

Health Sector Response to HIV Epidemic among MSM and TG



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Outline

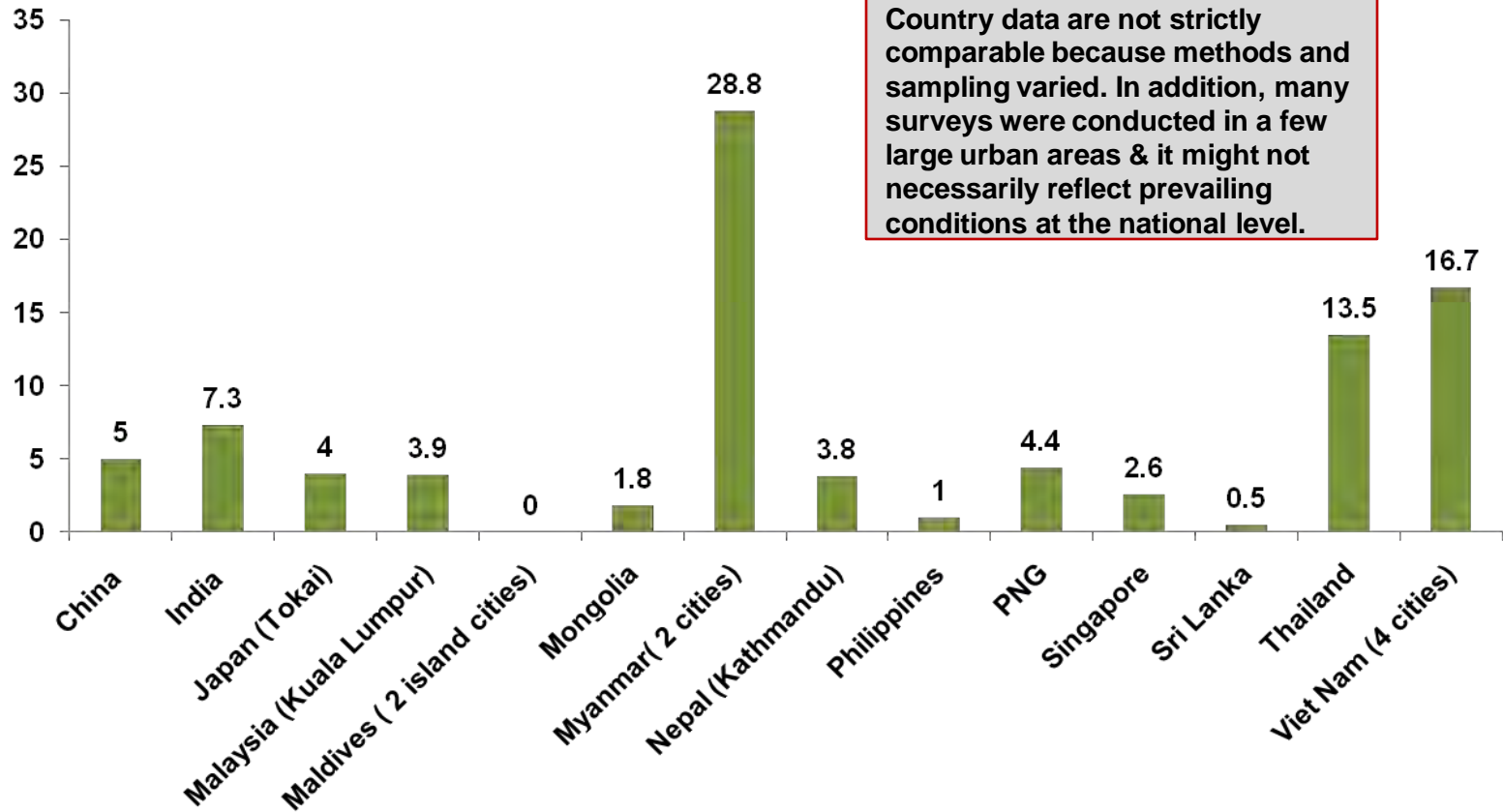
- **Background**
 - **Epidemiology at a glance**
- **Development of Regional and global guidance**
 - **Pathways of collective response**
- **The way forward**

HIV epidemics among MSM & transgender people

- High vulnerability
 - MSM - 20 times more likely to be infected (Baral et al 2007)
 - Transgender - up to 68% infected with HIV (Guadamuz et al 2010)
- Emerging epidemics in developing countries
 - MSM were 19 times more likely to have HIV infection as other men (Baral et al 2007)
- Resurging epidemics in industrialized countries
 - In US, 50% of PLHIV and 50% new cases are MSM (US CDC)
- High stigma and discrimination impeding access
 - More than 75 countries criminalizing same-gender sex

HIV prevalence among MSM in Asia is high

Selected cities in Asia, 2008-2009



Pathways of collective response

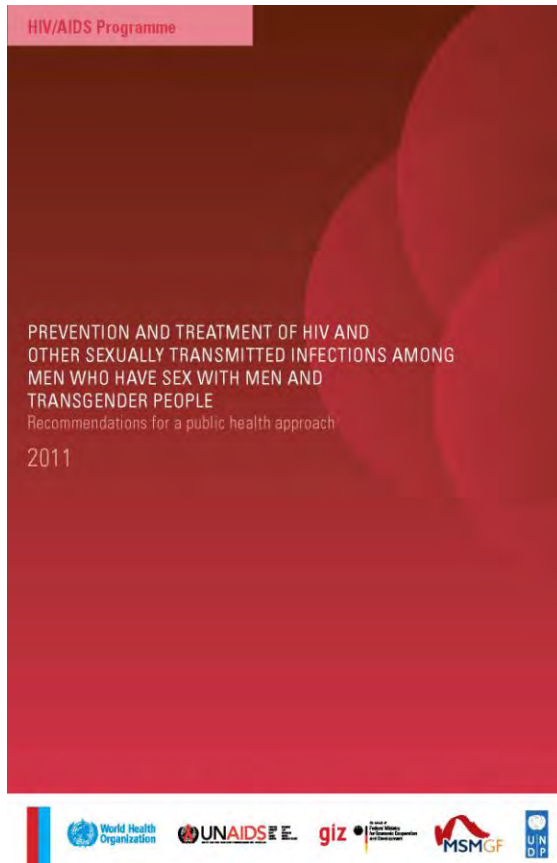
<p>Feb. 2009</p>	<p>The first <i>"Consultation on Health Sector Response to HIV/AIDS Among Men Who Have Sex With Men in Asia and Pacific"</i> convened in Hong Kong (China). (WPRO, APCOM, UNDP, UNAIDS, HK SAR (China))</p>
<p>June 2009</p>	<p>The <i>"Regional Consensus Meeting on Developing a Comprehensive Package of Services to Reduce HIV Among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Populations in Asia and the Pacific"</i> held in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2009..</p>
<p>Nov 2009</p>	<p>The <i>"Asia Regional Consultation on MSM HIV/AIDS Care and Support"</i> held in November 2009, Bangkok, Thailand.</p>
<p>April 2010</p>	<p>The <i>"Priority HIV and Sexual Health Interventions in the Health Sector for Men Who Have Sex With Men and Transgender People in the Asia Pacific Region"</i> published in April 2010.</p>
<p>June 2011</p>	<p><i>Launching of Global guidelines "Men who have sex with men and transgender people Prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections: Recommendations for a public health approach"</i>, jointly developed by WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, MSMGF, giz.</p>

- Highlights the contribution and strategic directions of health sector response
- Outlines scope and components of the regional response, consistent with the global guidelines
 - Policy/programming
 - Services
 - Stigma reduction

Priority HIV and sexual health interventions in the health sector for men who have sex with men and transgender people in the Asia-Pacific Region



WHO global guidance launched in June 2011



- Provides **21** evidence based public health recommendations:
 - structural
 - bio-medical
 - behavioural

Good Practice

First ever link with technical recommendation

- Promotion of a legal and social environment that protects human right
- Access to prevention, treatment, care and support without discrimination

Prevention of sexual transmission

- Using condoms consistently
- Using condoms over serosorting
- MC not recommended



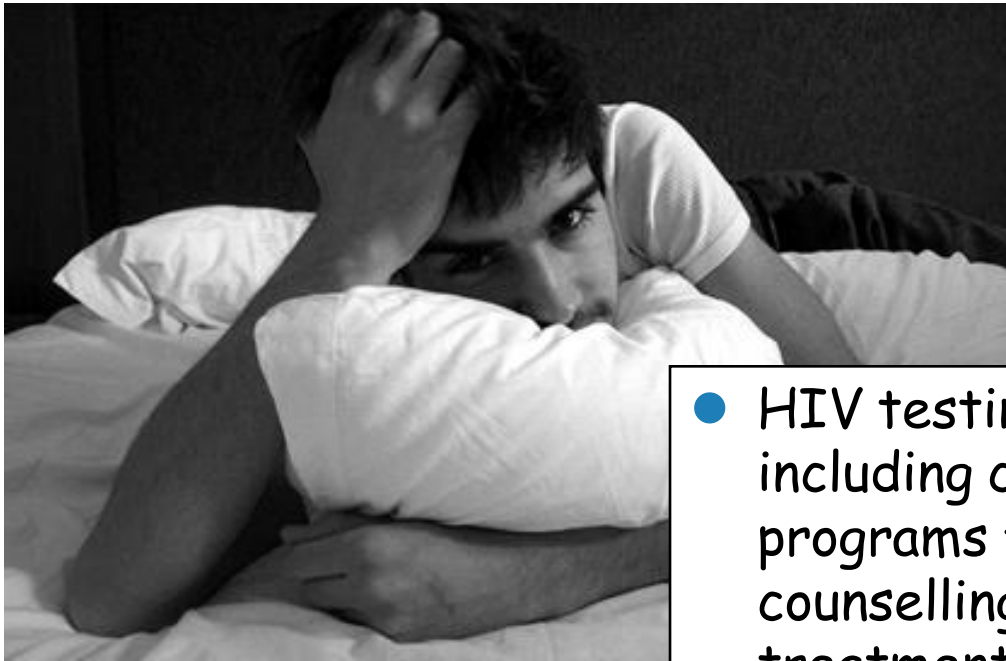
Prevention of sexual transmission

- Implementing individual-and community level behavioural interventions



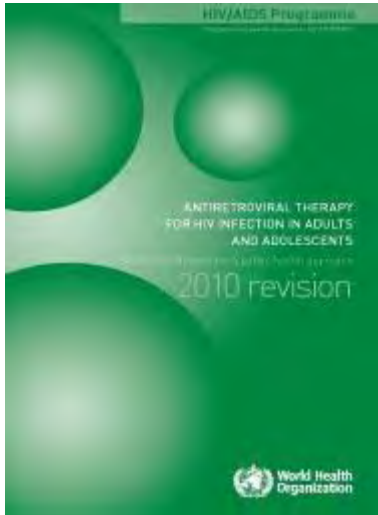
- Targeted internet-based targeted information
- Using social marketing strategies
- Implementing sex venue-based outreach strategies

Testing and counselling

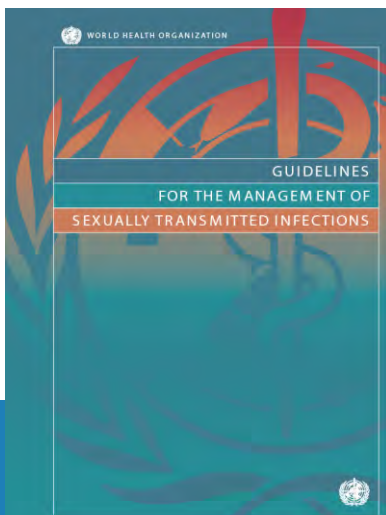


- HIV testing and counselling, including community-level programs for HIV testing and counselling linked to care and treatment

HIV and STI treatment and care



- ART the same as other populations
- Essential interventions to prevent illness and HIV transmission



- Syndromic management and treatment (including anal infections)
- Periodic testing for asymptomatic STIs

The way forward

(WHO, in partnership with APCOM, UNDP, UNAIDS)

- Implementation of the global & regional evidence based recommendations and regional guidance on priority interventions in countries
- Development of case studies in priority countries
- Policy dialogue to engage health sector for scaling up MSM friendly and stigma-free services for MSM/TG
- Developing country-specific training manual for health providers and stigma reduction in healthcare settings
- Strengthen strategic information including research agenda

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