

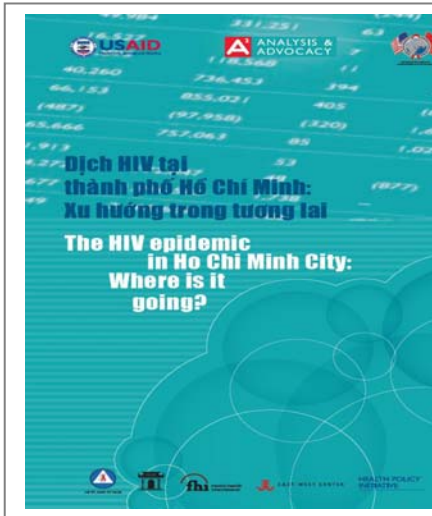


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA



Analysis and Advocacy (A²) Project



An A² analysis report from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



The A² Senior Policy Symposium Guangxi, China September 2006.

BACKGROUND

Despite the availability of HIV/AIDS-related data, understanding of regional epidemic dynamics and examples of successful responses in the Asia region, there is a real divide between what data tells us and the programs and policies implemented in Asian countries.

The A² Project, has brought together modelers, epidemiologists, economists, advocacy specialists, policy makers and program managers in an effort to bridge this 'evidence-policy divide' and build sustainable in-country capacity to develop a clear understanding of the local HIV/AIDS epidemic and to translate that understanding into effective national policies and appropriately targeted and resourced programs. The project is implemented in Thailand, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Yunnan and Guangxi provinces in China by local teams drawn from ministries of health, centers for disease control, provincial AIDS committees and NGOs. A regional team of Family Health International, the East West Center, and the USAID| Health Policy Initiative provides overall coordination for the project and technical support to the country and provincial teams.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Appropriate local partners are identified and mobilized to lead a four stage analysis and advocacy process:

(1) *Data collection and synthesis:* Local and existing HIV-related data is collected, critically analyzed and synthesized to provide a picture of the current state of the epidemic in that location and illustrate key trends in HIV, behaviors and responses. Any major data gaps and surveillance system shortcomings are also identified and strategies recommended for improving them.

Analysis and Advocacy (A²) Project - continued

- *Thailand's development and adoption of a national HIV prevention goal.*
- *Ho Chi Minh City Provincial AIDS Committee's adaptation of the national strategy on HIV prevention.*
- *Refinements of targets set in Yunnan's five year HIV/AIDS action plan.*
- *Increased interventions targeting MSM in Guangxi's five year action plan.*
- *Initiation of new projects targeting MSM by Yunnan CDC.*

Some key achievements supported by the A² Project and its analyses.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION—continued

(2) Develop a model of the epidemic and project its future course: The Asian Epidemic Model (AEM) is used to develop a valid and locally relevant model of the epidemic, project its future course and determine the influence of various population groups. In order to promote the acceptance the analysis, consensus among local experts on data inputs is sought and the modeling processes are documented.

(3) Explore the impact of different program choices and resource allocations: Country and provincial A² teams work with national stakeholders and decision makers to define and cost possible alternative responses and then, using linked AEM/Goals Modeling, determine their overall impact on the epidemic. This results in a clear set of recommendations on what will constitute the most effective response and the level of resources required to implement it.

(4) Turn strategic information into action: Data collected and outputs from the modeling analyses are used to influence key decision makers and processes identified through mappings of the policy and program terrain. Key messages are extracted and presented in targeted advocacy materials and dissemination meetings.

In Thailand, the A² team directly supported the development and adoption of a national HIV prevention goal. In Vietnam, A² processes are supporting provincial adaptation of the '9 Actions Plan', the national strategy on HIV prevention and control. In China, A² analyses have led to refinements of the targets set in Yunnan's five year HIV/AIDS action plan, increased interventions targeting MSM in Guangxi's action plan and initiation of new projects targeting MSM by the Yunnan CDC.