



A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SELECTED
NATIONAL AIDS INVESTMENT CASES
FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

BANGLADESH • INDONESIA • MYANMAR • NEPAL • PHILIPPINES • THAILAND • VIET NAM

	Acknowledge	3
	Abbreviations and Acronyms	4
	Executive Summary	5
1	INTRODUCTION	7
	1.1 Background	7
	1.2 Methodology	8
2	KEY FINDINGS FROM THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT CASES	9
	BANGLADESH	9
	INDONESIA	11
	MYANMAR	14
	NEPAL	16
	PHILIPPINES	18
	THAILAND	19
	VIET NAM	21
3	DISCUSSION	24
	3.1 The Investment Case Process	24
	3.2 Content and Implications for Sustainable Financing	25
4	RECOMMENDATIONS	37
5	BIBLIOGRAPHY	40
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	Annex 1. Countries by Epidemic Indicators	42
	Annex 2. Countries by Economic and AIDS Spending Indicators	42
	Annex 3. Checklist of Key Features in the National Investment Cases	42
	Annex 4: Utilisation of Investment Cases for Advocacy Purposes	43
	Annex 5. List of Key Informants	45

Acknowledge

The “Comparative Analysis of Selected National AIDS Investment Cases from Asia-Pacific Region” aims to review and analyse existing national AIDS investment cases and document country experiences in developing and utilizing it to effectively address the AIDS epidemic beyond 2015. It will inform country preparations for the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS (HLM) on 8-10 June 2016 in New York, USA and in subsequent actions at regional and country level towards ending the AIDS epidemic, promoting country ownership of a sustained AIDS response, and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It draws from a thorough desk review of 7 national investment cases on AIDS (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam) using an analytical framework that was designed to facilitate an understanding of how national investment cases can be effectively developed and positioned to inform transition plans and support national commitment to the sustainable financing and implementation of AIDS responses. The comparative analysis benefited from the review, inputs and suggestions from national-level experts from Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, as well as regional networks of civil society organizations, development partners and representatives of the UN Regional Interagency Team on AIDS at the “Regional Expert Consultation on Developing Evidence-Based National HIV Investment Cases and Sustainability Plans” held in Bangkok, Thailand on 9-10 December 2015. This consultation was jointly organized by UN ESCAP and UNAIDS in cooperation with UNDP. The participants’ contributions are sincerely acknowledged. Special thanks to Sally Wellesley, the author of the report. The development of the report was managed by Dr Maria Elena G Filio-Borrromeo, Regional Investment and Efficiency Adviser, UNAIDS Regional Support Team, Asia Pacific (UNAIDS RST-AP); Ms Nelle Fredrick, Policy Support, Sustainable AIDS Financing, UNAIDS RST-AP; Mr Tristram Price, Associate Social Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP; and Mr Srinivas Tata, Chief Social Policy and Population Section, UN ESCAP.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AEM:	AIDS Epidemic Model
AIDS:	Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome
ART:	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
ARV:	Anti-Retroviral
BSS:	Behaviour sentinel surveillance
CSO:	Community Service Organization
DALYs:	Disability Affected Life Years
FSW:	Female Sex Workers
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GFATM:	The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
HCT:	HIV Counselling and Testing
HIV:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSS:	HIV sentinel surveillance
IBBS:	Integrated Biological and Behavioural Survey
IEC:	Information, Education and Communication
Int.\$	International dollars
IPT:	Intimate partner transmission
KP:	Key population(s)
MCH:	Maternal and Child Health
MoH:	Ministry of Health
MSM:	Men who have Sex with Men
MSW:	Male Sex Worker
NAC:	National AIDS Commission
NASA:	National AIDS Spending Assessment
NFM:	(Global Fund) New Funding Model
NGO:	Nongovernment Organisation
NIC:	National Investment Case
NSP:	Needle and syringe (exchange) programme
OST:	Opioid substitution therapy
PICT:	Provider-initiated counselling and testing
PLHIV:	People Living with HIV
PMTCT:	Prevention of Transmission from Mother to Child
PWID:	People Who Inject Drugs
STI:	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB:	Tuberculosis
TG:	Transgender
UHC:	Universal health coverage
UNAIDS:	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNAIDS RST-AP:	UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP:	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
US\$:	US Dollars
WHO:	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although significant progress has been made towards responding effectively to HIV and AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region, there are signs that without a scaled up response, countries risk witnessing a resurgence of new HIV infections.¹ However, the funding landscape is increasingly uncertain. With diminishing inflows of external financing for HIV and AIDS to the region, countries, particularly those that are moving towards middle income status, are preparing to significantly increase the domestic share of investment in HIV and AIDS programmes.

In 2012, UNAIDS launched the HIV strategic investment framework to guide countries in allocating limited resources for maximum impact. Central to this framework is the development of an investment case—a country-led, people-centred package of investment priorities that is based on a robust analysis of the epidemiology, the current response and recent scientific evidence.

In January 2015, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) member states adopted a Regional Framework for Action on HIV and AIDS beyond 2015 that includes the development of evidence-based national HIV investment cases and sustainability plans. This further reinforces country commitments to move towards ensuring sustainable funding and the effective implementation of their national AIDS responses.

In support of these ongoing country-owned initiatives and the continued strengthening of national commitments to HIV funding, UNESCAP and the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific (RST-AP) are working jointly on an initiative to enable countries to share, analyse and document their experiences in developing and using investment cases and sustainability plans to effectively address the AIDS epidemic beyond 2015.

This report is the outcome of a comparative analysis of seven national investment cases from the region, and highlights key findings and recommendations for further action. The findings from this report and the Regional Expert Consultation on Developing Evidence-Based National HIV Investment Cases and Sustainability Plans held in December 2015 are expected to contribute to the knowledge base on how ESCAP Member States have developed national investment cases (NICs), and identify examples of best practice.

The analysis was based primarily on a desk review of the investment cases of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal (Investment Plan), the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, with additional input from in-country respondents and from the Regional Expert Consultation. The analysis covered:

i) The development of the investment cases, looking specifically at:

- Consultation processes, including the involvement of key stakeholders and government endorsement;
- Structure and application of UNAIDS guidance on NICs;
- Objectives and purpose;
- Analytical methodologies employed (including the use of epidemiological and cost models) including their usefulness to specific country context; and
- Key data inputs (e.g. definition and size estimates of key populations; costings related to interventions), including a discussion of how data are validated and how epidemiological modelling address missing or incomplete data.

ii) Content and implications for sustainable financing, by considering:

- Interventions included in the NICs (including whether the interventions are appropriate and effectively respond to the nature of the epidemic in the country);
- How funding across the different elements of the AIDS response (i.e. prevention; treatment, care & support; policy formulation; program management; others) is allocated vis-à-vis the needs of the country based on the epidemic profile;
- How interventions related to prevention and social enablers are treated in NICs;
- Links to national health/development agendas and processes (including the extent to which the NICs demonstrate the effectiveness of investment in HIV & AIDS in relation to broader health/development goals, and to what extent it becomes integral to national planning processes)
- Identification of opportunities for increased efficiency and cost savings to generate better value for money;
- Identification of sustainable domestic financing and how the NIC has used it or plans to use it (e.g. the integration of HIV & AIDS into universal health coverage); and
- The positioning of the NICs with regard to communication with key stakeholders and decision makers.

A number of promising practices were identified:

- Including an analysis of potential sources of sustainable financing for the enhanced response, as provided by the Indonesia, Viet Nam and Philippines investment cases.
- Including an advocacy plan (as in the Indonesia NIC) to help national programmes tailor their investment advocacy more strategically.
- Investment cases highlight the need to avoid wasteful investments and invest resources strategically; moreover, they clearly demonstrate to stakeholders that the cost of not doing so will be failing to meet the target of 'Ending AIDS'.

Further actions are recommended to strengthen the utility of investment cases:

- Ensure that the document is tailored to the intended audience (technical or non-technical).
- Emphasize the costs of inaction, while also demonstrating that investment works, by highlighting achievements in terms of lives saved and deaths and infections averted.
- Strengthen links to, or alignment with, broader national development plans or goals.
- Identify and assess effective mechanisms for financing civil society.²
- Strengthen data and evidence, including data on costs and expenditure.
- Research sustainable financing options that could be replicated across the region.
- Document and share examples of how investment cases have been used successfully to overcome resistance to domestic investment in politically unpopular programmes such as harm reduction.
- Use the investment case as an initial step in the development of a transition plan towards sustainable AIDS financing.
- Update NICs periodically to adjust to evolving funding/legal/epidemiological landscapes as well as advances in prevention and treatment, such as PrEP.
- Engage all relevant stakeholders throughout the investment case cycle to foster ownership, ensure buy-in to the investment proposals, increase access to data sources and build capacity for ongoing investment case analyses.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Although significant progress has been made towards responding effectively to HIV and AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region, significant challenges remain. In Indonesia and the Philippines, the epidemic continues to expand, and elsewhere in the region there are signs that without a scaled up response, countries risk witnessing a resurgence of new HIV infections.³

As several countries in the region move towards middle income status, they face an uncertain landscape. Inflows of external financing for HIV and AIDS to the region are diminishing as donor countries grapple with economic recession and shifting priorities. Under the Global Fund's New Funding Model, countries are being called upon to significantly increase the domestic share of investment in HIV and AIDS programmes in order to remain eligible for funding. At the same time, countries are increasingly looking to take ownership of their responses and reduce their dependence on external development partners. This was reflected in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the Third Conference on Financing for Development which, inter alia, calls for strengthening the mobilization and effective use of domestic resources for sustainable development.

In 2012, UNAIDS launched the HIV strategic investment framework to guide countries in allocating limited resources for maximum impact. Central to this framework is the development of an investment case—a country-led, people-centred package of investment priorities that is based on a robust analysis of the epidemiology, the current response and recent scientific evidence. To assist countries in developing strong investment cases, UNAIDS produced an investment tool that guides users to identify cost-effective, high-impact interventions and programme enablers, and plan a prioritised scale-up that will put them on track to achieve global targets on AIDS, including the goal of Ending AIDS by 2030. Investment cases are also intended to help countries to recognise opportunities to leverage sustainable funding and reduce inefficiencies.

Since 2012, several countries in the Asia-Pacific region—among them Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam—have developed evidence-based investment cases or investment plans, some of which are already being used by governments to mobilize increased domestic resources to accelerate the national AIDS response and prepare for the transition away from donor support.

At the Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UNAIDS and UNDP in January 2015, member states adopted a Regional Framework for Action on HIV and AIDS beyond 2015 that includes the commitment to evidence-based national HIV investment cases and sustainability plans. This further reinforces country commitments to move towards ensuring sustainable funding and the effective implementation of their national AIDS responses.

(i) As of July 2015, the World Bank classified world economies as follows, based on gross national income (GNI) estimates for 2014: low-income: GNI per capita of 1,045 or less; lower middle-income: GNI per capita of more than \$1,045 but less than \$4,125; upper-middle-income: GNI per capita of \$4,125 or more but less than \$12,736; high-income: GNI per capita of \$12,736 or more. <http://data.worldbank.org/news/new-country-classifications-2015>

In support of these ongoing country-owned initiatives and the continued strengthening of national commitments to HIV funding, UNESCAP and the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific (RST-AP) are working jointly on an initiative to enable countries to share, analyse and document their experiences in developing and using investment cases and sustainability plans to effectively address the AIDS epidemic beyond 2015. This includes holding a regional consultation on ensuring sustainable financing of the AIDS response among some Member States.

This report is the outcome of a comparative analysis of existing national investment cases from the region, and highlights key findings and recommendations for further action. It is envisaged that the report, together with the findings from a Regional Expert Consultation on Developing Evidence-Based National HIV Investment Cases and Sustainability Plans in December 2015, will contribute to the knowledge base on how ESCAP Member States have developed national investment cases (NICs) and identify examples of best practice.

The national investment cases analysed in this report are those of Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal (Investment Plan), the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Following a brief explanation of the report methodology below, Chapter 2 presents a brief overview of each NIC and the context in which it was developed. Chapter 3 discusses the findings, identifying key similarities and differences in the approaches to developing the NIC employed by each country, as well as challenges encountered. Chapter 4 highlights key issues from the analysis, either as examples of 'good practice' that can be applied in the development of future investment cases, or with suggestions for further action to address challenges or weaknesses in current practice.

1.2 Methodology

The report is based on a desk review of the designated NICs using an analytical framework that was designed to facilitate an understanding of how national investment cases can be effectively developed and positioned to inform transition plans and support the case for national commitment to the sustainable financing and implementation of AIDS responses.

The analysis covered the following:

i) Development/Process

- Consultation processes, including the involvement of key stakeholders and government endorsement

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