



GILEAD RAINBOW ACADEMY 2023

*Creating a Stigma-Free Asia:
Collaborating for Equity in HIV*
Singapore | 5-6 June 2023



Key Takeaways



This is just the beginning.

Stigma remains the Achilles' heel in ending the HIV epidemic as it drives discrimination and inequity across sectors of society, including healthcare, education, workplace and justice systems.

Themed “Creating a Stigma-Free Asia: Collaborating for Equity in HIV”, the Gilead Rainbow Academy aims to deepen our understanding to intersectional socio-structural factors that impact HIV-related stigma and inequity.

The Academy explores how public-private-community collaboration can overcome the remaining roadblocks in stigma, and health equity in Asia to achieve the UNAIDS' Fast Track 95-95-95 and Zero Discrimination targets. It also seeks to reinforce the connectivity of HIV change makers – from frontline workers, activists to community-based organizations (CBOs) – strengthen relationships with like-minded organizations/ individuals, and in turn, accelerate efforts to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

Here are the highlights from the 2-day program, held for the first time in **Singapore on 5-6 June 2023**:

Over 80 HIV change makers pledged to create a stigma-free Asia	Bringing together 64 HIV change makers and experts	Representing 16 geographies, including 13 APAC geographies	Featuring 49 posters of best-practice projects by CBOs across Asia
4 plenary sessions with internationally-distinguished HIV experts to discuss how HIV care can be shaped in Asia	3 masterclass sessions available; sparking exchange around how to deliver equitable HIV care	2 peer-to-peer discussion sessions each day – poster sharing, and geographical-peer regroup sessions	Choice of site visit to 4 CBOs in Singapore – Action for AIDS, Oogachaga, Project X and The T Project

Masterclass Key Takeaways What's Next for HIV Care in Asia? Resources and Acknowledgements

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Masterclass Key Takeaways

Masterclass 1: *Together, We are One*

Advancing equality for PLHIV by strengthening systems beyond health

To achieve equality for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), the conversation cannot stop with viral load management. PLHIV can have a high quality of life by ensuring their priority areas are supported by key enablers.

Priority Areas for PLHIV



Funders and global strategies ensure that **National HIV Plans** are adequately resourced, enforced and implemented

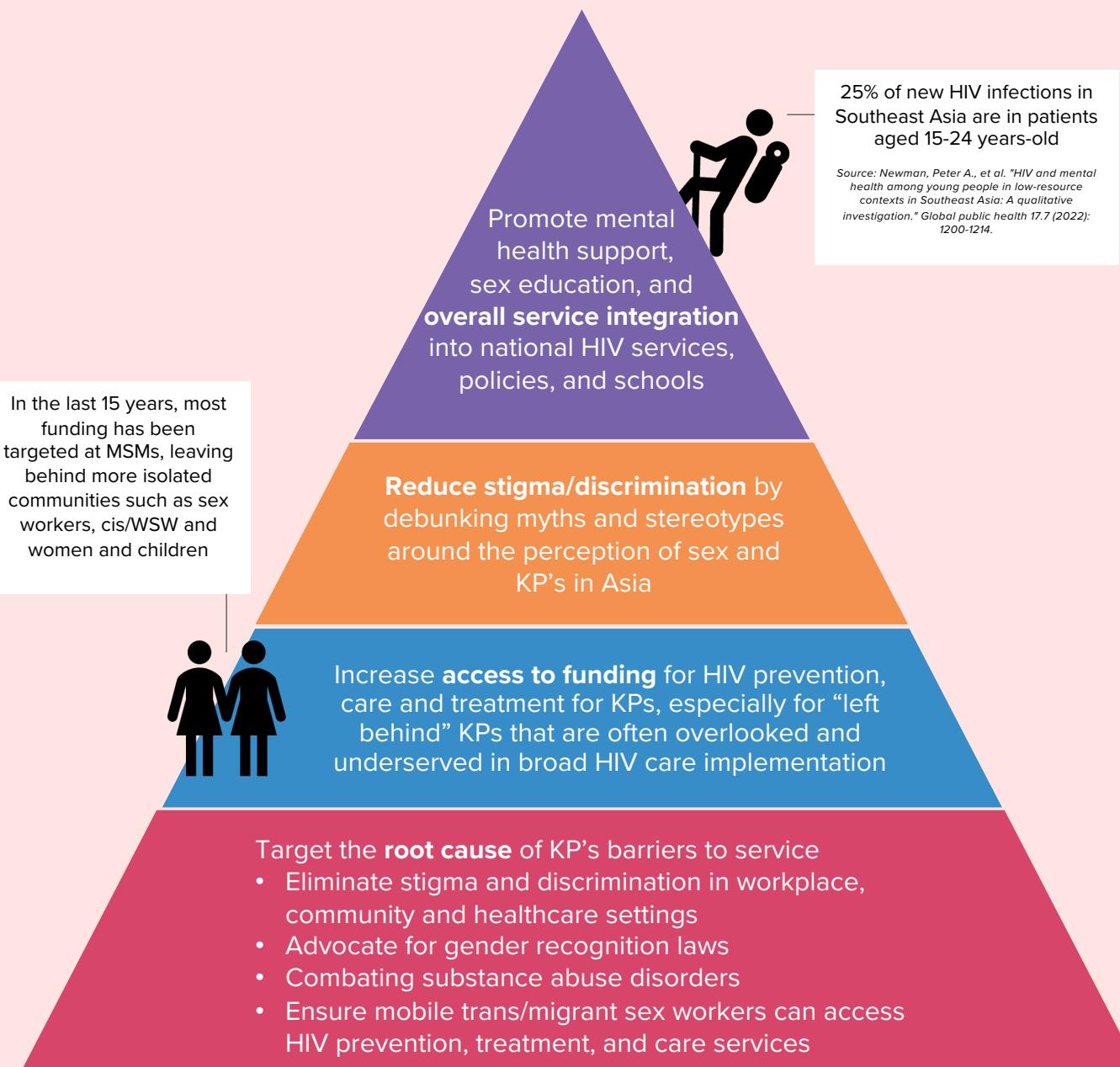
Closing gaps in **community engagement**, especially amongst underserved communities

Masterclass Key Takeaways

Masterclass 2: **No Decision About Us, Without Us**

Advancing HIV care cascade through empowerment, engagement, and person-centered approaches

To engage, empower and deliver on people-centered approaches, it is important to introduce solutions that target the spectrum of barriers faced by key populations (KP's) and the networks that support them.

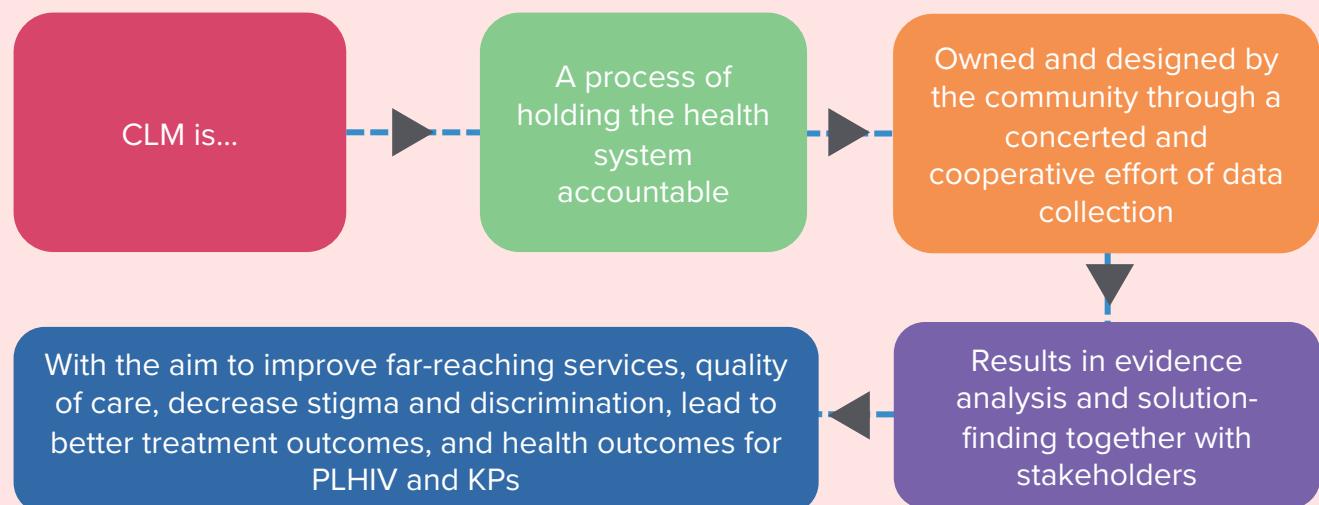


Masterclass Key Takeaways

Masterclass 3: *Translating Insights into Action*

Advancing HIV monitoring and evaluation to improve health outcomes through community-led approaches

Community-led monitoring (CLM) is critical for HIV health outcomes. When designing CLM, it is important to consider the prevailing cultural norms and maintain support to ensure its sustainability in communities.



Key Factors for Success

Culture



- Consider cultural context and applicability, especially when taking a concept developed by others to your own community
- Be sensitive when speaking to local representatives (e.g., "monitoring" may have a negative connotation)

Support



- Provide community with unrestricted support to ensure data is faithful, truthful, unbiased and free from influence
- To ensure its sustainability, allow monitoring to be community-owned, implemented and led

What's Next for HIV Care in Asia?

From the learnings, exchanges and ideas generated at the Gilead Rainbow Academy, our HIV change maker and experts weigh in on current gaps and how the region can achieve the UNAIDS' Fast Track 95-95-95 and Zero Discrimination targets.

Current gaps in Asia

**Insights from pre-Academy survey*

HIV-related stigma remains a prevalent problem, even in high-income geographies where HIV strategies are relatively mature (70%)

Lack of integration of HIV services with other health services, especially in low-income geographies (~50%)

Insufficient/non-existent efforts to reduce stigma & discrimination impacting PLHIV **interactions with the general public and HCPs** (~40%)

Inadequate legal literacy amongst community organizations and KPs, resulting in low awareness/action on rights-based issues for PLHIV (>50%)

Insufficient/non-existent efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination or improve **structural factors** against stigmatization of HIV (~40%)

Collaboration is key to create a healthy, equitable and stigma-free Asia.

Generational biases and stereotypes of PLHIV and KPs are additional barriers in the move towards the 95-95-95 targets, especially in Asia. We need vertical and horizontal collaboration with different actors – CBOs, healthcare professionals, the government/law makers, educators, and the private sector –across geographical boundaries.



Spotlight: IAS Stigma-Free Services Cookbook

Based on real-life stories and advice from the Me and My Healthcare Provider champions, the cookbook provides “ingredients” for managers and health system planners, healthcare workers and users of health services to do right in nurturing and facilitating an environment that is free of HIV stigma.

Now available in selected Asian languages
– Traditional and Simplified Chinese,
Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese.

[Download here](#)

Key Population-led Services

- Consult and design initiatives to support to other sub-populations of PLHIV and KPs, including the youths, the aging, PLHIV with disabilities, the cis/ heteronormative population and women who have sex with women (WSW)

Supporting Holistic Quality of Life (QOL)

- Understand how different forms of inequality can intersect and impact on the QOL for PLHIV and KPs
- Adopt a holistic model of support, including raising awareness and capacity to support mental health



Tackling Stigma and Discrimination

- Increase awareness and know-how, including the use of digital tools, to tackle stigma and discrimination
- Calibrate a systemic mechanism to harness data and track program effectiveness

Enhancing Health Equity

- Lead/initiate collaboration with different local actors
- Remove unnecessary barriers for PLHIV to access healthcare, such as non-vital disclosure and laws criminalizing PHLIV and KPs

Spotlight on project ideas that delegates would like to bring into their communities

Pride festivals
by Sinnaneun Center
Korea

Mobile-first HIV testing service
by Love Foundation
Thailand

Comprehensive sexuality education in schools
by Sticky Rice Love
Hong Kong

Ways to sustain the momentum of regional collaboration

Cross-border workshops and grants
(e.g., Gilead Asia Pacific Rainbow Grant)

Regular virtual meet-ups
to maintain new cross-regional connections

Dedicated online platforms
to share resources/about new projects

Use of virtual work tools
such as project management platforms

Resources and Acknowledgement

Resources

- [IAS Me and My Healthcare Provider cookbook](#)
- [Gilead Rainbow Grant Microsite](#)

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank our speakers and delegates from the following organizations for making the Gilead Rainbow Academy a huge success:





Thank you for your partnership. Let's make it an amazing decade.

