

### Key messages, data and resources to inform SRH/HIV linkages & integration in concentrated epidemics in Asia

#### **Women living with HIV and female key affected populations experience disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion.**

Women living with HIV (WLHIV) and female key affected populations (KAPs) have the right to determine the number and timing of their pregnancies and to safely achieve their reproductive intentions. However, they often experience disproportionately high rates of unintended pregnancy and abortion.<sup>1</sup> For example, a survey of FSW in Bangladesh found that 60% of FSWs had an unmet need for family planning compared to 16.8% of married women ages 15–49.<sup>2</sup>

**A study covering six countries in Asia** showed that on average 37.1% of women living with HIV reported their most recent pregnancy was unwanted (Bangladesh 33.3%, Cambodia 43.5%, India 10.3%, Indonesia 33.0%, Nepal 47.5%, and Vietnam 53.2%).<sup>3</sup>

#### **Dual method contraception - condoms combined with another form of contraception - is crucial to address high abortion rates among female sex workers.**

Dual method contraception is necessary because:

- even where condom use high among FSW, often low condom use with intimate partners
- high levels of sexual violence; and
- clear evidence of the greater efficacy of other contraceptive methods, such as the pill, injectables, IUDs, when compared with condoms, for preventing unwanted pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Effectively addressing WLHIV and females KAPs unmet contraceptive need is a key element of preventing mother to child transmission.**<sup>5</sup>

#### **Addressing stigma and discrimination against WLHIV and female KAPs in health care settings is central to improving access to SRH and protections of rights.**

WLHIV including female KAPs experience barriers to access to MCH and experience coercive and discriminatory practices in health care settings, including forced HIV testing, breaches of

<sup>1</sup> Petruny. T, et al, *Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Key Populations Affected by HIV in Asia: An Unfinished Agenda* [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3443984/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3443984/)

<sup>2</sup> K. Katz, M. McDowell, M. S. Green, and S. Jahan, Assessing the need for family planning among female sex workers and female injecting drug users in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in Proceedings of the International Conference on Family Planning, Dakar, Senegal, 2011; cited in *ibid*, Petruny. T, et al, *Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Key Populations Affected by HIV in Asia: An Unfinished Agenda*, 2012; AIDS Research and Treatment, Volume 2012, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3443984/>

<sup>3</sup> *Positive and Pregnant—How Dare You: a study on access to reproductive and maternal health care for women living with HIV in Asia (Findings from six countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam)*, Women of the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (WAP+), 2012.

<sup>4</sup> *Contraceptive Failure in the United States*, Trussell, J. *Contraception* 83 (2011) 397-404. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21477680>; *Op cit*, Petruny. T, et al (2012).

<sup>5</sup> *Preventing HIV and unintended pregnancies: Strategic Framework 2011–2015*, The Inter-agency Task Team for Prevention and Treatment of HIV Infection in Pregnant Women, Mothers, and their Children.

confidentiality and the denial of health care services, as well as forced sterilization and abortion.<sup>6</sup>

Laws, including laws that criminalize sex work, sex between men and drug use, socio-cultural factors and religious norms often fuel stigma and discrimination against women living with HIV and key affected populations - sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, including young KAPs.<sup>7</sup>

**There are clear links between violence and the risk of HIV infection—approaches to preventing both cannot be isolated, with a strong focus on violence against WLHIV and KAPs.**

There are clear links between violence and the risk of HIV infection—approaches to preventing both cannot be isolated. In particular, violence affects people’s abilities to negotiate condom use. Sexual violence increases the risk of contracting or transmitting HIV and other STIs. Preventing and responding to violence against KAPs are an essential to effective linkages between HIV and SRH in low and concentrated epidemics.

**Reform of laws, policies and law enforcement practices, combined with programmatic approaches to prevent and respond to violence as integral part of KAP programmes are crucial.**

**HIV programs focused on KAPs provide critical entry points to provide and/ or facilitate access to SRH services for WLHIV, female KAPs and female partners of male KAPs.**

Targeted HIV interventions for WLHIV and KAPs, particularly female sex workers, women who inject drugs, the female partners of male KAPs, provide critical entry points to:

- provide counselling and the full range of contraceptive methods to prevent unintended pregnancies
- provide and promote access to HTC as central to planning pregnancy and HIV prevention, treatment and care
- ensure access to antenatal, delivery and post natal care including access to antiretroviral drugs both for the mothers’ own health and to prevent infection to their child during pregnancy, delivery and breastfeeding
- ensure access to safe abortion, subject to legal context, and post abortion care
- ensure access to services and support to address GBV including emergency contraception, Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), effective referral for diagnosis and treatment of STIs and counseling and legal support
- ensure effective referral systems and appropriateness of services to meet KPs needs including improved clinical capacity to address sexual health of MSM and transgender people, and tackle stigma and discrimination that is commonly a barrier to access mainstream services including FP and MCH.

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<sup>6</sup> WAP+ 2012; Turan J. Et al HIV-related Stigma as a Barrier to Achievement of Global PMTCT and Maternal Health Goals: A Review of the Evidence, AIDS Behav, AIDS Behav. 2013. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23474643>.

<sup>7</sup> See Key resources for legal reviews in Asia and the Pacific on: sex work; young people’s access to SRH and HIV services; MSM and transgender people.

### Key regional resources

#### *The Connect Effect: Tools for integration of HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health with Key Populations*

UNFPA and APMGlobal Health, August 2016

[www.connect-effect.com](http://www.connect-effect.com)

UNFPA and APMGlobal Health have been working together in Asia and the Pacific to help national health programmes and communities better meet the needs of the people most affected by HIV by integrating HIV and sexual and reproductive health efforts. We have done this through a series of tailor-made national workshops at country level, bringing together policy-makers, health planners, health service providers, community organizations and people from the populations most affected by HIV in the region – sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people and people who use drugs.

The **Connect Effect** micro-site collect together all of the materials used in this process so that you can explore ways to improve the health and welfare and access to rights for key populations. As we undertake follow up work in countries, the micro-site will be updated. We will develop and share country case studies based on ours and partners experiences, to share ‘what works’ in effective HIV and SRH integration and add new resources as they are developed, so that it becomes a ‘go-to’ site for government, NGOs and Key Populations networks in regions.

#### **Sex workers**

*The Right(s) Evidence: Sex Work, Violence & HIV in Asia. A multi country qualitative study*, UNFPA, UNDP, APNSW/CASAM, January 2015

The summary and full report:

<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/rights-evidence-sex-work-violence-and-hiv-asia-multi-country-qualitative-study>

This multi country study was carried out in Indonesia (Jakarta), Myanmar (Yangon), Nepal (Kathmandu) and Sri Lanka (Colombo). The Right(s) Evidence provides an analysis of the common risks associated with sex workers’ exposure to violence and HIV, highlights common strategies for protection, drawn from the findings in four countries, and provides recommendations to inform policy and programmes to prevent and respond to violence against female, male and transgender sex workers in countries throughout the region.

*Policy Brief: Sex Work, Violence and HIV in Asia - From Evidence to Safety*

UNFPA, with APNSW, UNDP, June 2015

<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/publications/sex-work-violence-and-hiv-asia-evidence-safety>

This Policy Brief is a concise brief of evidence for action drawn from: The Right(s) Evidence: Sex Work, Violence and HIV in Asia - A Multi-Country Study and key studies and guidance including The Lancet Special Series on Sex work and HIV and the WHO Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care for Key Populations.

### *Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific*

UNDP, UNFPA, UNAIDS, October 2012

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/sex-work-and-the-law-in-asia-and-the-pacific.html>

This study examines laws that affect HIV responses among sex workers in 48 countries of the Asia Pacific region; assesses the impact of laws, policies and law enforcement practices on HIV responses for sex workers; and provide recommendations for actions required to create enabling legal and policy environments for HIV responses among sex workers. The report provides a critical evidence-base for policy makers in government, regional organizations; parliamentarians; members of the judiciary; civil society organizations; donor agencies; and sex workers and their organizations engaged in policy & advocacy to improve the enabling environment for HIV responses.

### *The HIV and Sex Work Collection: Innovative Responses in Asia and Pacific*

UNFPA, UNAIDS, APNSW, December 2012

[http://www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/documents/HIV\\_and\\_Sex\\_Work\\_Collection.pdf](http://www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/documents/HIV_and_Sex_Work_Collection.pdf)

The HIV and Sex Work Collection documents the considerable experience in this region about what is effective in delivering HIV prevention, treatment and care programmes and tackling the structural factors that adversely affect these efforts. The Collection provides 11 detailed case studies from 7 countries in the Asia Pacific region and an analysis of the key lessons learned in delivering and scaling up evidence and rights-based responses in the region.

### **Men who have sex with men and transgender people**

*Legal Environments, human rights and HIV responses among MSM and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific*

APCOM and UNDP, 2010

[http://asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/hiv\\_aids/legal-environments--human-rights-and-hiv-responses-among-men-who.html](http://asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/hiv_aids/legal-environments--human-rights-and-hiv-responses-among-men-who.html)

*"The Time Has Come", Enhancing HIV, STI and other sexual health services for MSM and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific: Training package for health providers to reduce stigma in health care settings*

UNDP, WHO, 2013

[www.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/hiv\\_aids/the-time-has-come/](http://www.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/hiv_aids/the-time-has-come/)

*Lost in Transition: Transgender People, Rights and HIV Vulnerability in the Asia-Pacific Region*

UNDP 2012

[www.snap-undp.org/elibrary/Publication.aspx?id=651](http://www.snap-undp.org/elibrary/Publication.aspx?id=651)

### **Young Key Populations**

*Sexual and reproductive health of young people in Asia and the Pacific: A review of issues, policies and programmes*

UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO, 2015

[http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/asiapacific/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20SHR%20YP%20AP\\_2015%20for%20web-final.pdf](http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/asiapacific/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA%20SHR%20YP%20AP_2015%20for%20web-final.pdf)

*Young people and the law in Asia and the Pacific: A review of laws and policies affecting young people's access to sexual and reproductive health and HIV services*

UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP, Youth Lead, 2013

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002247/224782E.pdf>

*Young Key Populations at Higher Risk of HIV in Asia and the Pacific: Making the Case with Strategic Information*, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNAIDS, 2013.

<http://www.aidsdatahub.org/Making-the-Case-with-Strategic-Information>

*In or Out? Asia-Pacific Regional Review of the Inclusion of Young Key Populations in National AIDS Strategic Plans*, UNESCO, UNFPA et al, 2014.

[www.unescobkk.org/news/article/in-or-out-asia-pacific-regional-review-of-the-inclusion-of-young-key-populations-in-national-aids-s/](http://www.unescobkk.org/news/article/in-or-out-asia-pacific-regional-review-of-the-inclusion-of-young-key-populations-in-national-aids-s/)

*Developing a comprehensive package of services to reduce HIV among Men who have Sex with Men and transgender people in Asia and the Pacific*, UNDP, WHO, APCOM, 2009.

[www.law.hku.hk/hrportal/wp-content/uploads/file/UNDP-MSM-and-HIV-Regional-Consensus-Meeting-Report-2009.pdf](http://www.law.hku.hk/hrportal/wp-content/uploads/file/UNDP-MSM-and-HIV-Regional-Consensus-Meeting-Report-2009.pdf)

### People living with HIV

*Legal protections against HIV-related human rights violations: Experiences and lessons learned from national HIV laws in Asia and the Pacific*, UNDP, 2013

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/hiv-aids/legal-protections-against-hiv-related-human-rights-violations.html>

*Protecting the rights of key HIV-affected women and girls in health care settings: A legal scan*, Nov 2013

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2013/11/21/report-urges-stronger-legal-protections-for-women-and-girls-affected-by-hiv-in-health-care-settings.html>

*Positive and pregnant: How dare you. A study on access to reproductive and maternal health care for women living with HIV in Asia*, APN+, 2012

[www.apnplus.org/main/share/publication/APN+%20Reproductive%20and%20Maternal%20Health%20Report%20A4%2013%20April.pdf](http://www.apnplus.org/main/share/publication/APN+%20Reproductive%20and%20Maternal%20Health%20Report%20A4%2013%20April.pdf)

*Lost in transition: Current issues faced by adolescents living with HIV in Asia Pacific*, The Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+), UNICEF, UNESCO and Treat ASIA, November 2013.

<http://www.unescobkk.org/education/news/article/lost-in-transitions-current-issues-faced-by-adolescents-living-with-hiv-in-asia-pacific/>