



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

HTF 07/2008A/09

**GENDER AND HIV - ENSURING WOMEN AND
GIRLS' ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

Submitted by: UNFPA

**APEC SEMINAR ON SOCIAL POLICIES FOR MIGRANTS TO
PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS**

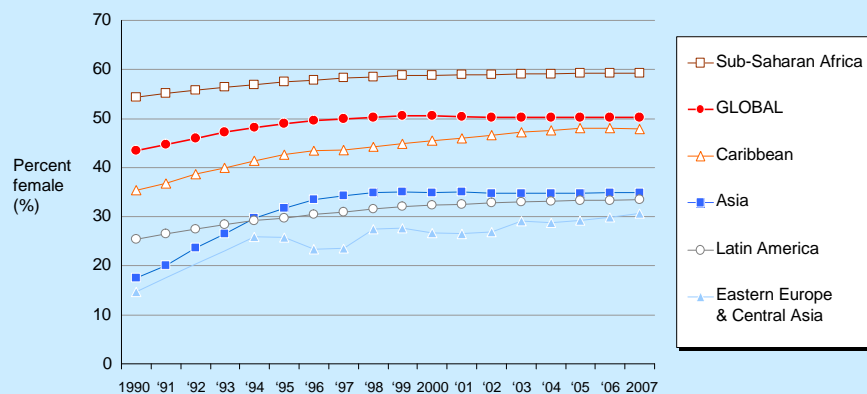
**Ha Noi, Viet Nam
18 – 19 September 2008**

Gender and HIV

ensuring women and girls' access to essential services

Akiko Takai, UNFPA Viet Nam

Percent of adults (15+) living with HIV who are female 1990–2007

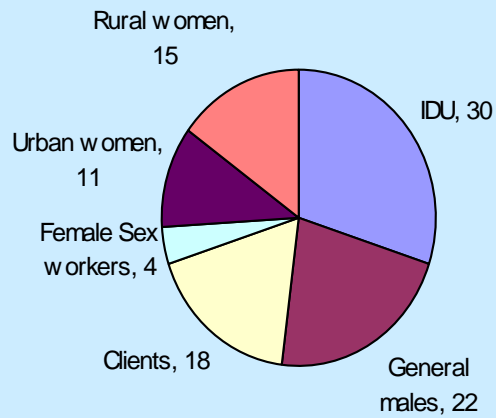


UNAIDS, WHO: AIDS Epidemic Update 2007

Who is infected in Viet Nam?

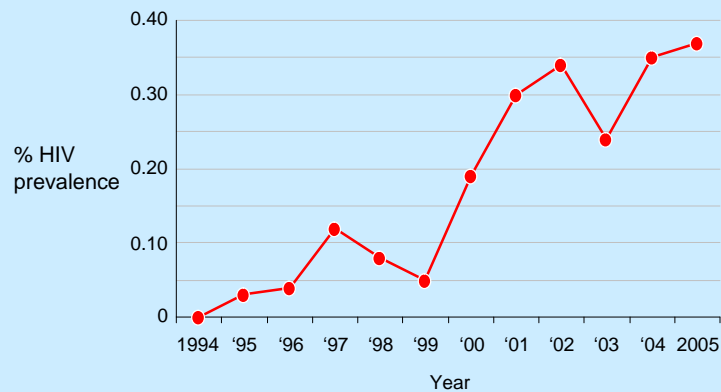


Out of 100 HIV infected people in 2006:



Source: MOH (2005). HIV/AIDS Estimates and Projection 2005 - 2010

HIV prevalence among pregnant women in Viet Nam, 1994–2005



Source: Ministry of Health, Sentinel Surveillance Survey Data.
WHO, UNAIDS: AIDS Epidemic Update 2007

HIV is affecting women and girls:

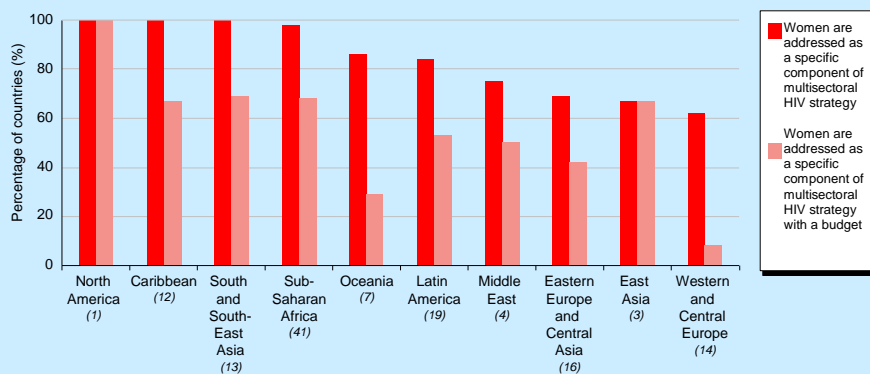
Globally women comprise almost 50% of people living with HIV

Women currently represent 30% of adults living with HIV in Asia

Promises

- 1979 UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- 1994 International Conference on Population and Development
- 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women
- 2000 UN Millennium Development Goals
- 2001 UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS
- 2005 World Summit

Percentage of countries in regions reporting that women are addressed as a specific component of their multisectoral HIV strategy with a specific HIV budget for their activities



(Number of countries reporting)

Source: UNGASS Country Progress Reports 2008.

Key issues for Women and HIV

- Preventing new infections by improving access to sexual and reproductive health services
- Promoting equitable access to HIV care and treatment
- Ensuring universal access to education
- Securing women's property and inheritance rights
- Reducing violence against women
- Ensuring that women's care work is supported
- Advocating for increased research and funding for female-controlled HIV prevention methods
- Promoting women's leadership in response to HIV

- Securing women's property and inheritance rights

- Ensuring universal access to education

Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world. It is also a weapon that the world cannot do without in the fight against AIDS. Education saves lives.

Nelson Mandela

- Promoting equitable access to HIV care and treatment

- Prevention of HIV in women and young girls
- Strengthening linkages between Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV Services
- Prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV
- Sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV
- Focus on women especially vulnerable to HIV

Sexual and Reproductive Services



- Expand and strengthen sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services
- SRH Services: family planning; maternal health and nutrition; protection from sexually transmitted infections; reproductive rights
- Improve SRH services could save millions of lives. Also opportunities for improving HIV services for women and girls

Prevention of Mother to child transmission, PMTCT



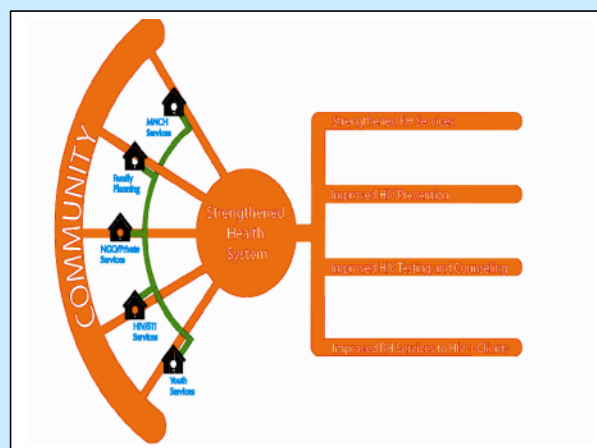
- Comprehensive PMTCT
 - Primary HIV prevention for women
 - Prevention of un-intended pregnancy for women living with HIV
 - Anti-retroviral prophylaxis to reduce mother-to child transmission of HIV
 - Treatment care and support for HIV-positive mothers, male partners and positive babies

Prevention of Mother to child transmission



- Involving male partners in prevention of mother to child transmission comprehensive PMTCT in the “Healthy Family” approach (men attending ANC, support safe delivery and newborn care, etc.)
- HIV prevention for male partners

Linkages can strengthen health care outcomes



Asia-Pacific Operational Framework for Linking HIV/STI Services with Reproductive, Adolescent, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services, July 2007

Women especially vulnerable to HIV



- Female sex workers
- Migrant workers
 - Lack access to services, information, and protection
 - Exposed to violence
 - Viewed as causes of epidemic

Barriers to scaling up sex work programmes



- Lack of information about sex work, sex workers, their clients and partners
- Legal status of sex work
- Lack of involvement or denial of sex workers in the AIDS response- including unequal power relations, between stakeholders and sex workers
- Violence against sex workers
- Stigma and discrimination(especially in health sector)
- Multiple strategies(often conflicting), partners and focus

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What is the minimum package for programmes for sex workers



- HIV Prevention services- access to health care, STI, condoms, information, HIV testing, needles and syringes, reproductive health
- Access to treatment, care and support
- Protection from violence, abuse and exploitation
- Access to social support, education for families, children
- Ethical standards during research involving sex work
- Reducing stigma and discrimination
- Empowerment- within sex work and to move away from sex work if desired, addressing social marginalisation, economic exclusion and violence, as well as a focus on health
- Participation in programme development and implementation

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Key issues for Women and HIV



- Promoting women's leadership in response to HIV



Enabling factors:

- Information and knowledge
- Equality (education, access to resources)
- Quality services including commodities
- Data including gender desegregated information
- Policies provide support and protection
- Commitment of leaders, decision makers, development partners

Thank you