

COMMUNITY FORUM

People living with HIV (PLHIV)

There are 5 million people living with HIV in Asia and their rights must be met for decision-making at all levels in order to help achieve and receive Universal Access and sustainability of treatment, as per the UN Millennium Development Goal of 2015.

Interfaith forum

Religious leaders' responses to stigma and discrimination are influential. Compassion, understanding and help to provide access to prevention, treatment and care are essential to assist individuals, NGOs and governments to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of 2015.

Migrants

Discrimination and criminalization of migrants (who are often wrongfully blamed for social problems) also result in difficulties of access to prevention, treatment and care, and must be removed in order to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of 2015.

People who Use Drugs

Injecting drug users also promote and protect the health and human rights of all drug users, irrespective of their class and distinction, so that all can benefit from Universal Access and help to reach the UN Millennium Development goal of 2015.

Sex workers

Focusing only on prevention in terms of condom use for sex workers (which include female, male and transgender) does not acknowledge the full rights of sex workers who still face discrimination and criminalization which must be removed to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goal of 2015.

The 200 Forum (Men who have Sex with Men, Transgender and HIV)

The rise in HIV among this community requires that more access must be made available to prevention, care, support, and treatment for these communities, and that the marginalization and criminalization that prevents access must be removed so as to help achieve the UN Millennium development goal of 2015.

Women's groups (including lesbians)

Decision-making by and empowerment of women must be included at all levels of programming and service delivery so as to stop gender imbalance that does not benefit women who bear the brunt of the HIV epidemic as caregivers and surviving spouses, and who also have sexual and reproductive rights which can be removed due to the increasing 'feminisation' of the epidemic in countries where more men infect their wives and sexual partners.

Youth

To achieve universal access, young people must be empowered and have access to comprehensive information on their sexuality as well as on services in prevention, treatment, care and support. Young people account for 40% of new HIV cases worldwide in 2007—a very high percentage and this poses a challenge to the region,

especially considering that the future of Asia and the Pacific is in the hands of their youth. In 2007, 1.28 million young people were living with HIV & AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.

Based on International documentations such as UNGASS and CPD, young people have to be empowered through meaningful involvement and participation. Young people must be given the space and opportunities to raise their voice and be actively engaged in HIV & AIDS and other sexuality and human rights issues and interventions, thereby maximizing their potential and capabilities. Through this, we will be able to reverse the tremendous effects of HIV and AIDS among young people and will achieve a better quality of life.