

Call to action

Eliminating HIV in Asia and the Pacific by accelerating community and health workforce collaboration

September 2023

On 25 June 2023, APCOM and ASHM convened a roundtable discussion in Meanjin (Brisbane) during the 12th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Science. The roundtable brought together community, government and health workers from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand, to discuss ways to improve community and health workforce collaborations to eliminate HIV in Asia and the Pacific.

In 2022, estimates recorded 6.5 million people living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific, 300,000 new HIV infections and 150,000 AIDS-related deaths. 96 per cent of new HIV infections were among members of key populations and their partners.

The [2023 Global AIDS Report](#) identifies the scale-up of high-quality people-centred health services as critical to achieving the UNAIDS 2025 targets. This echoes the [2021 UN Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS](#), which calls for the recruitment and retention of competent, skilled and motivated community health workers. We need more effective interventions that place key populations at the centre of health service delivery, through strong partnerships between community, health workers, governments, policymakers and funders.

We call on governments, policymakers and funders to support the sustainable development and scale-up of community-led health services throughout Asia and the Pacific. Successful examples of community-led services in the region show that collaboration between community and health workers can lead to HIV prevention, testing, treatment and care that is accessible, person-centred and free from stigma. The upcoming [UN High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage](#) is an opportunity to showcase these interventions and demonstrate a commitment to partnerships between community and health workers.

Elimination of HIV in Asia and the Pacific will require community, health workers, governments, policymakers and funders to work together in a coordinated approach that ensures no one is left behind.

Priorities for action

1. BUILD collaboration between community and health workers to support decentralised, integrated, differentiated and demedicalised HIV services that meet the needs of all members of key populations and their partners.
2. ENSURE ongoing and sustainable support for community-led HIV services to provide safe, timely and quality care that is person-centred and free from stigma and discrimination.
3. develop and deliver innovative, community-led models of HIV services.

4. **SUPPORT** the scale-up of successful examples of community-led HIV services throughout Asia and the Pacific, and where appropriate, investigate how these examples can be replicated in other settings.
5. **CREATE** spaces for conversations between community, health workers and governments, where knowledge and expertise can be shared, particularly in relation to innovations in HIV services such as long-acting injectable treatment and prevention, U=U (Undetectable=Untransmittable), and self-testing.
6. **ADDRESS** legal and policy barriers that criminalise and discriminate against key populations, preventing them from accessing HIV services.