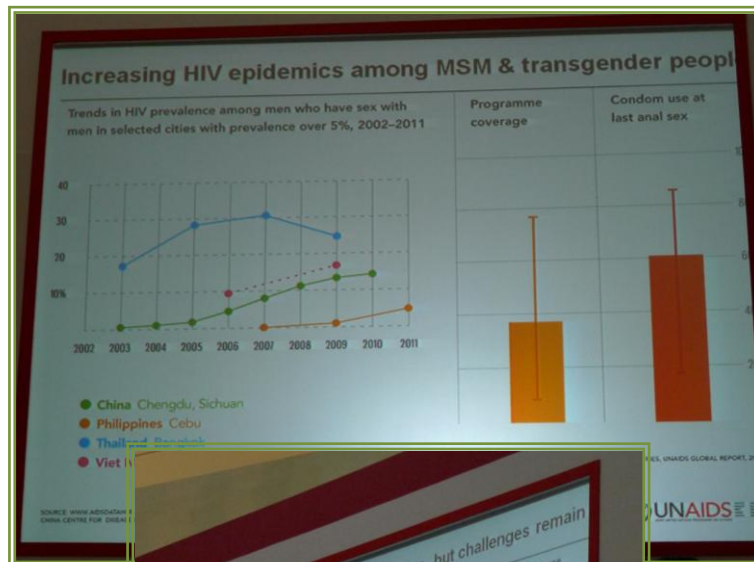
Effective harm reduction Pilot MMT programmes in Malaysia and China found:

- Lower rates of new HIV infections
- Reduction in injection drug use
- Increase in employment and return to full-time work
- Quality of life improvement

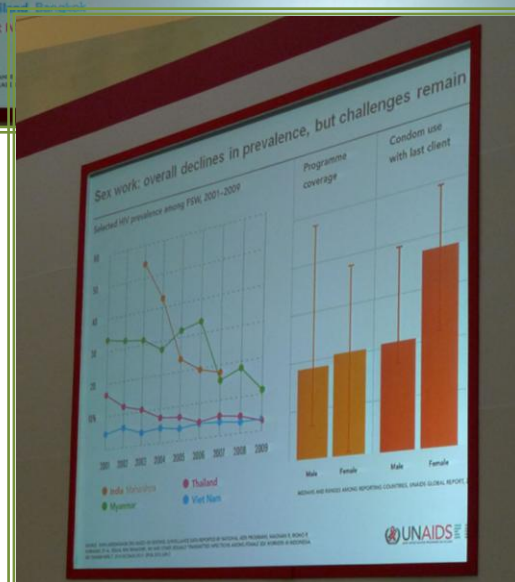
MSM & transgender people: important gaps & challenges

- Despite high proportion of new cases among MSM and transgender people, **responses remains insufficient.**
- Programmes do not sufficient reach out to **young MSM and transgender people.**
- **Stigma and discrimination and legal barriers** are fundamental impediment to access to services.

Increasing HIV epidemics among MSM & transgender people



Sex work: overall prevalence,



declines in challenges remain



Towards a new generation of sex work & HIV programmes

- **Growing regional momentum and action towards comprehensive and rights-based programmes** that include :
 - Promotion of coordination and partnerships between health, police, social services, venue owners and managers
 - Prevention of and addressing violence against sex workers
 - Changes in punitive laws, policies and practices
 - Addressing stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings
 - Identifying and reaching men who buy sex
 - Scale up of programmes for non-venue based and mobile sex workers, and male and transgender sex workers
 - Empowerment and involvement of sex workers

Prevention of new infections among children: some success stories, but insufficient coverage overall

- Coverage for parent to child transmission services in Asia and the Pacific has improved, but the **regional average still trails behind the global average**
- Most countries have stopped the use of **single does nevirapine** or are in the process of doing so – but it is still used in a handful of countries



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- In 2009, **32%** of infants born to mothers living with HIV received ARV prophylaxis, slightly below the global average coverage of **35%**
- Very few infants born to mothers living with HIV are currently tested within two months of birth **most infants living with HIV do not receive ART as early as they need it**



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ZERO DISCRIMINATION

Legal and political challenges

OUT OF 38 COUNTRIES IN THE REGION...

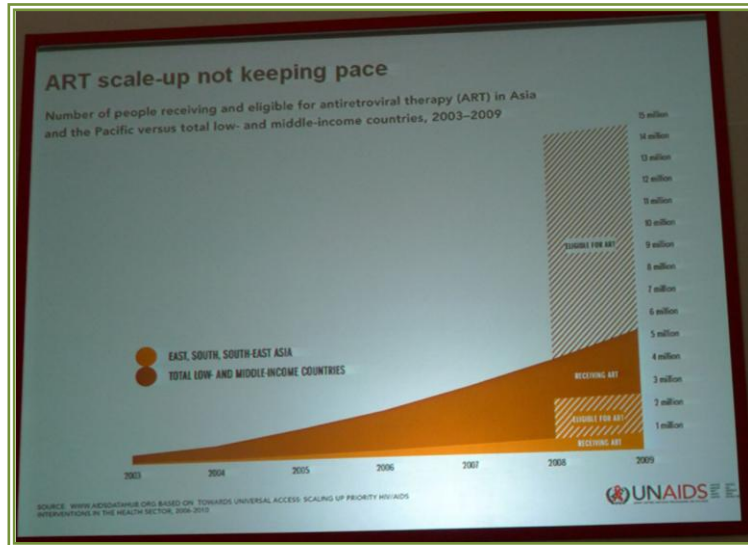
| | |
|-----------|---|
| 19 | Criminalize same-sex relations |
| 29 | Criminalize some aspects of sex work |
| 15 | Impose some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV based on their HIV status |
| 8 | Maintain compulsory detention centers for people who use drugs |
| 11 | Provide for the death penalty for drug-related offences |

On the positive

- More countries are starting to shift towards a rights-based approach in their AIDS responses:
 - Eighteen countries have laws meant to shield people with HIV against discrimination
 - Seventeen claim to provide certain forms of protection for key populations
 - A number of countries in region are moving away from an exclusively punitive approach to drug use
- Coalitions need to be broadened:
 - Community activism has been at forefront
 - But partnerships need to step up their contributions including:
 - Parliamentarians
 - Faith based community
 - Media

ZERO AIDS-RELATED DEATHS

ART scale-up not keeping pace

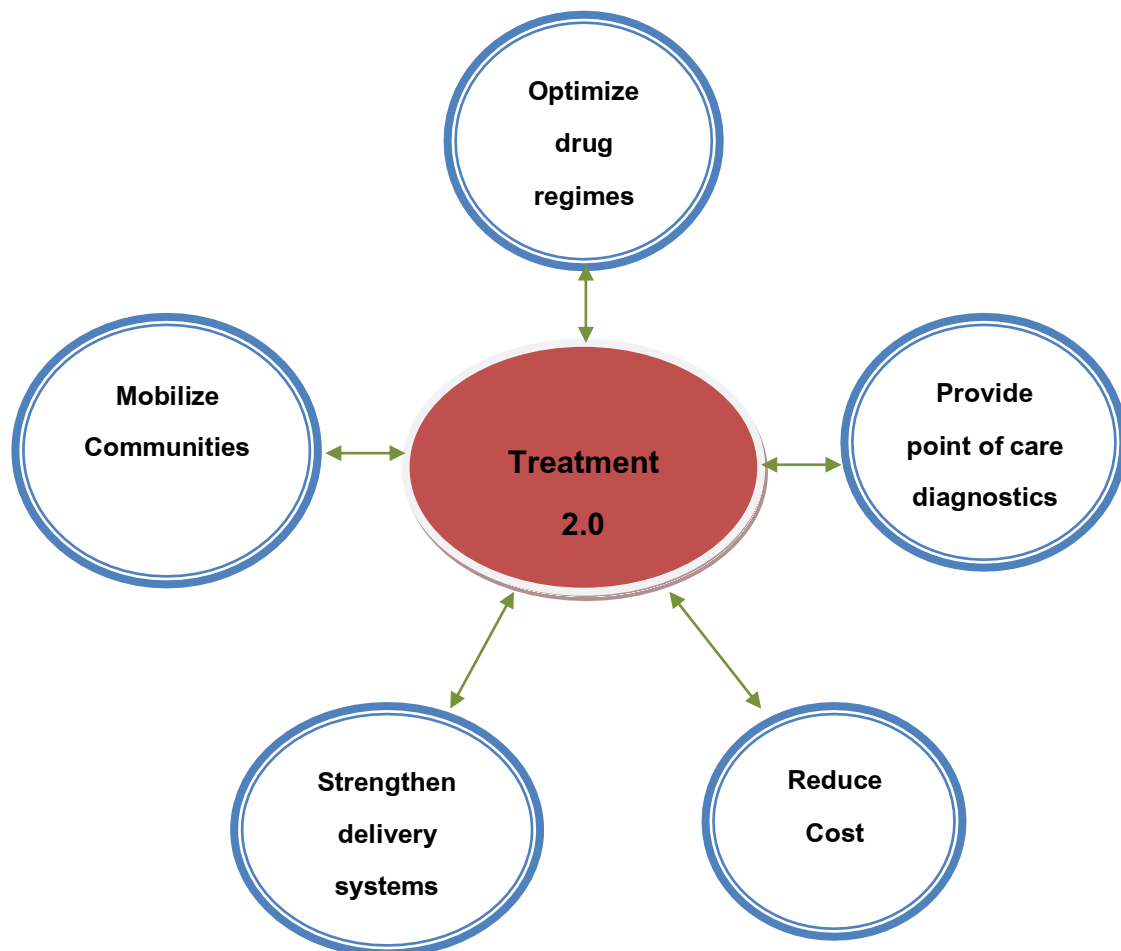


Universal Access to ART: now more than ever

| Opportunities | Challenges |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2010 WHO Guidelines recommending initiation at CD4 350 & improved regimens ● Evidence that timely ART greatly reduces HIV transmission ● Evidence that involvement of PLHIV increases coverage and quality and reduces cost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More funding needed now for human and economic gains later ● Securing access to cheap ARVs through use of TRIPS flexibilities ● Rapidly expanding access to rights-based testing and counseling ● Integrating and scaling up management of co-infections (HIV-TB and HIV-HepC) |

Treatment 2.0: a new phase in AIDS treatment

- Comprehensive approach to radically simplify AIDS treatment and make it more sustainable
- **Time to move from concept to practice:** several Asia Pacific countries ready to pilot Treatment 2.0 in selected sites

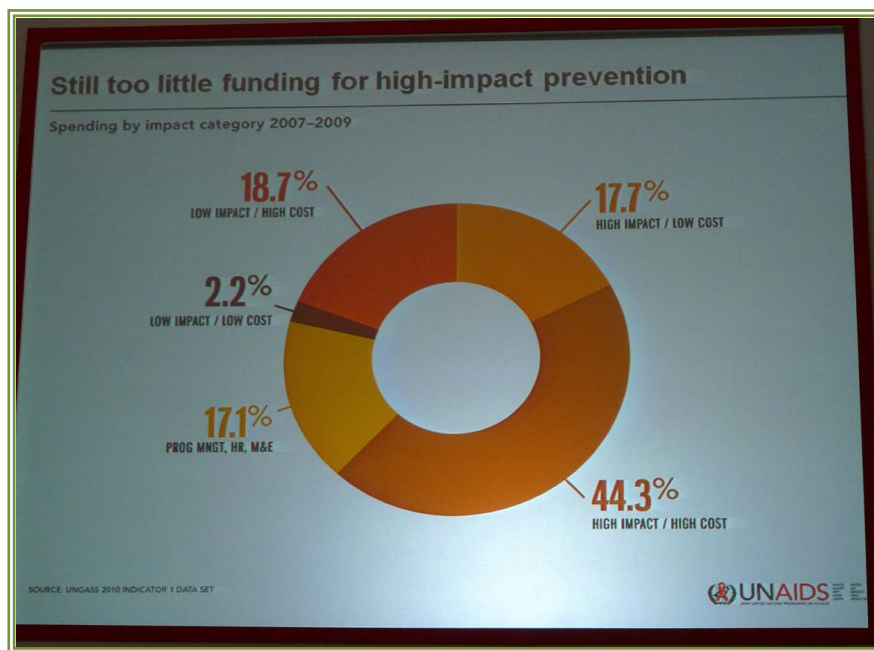


AIDS response remains largely underfunded and donor dependent

- Global International funding for ASIA: **10% decrease in 2010**
- Reported HIV spending in 2009 was US\$ 1.1 bn in Asia-Pacific i.e. about one third of **estimated need**
- **Domestic public funding** represents 53% of HIV expenditure in Asia-Pacific (2009) mainly thanks to important domestic spending in China and Thailand

- But international funding is **over half of total AIDS spending in 3/4 of the countries**
- **ART programmes** are (almost) entirely funded by international funds in all but a few MICs

Still too little funding for high-impact prevention



Asia and the Pacific: At the crossroads

Countries in Asia and the Pacific have the capacity to lead the world in achieving the Three Zeros

- **Bold political leadership, country ownership and broad partnerships** are needed more than ever
- **Community involvement** is a condition for success.

Complacency is not an option: the next five years are critical!