Abstract

Introduction

This study aims to understand the current situation of HIV/AIDS in Asian countries, determine their challenges for achieving the "90-90-90 targets" which were created by the Joint United Nations Programme (UNAIDS) in 2014, and find some key achievements which could be applied in other countries.

Methods

I conducted a literature review and a series of interviews with key policy-makers in the Asia-Pacific region. In the literature review, policy documents, past reports and the data hub from UNAIDS were used, together with the non-official interviews conducted in UNAIDS Bangkok country office. Questions about the general situation, main challenges, data collection, policies, stigma and discrimination, health coverage were asked during the interviews. Interviews with key informants were conducted in Thailand, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Cambodia.

Results

I interviewed four key informants in Thailand, six in Cambodia and five in Laos. All key informants were people from the Ministry of Public Health, UNAIDS, key hospitals and

associations. All countries in scope were at different stage for achieving the 90-90-90 targets. The three countries shared some common barriers such as stigma and discrimination against key population or funding issues. Although all three countries had pursued their own pathways towards achieving UNAIDS targets, some common strategies included involvement of government and close relationship with NGOs.

Conclusion

Achievements were due to tight collaboration between government and NGOs. Strong political support and focused services for key population were essential to achieve HIV prevention goals in the studied countries. Challenges vary by country but they have similar barriers such as stigma and discrimination or access challenges. Improved health financing and UHC policies were identified as essential policy developments required to support elimination of HIV in Asia.

Keywords:

90-90-90 targets, HIV, AIDS, Asian countries, barriers, UNAIDS, achievement