

From Involvement to Empowerment

People Living with HIV/AIDS in Asia Pacific

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Glossary

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
APN+	Asia Pacific Network of PLWHA
APPC	Asia Pacific PLWHA Coalition
APPRC	Asia Pacific PLWHA Resource Centre
ART	Anti Retroviral Therapy
CCDB	Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh
CD4	A quantitative laboratory marker of immune function
CPK+	Council of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Kerala, India
FJN+	Fiji Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Suva, Fiji
GIPA	Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS
GNP+	Global Network of PLWHA
HA	HIV Anonymous
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPPWS	HIV Positive People's Welfare Society, Tamil Nadu, India
ICHAP	India Canada Collaborative HIV/AIDS Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICW	International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS
IDU	Injecting Drug Use(r)
IEC	Information Education Communication
INP+	Indian Network for PLWHA, India
KANOS	Korea HIV/AIDS Network of Solidarity, Seoul, Republic of Korea
KNP+	Karnataka Network of PLWHA, India
MNP+	Manipur Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, India
MSI	Marie Stopes International, China
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
NACO	National AIDS Control Organisation, India
NAF	National AIDS Foundation, Mongolia
NAPWA	National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Australia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NLACAG	The New Light AIDS Control Awareness Group, Lahore, Pakistan
NMP+	Network of Maharashtra by PLWHA, Pune, India
NNP+	Network of Naga PLWHA, India
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PWN+	Positive Women's Network, Chennai, India
SACS	State AIDS Control Society, India
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS
VCTC	Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centre

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Foreword

The complex challenges posed by the HIV/AIDS epidemic calls for an extraordinary set of responses. Years of engagement with the epidemic have brought home a fundamental realisation that the active participation and support of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are critical for an effective, humane response to HIV/AIDS. It has been reiterated in several countries where the reversal of the epidemic has an indisputable link with the conscious efforts to respect the fundamental rights of PLWHA. It has also been convincingly expressed in international treaties and commitments.

However, the meaningful involvement of PLWHA in the response to HIV/AIDS is yet to gain momentum in the Asia Pacific region. On the one hand, decision makers do not seem to fully appreciate the potential demonstrated by PLWHA, while on the other there are limitations - some inherent and some imposed - on the capacities of PLWHA.

Since 2001, UNDP has developed and supported a number of initiatives in partnership with a range of PLWHA groups and organisations, bi and multilateral and civil society organisations to support the needs

leadership development. The efforts have contributed to the gradual emergence of empowered PLWHA leaders and groups in the region, who have shown immense potential to positively influence their future as well as the course of the epidemic.

This report documents the efforts by UNDP to support the empowerment of PLWHA and their groups in the Asia Pacific from 2001 to 2004 and the lessons learnt in the process.

I wish to thank all the PLWHA in the region, their groups and networks; especially Sahara, the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (APN+), the Indian Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (INP+) and UNDP country offices without whose participation and leadership the initiatives described in this document would not have been possible.

I hope this report will inspire all the stakeholders and the PLWHA groups in the region to join hands and ensure the wellbeing of millions of people living with HIV/AIDS in the region and their empowered involvement in all aspects of the response to the epidemic.

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