

Investing for results in Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific can claim credit for some of the most notable successes to date against AIDS. HIV infection rates have fallen significantly across the region in the past decade; a growing number of people are receiving HIV treatment; and governments are increasingly putting in place laws and policies that address stigma and discrimination. In 2013 and 2014, high levels of political commitment have translated to increased

domestic investments in the region -nearly a third of the AIDS spending is domestically financed and some middle-income countries are almost fully domestically funding their national response. Prioritisation of investments and focus on efficiencies can help Asia Pacific to develop smart investment and high-impact strategies.

Supporting high-impact investments in Asia Pacific (SELECTED COUNTRIES)

MYANMAR: CLOSING THE RESOURCE GAP

UNAIDS supported the development of an investment case which highlighted the treatment gap, resulting in a Government decision to mobilize domestic resources (US\$ 5 million) to fund antiretroviral treatment. UNAIDS helped undertake a review of the national treatment protocols and procurement systems that helped rationalise the treatment packages and has resulted in immense savings as well as system efficiencies. The country has scaled-up treatment coverage to 40% in 2014, from a 13% in 2010.

THAILAND: ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR ALL

Thailand made significant progress in reversing the epidemic in the early years, but over the last decade a paradigm shift was needed to move from controlling the epidemic to ending it. An investment case reflecting this shift resulted in Thailand becoming the first country in the region to provide treatment for all people living with HIV; to deliver on this Thailand increased its domestic investment. The commitment will be sustained, as treatment is integrated into the health insurance scheme.



CHINA: OWNERSHIP AND TRANSITION

China has demonstrated leadership at the highest level and invested resources to rapidly scale-up treatment and prevention efforts. In 2010 domestic investments for HIV response amounted to 85% of the total. Today, the national response is fully funded domestically. UNAIDS is supporting China for strengthening analysis of the epidemic and the response in order to focus efforts on priority interventions and to engage and finance communities for undertaking effective and innovative approaches in service delivery.

INDONESIA: GEOGRAPHICAL PRIORITISATION

Focusing on populations at highest risk and locations with the highest prevalence is essential for an effective investment in Indonesia. UNAIDS supported development of an investment case that has helped prioritise 141 districts with the highest prevalence, mobilise Global Fund resources, and make the case for increasing domestic funding. Systems for rapid scale-up of treatment services in 75 priority districts are in place and communities are engaged in rolling out testing campaigns.

Overcoming challenges in investing



International support to countries moving to middle-income status is likely to decrease rapidly, but many of these countries are also home to the most fragile communities and require continued international support during the transition. UNAIDS is helping countries develop transition plans that will enable them have a smooth financial and systems transition and leverage the growing economic power. This includes, integrating HIV services in the essential package being offered by health coverage schemes and engaging regional development banks in taking on a larger role in managing the financial transition effectively.



In the region, over two thirds of the new infections are taking place among key populations. Similarly, HIV is geographically concentrated - for example 30 cities in Asia and the Pacific account for over 1.1 million people living with HIV. UNAIDS is supporting countries in analysing data on the epidemic to sharpen the focus of their investment on the populations and locations where the epidemic is happening for better results and greater efficiencies. UNAIDS is also working with countries to develop policies around trade negotiations and TRIPS flexibilities as well as promoting south to south cooperation for commodity security.



Communities are central to the transition and ensuring sustainability of the response. Community-based service delivery is central for scaling up including 90-90-90 ambitious targets. The move towards greater emphasis on community involvement could help better identify people in need of treatment, especially among the most marginalized and hard to reach population; community-based antiretroviral therapy delivery is not only good for individuals, their families and their communities, but has been shown to be more cost-effective, owing to better uptake, adherence and lower service provision cost.

