



# The Socio-Economic Impact of HIV at the Household Level in Asia:

## A REGIONAL ANALYSIS





*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

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*A Regional Analysis*

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Critically, attention must be drawn to the hard work of the national research teams in Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and Viet Nam which collected the data, provided data analysis and wrote the individual country reports that this regional analysis is based on.

## Foreword

Despite impressive gains in the response to the HIV epidemic in Asia and the Pacific, a notable weakness of the national responses in the region has been the inadequate efforts to mitigate the social and economic impact of the epidemic on people living with HIV, and their households.

One of the reasons for this gap has been the deficiency of evidence that could guide impact mitigation policies and programmes at the national and provincial levels. To address this issue, since 2005 UNDP has undertaken national studies to assess the socio-economic impact of HIV on people living with HIV and their households. The first such case-controlled study was conducted in India in partnership with the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

Based on the lessons learned from this study, as well as experiences from the rest of the region and elsewhere, the HIV, Health and Development Team of the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre (APRC) supported similar studies in Cambodia, China, Viet Nam and Indonesia. The studies employed case-controlled, large-scale sample surveys across several provinces in each country and provided scientific evidence on the nature and extent of the social and economic impact of HIV on people living with HIV and their households.

A new dimension of impact mitigation in the region has been the emerging importance of social protection. Although there is increasing attention to social protection for vulnerable and marginalised populations in the region, the need for HIV-sensitive social protection has not gained commensurate currency, probably because of the relatively poor understanding of the issue.

Given this context, the UNDP HIV, Health and Development team undertook a regional analysis of the data and findings of the national studies that covered about 17,000 households and 72,000 household members in five countries with a view to strengthening evidence-informed policy advocacy for impact mitigation and HIV-sensitive social protection. This report presents the findings and recommendations of the analysis. A highlight of the report is that for the first time in the region, it provides irrefutable, quantitative evidence on the nature and depth of the socio-economic impact of HIV at the household levels.

The data has also been disaggregated by sex and analysed separately to measure the impact of HIV on women and girls. The findings and recommendations of this analysis are presented in a separate stand-alone report.

I sincerely hope that this analysis will help national and provincial governments, as well as other HIV-stakeholders, strengthen efforts towards impact mitigation and HIV-sensitive social protection in the region.



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