



Women and HIV in the Asia-Pacific Region

A Development Practitioner's Guide



CHAPTER 01

CHAPTER 02

CHAPTER 03

CHAPTER 04



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Regional HIV & Development Programme for Asia & the Pacific

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Foreword

One of the biggest challenges in addressing HIV in the Asia Pacific region is the complex intersection between women's vulnerability to HIV infection, coupled with the acute and disproportionate impact of the epidemic on women.

Increasingly, women living with HIV in Asia have been infected by their partners. According to the report of the Commission on AIDS in Asia, an estimated 50 million women in the region are at risk of HIV infection from their regular partners, who, in turn, have been infected either during paid sex or drug injection. Women now constitute up to 26% of new infections, representing a 7% rise since 2000.

In Asia and the Pacific, the impact of HIV is most evident at the household level, where once again, women are at the fore. Women, as caregivers, workers and surviving spouses, generally bear the brunt of the often devastating consequences of HIV.

Addressing the specific gender concerns of HIV, is one of UNDP's key priority areas requiring joint and collaborative efforts by governments, civil society, UN agencies and most importantly, people living with HIV. In attempting to disaggregate the vulnerabilities faced by women and in searching for ways in which to mitigate the impact of HIV on women, UNDP in partnership with key stakeholders, has developed a practitioners guide that builds on experience from the region in addressing issues of women and HIV. The guide offers evidence-based suggestions for policy and programmatic direction, and provides examples of promising practices from around the region to stimulate thinking and trigger effective responses.

It is our intention that this guide will be a living document that will continue to be informed by policy and action on the ground in the region.



Ajay Chhibber

Assistant Secretary General

Assistant Administrator and Director

UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

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Taking into account the Global UNAIDS technical division of labour among co-sponsors, extensive consultations were held with other UN agencies including: UNODC on working with injecting drug users, UNFPA on sex work, UNICEF on care and support to orphans and vulnerable children and prevention of parent to child transmission, and UNAIDS on information and knowledge sharing, advocacy, and monitoring and evaluation. UNDP has also worked in close collaboration with UNIFEM SARO on the finalization of this guide.

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Caitlin Wiesen". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Caitlin" and last name "Wiesen" clearly distinguishable.

Caitlin Wiesen-Antin

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