

The road more travelled...now

Good practice in the response to HIV epidemics among MSM in Asia

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From the frontline – a toxic masculinity

- Stigmatised
- Discriminated
- Harassed
- Beaten
- Sexually abused
- Socially excluded
- Criminalised
- Murdered
- Socially disadvantaged



You have seen the graphs! A crime against humanity

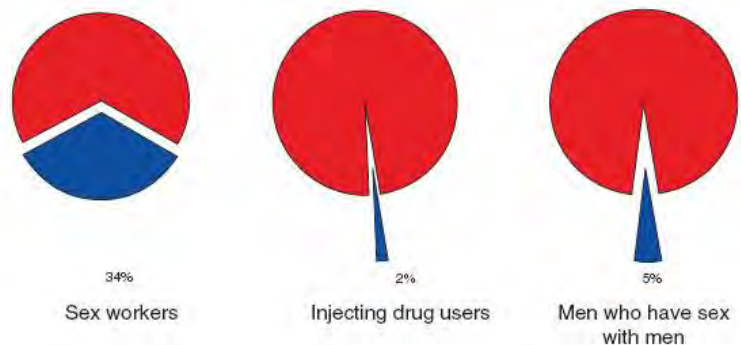


Figure 5.3: Coverage of most-at-risk populations by HIV prevention services in Asia, 2005

Source: J. Stover and M. Fahnstock (2006), *Coverage of Selected Services for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment in Low- and Middle-Income Countries in 2005*, Washington, DC: Constella Futures, POLICY Project.

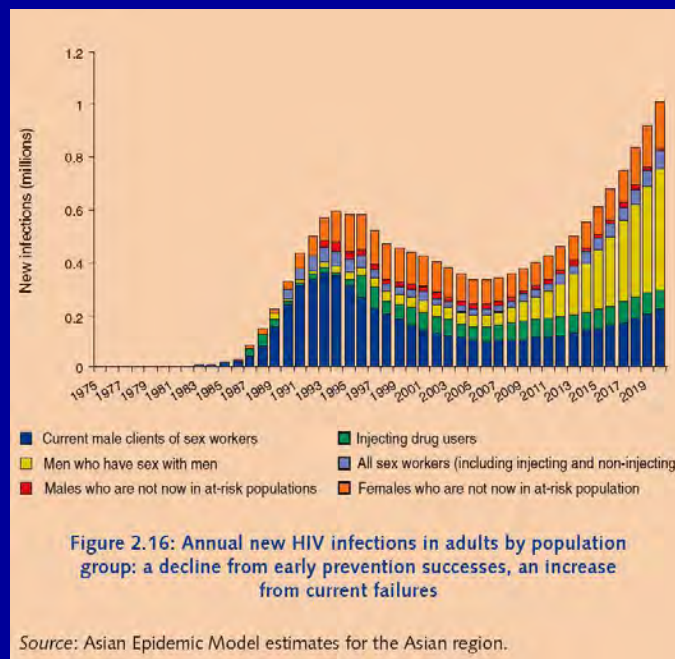


Figure 2.16: Annual new HIV infections in adults by population group: a decline from early prevention successes, an increase from current failures

Source: Asian Epidemic Model estimates for the Asian region.

By 2009

**194 MSM and transgenders get infected
with HIV every day in Asia and the Pacific!**



Risks | Responsibilities

Male Sexual Health and HIV
in Asia and The Pacific
International Consultation

New Delhi, India, 23-26 September 2006



Forming strategic alliances and partnerships

**The community sectors,
the UN system, donors and governments**

A community reponse



New Delhi, 2006 - a promise made

You can be assured of the support of the United Nations family in your common endeavour to win the battle against HIV among the MSM and transgender communities.

If nobody else is there for you – we are here!

Dr Nafis Sadik, special advisor to the UN General Secretary-General and Special Envoy for HIV and AIDS in Asia and Pacific

Mexico City, 2008

In countries without laws to protect sex workers, drug users, and men who have sex with men, only a fraction of the population has access to prevention. Conversely, in countries with legal protection and the protection of human rights for these people, many more have access to services. As a result, there are fewer infections, less demand for anti-retroviral treatment and fewer deaths. Not only is it unethical not to protect these groups; it makes no sense from a health perspective. It hurts all of us.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

A road increasingly well travelled

Governments to recognise MSM and transgenders as citizens and highly at risk and vulnerable

Increase investment by governments and donors

Rapid scale up of appropriate service coverage for MSM and transgenders

Increase strategic knowledge to inform interventions, including social research on syndemic issues

A road increasingly well travelled

Eradicate social exclusion, stigma and discrimination forcefully

Address legal, judicial and policy impediments along with punitive laws that impede access to civil and health rights

Acknowledge MSM and transgender communities as equal partners in developing national responses to HIV

A road increasingly well travelled

Empower such communities to engage in planning, developing, implementing and delivering their own HIV services

Strengthen and engage with the health sector providers in each country to ensure that MSM and transgenders are able to access these services without fear of exclusion, stigmatisation, harassment, and discrimination

Abide by all international agreements made by governments on human rights commitments, and UN Declarations, policies and guidelines

Forming strategic alliances

- **Government, national, provincial, local**
- **Health sector providers**
- **Law enforcement agencies**
- **Civil society**
- **Media**
- **Legal and judicial sector**
- **Faith based institutions**

Forming strategic alliances

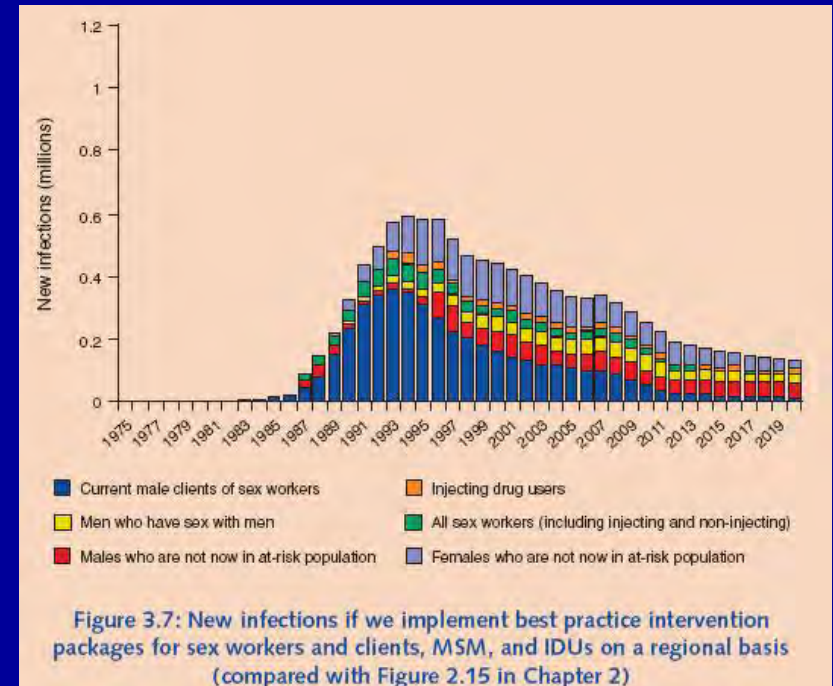
- **International and national donors**
- **International, national and local non government organisations**
- **Multi-lateral agencies**

**And of course MSM and/or transgender organisations,
networks and collectivities**

A vision of hope and compassion, that it will not be too long before we are all recognised – and accepted - as human beings, that our rights as human beings will be respected and honoured, and that we will play our full role as citizens of our countries, of this region, and of the world to address the HIV epidemics scourging our communities

This is what we can achieve by working together in a coalition of engagement, mutual respect, trust social justice

This is good practice.



Thank you