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## Key Regional Facts on HIV and AIDS

### HIV epidemiology and trends

- According to UNAIDS and World Health Organization (WHO) estimates, 33.2 million people were living with HIV and AIDS globally in 2007. Among them, 15.4 million were women, and 2 million were children younger than 15 years. Overall, the proportion of women in terms of new infections increased slightly, from 26% in 2001 to 29% in 2007. The epidemic does show a younger profile among the newly infected persons.
- The number of people living with HIV continues to grow in every region. UNAIDS and the WHO estimate that 5 million people were living with HIV in Asia in 2007, including the 380,000 people who were newly infected that year. National HIV infection levels are highest in South-East Asia. In East Asia, an estimated 740,000 were living with HIV in 2007.
- Although overall adult (aged 15–49) HIV prevalence in East Asia and the Pacific is low, at 0.2% (2007), compared with 5% for sub-Saharan Africa, national prevalence varies widely. Within countries of this region, prevalence among some subpopulations and within various geographic areas is disturbingly high. The subpopulations infected with HIV in East Asia are injecting drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men. More recently, young women and men not belonging to any of these subpopulations have become infected.
- In 2007, an estimated total of 580,000 young people aged 15–24 were living with HIV in the East Asia and Pacific region. HIV cases were more often reported among men (360,000) than women (210,000).
- However, HIV prevalence in the region indicates a growing feminization of HIV infection, associated with the transmission of the virus from HIV-positive men to their female sexual partners. For example, in Thailand, HIV prevalence is increasingly found in women infected by their husband or sexual partner, and young people aged 15–24 years now constitute more than 60% of all new HIV infections.

In Cambodia, despite the overall declining trend in HIV prevalence in the country, more and more women are getting infected through their partners (43% of new infections are among married women). In Malaysia, almost one-fifth of newly infected persons in 2006 were women and girls, compared to the barely 5% rate ten years ago. In China, the estimated number of women living with HIV increased by 67% from 2005 to 2007, slightly more than the increase among men.

- UNAIDS 2008 global data reveal that an estimated 370,000 children younger than 15 years became infected with HIV in 2007. The number of children younger than 15 years living with HIV increased from 1.6 million in 2001 to 2 million in 2007.

The Commission on AIDS in Asia reported that an estimated 9 million Asians have been infected with HIV since it first appeared in the region more than 20 years ago. Approximately 2.6 million men, more than 950,000 women and almost 330,000 children have died of AIDS-related diseases.

- Children are at risk of HIV mainly through mother-to-child transmission, followed by unsafe blood supply and unsafe injections. Due to poor surveillance systems, the number of children in the region infected is not yet known. Only a few countries in the region have reported on the estimated number of children (aged 14 and younger) living with HIV in 2007 – Cambodia: 4,400; Papua New Guinea: 1,100; and Thailand: 14,000.
- UNAIDS estimates indicate global resource requirements amounting to US\$15 billion in 2006, US\$18 billion in 2007 and US\$22 billion in 2008 for effective HIV and AIDS response.