



AIDS 2008

XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

Mexico City, 3-8 August



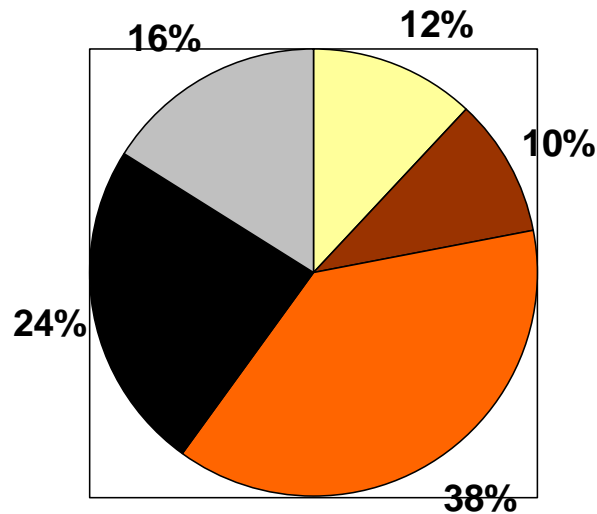
AIDS 2008

Key Outcomes



AIDS 2008 Snapshot

- **2nd largest International AIDS Conference ever – 24,000 delegates from 194 countries among which:**



- **More than 2,200 journalists**
- **More than 50% attending for the 1st time.**
- **1st time in Latin America-Caribbean**

[AIDS 2008 Key Messages]

- **Treatment Guidelines*:**
 - Effectiveness of ARV in PMTCT, PEP, and treatment of chronic infection
 - Need to achieve universal access for all people living with HIV to lead healthy, productive lives AND to reduce transmission
 - New evidence has resulted in revised IAS-USA guidelines, aiming for earlier treatment

[AIDS 2008 Key Messages]

■ Concentrated Epidemics

- In many countries with low overall HIV prevalence, high prevalence is concentrated in specific marginalized communities, especially injecting drug users, gay men and other men who have sex with men and sex workers.
- Many governments often tailor HIV response to the general epidemic, and the specific needs of communities most at risk are ignored.

[AIDS 2008 Key Messages]

- **Joint strengthening of Health Systems & the response to HIV/AIDS**
 - *“At this stage, we have an historical opportunity to align the agenda for responding to AIDS with the agenda for strengthening health systems.”*, Dr. Margaret Chan, Aug. 3, 2008, Mexico City
 - Integration of HIV services with primary health care, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, and TB services.

[AIDS 2008 Key Messages]

■ Social Justice and Human Rights

- Failure to uphold basic human rights increases vulnerability to HIV among populations most at risk, especially women and girls, gay men and other men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers.
- Need for confidentiality, access to information, legal recognition and freedom from stigma and discrimination for most at-risk groups.
- Criminalization of HIV transmission is a growing problem: it does not prevent HIV transmission, but fuels the epidemic.

[AIDS 2008 Key Messages]

- **Linking Global Messages to Regional Context**
 - Six focused regional sessions, among which one on Middle East/North Africa, and one on Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - Each region has unique challenges in promoting leadership, advocacy, prevention and treatment, human rights and research.
 - Linking global learning to regional and country specific learning to implement evidence-based policies and programmes.
 - Deepen the knowledge base on the uniqueness of each region/country – and that “one size fits all” is not the appropriate response to public health policy

[AIDS 2008 Regional Outcomes]

For Sub-Saharan Africa :

- Progress: ART/PMTCT scale-up expanding substantially
- Challenges: Sustainability challenged by weak health systems human resources
- High prevalence among MARPs (esp. MSM, IDUs) in this region not reflected in national priorities and access to appropriate interventions

For Middle-East and North Africa:

- Progress: Growing civil society presence, including PLHIV and harm reduction networks; increasing inclusion of religious leaders
- Challenges: need for greater investments in civil society to support outreach to forbidden groups, such as MSM, 'tea-sellers' (sex workers);

[Other Outcomes]

■ Epidemiology

- Methodologies improved; but many countries still have inadequate surveillance systems & infrastructure problems
- Establishing population-specific incidence rates increasingly critical for mature epidemics
- Lack of data on most at-risk populations (MSM, sex workers, IDUs) undermining countries' ability to '*know their epidemic*'
- Social epidemiology (structural, individual) and proximate factors of risk (# of partners, biological factors) need to be integrated in overall approach to HIV epidemiology

[Other Outcomes]

■ Basic Science

- Conflicting reports on origin of residual viremia;
- Increased focus on how HIV integrates with human DNA at cellular level in gut associated lymphoid tissue and other reservoirs; ongoing challenge to eradication
- Increased focus on leveraging innate immunity and inflammatory response in new approaches (e.g., role of Toll-Like Receptors (TLRs))

[Other Outcomes]

■ Clinical Research I

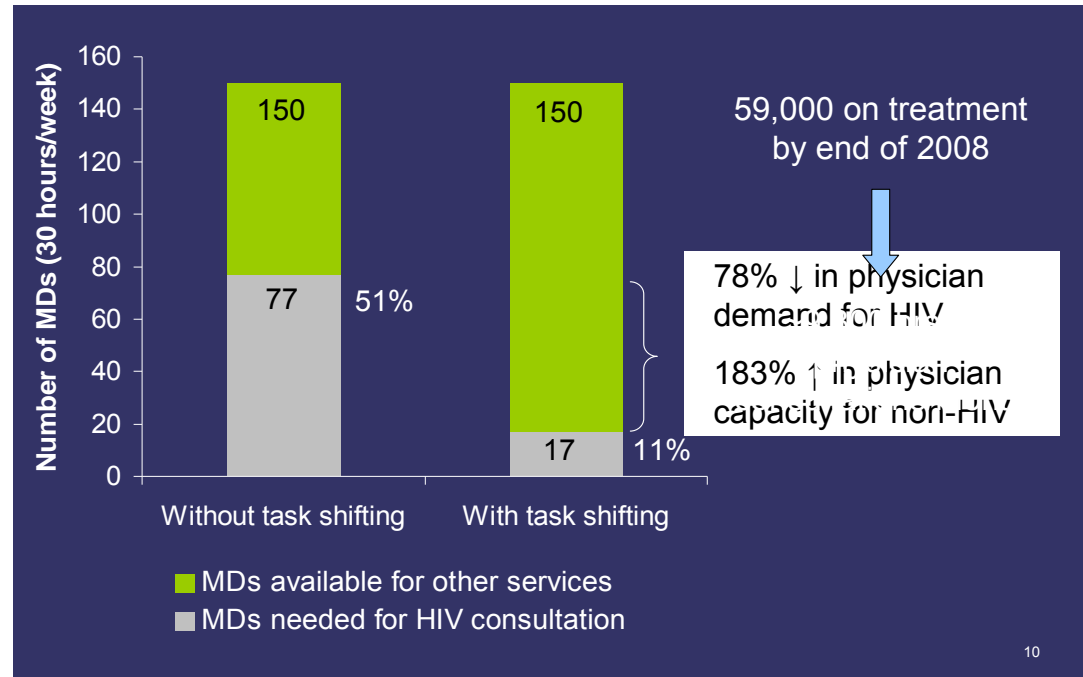
- Lack of laboratory diagnostics/monitoring in resource-limited settings can lead to increase in resistance-related mutations; less precise clinical decision-making
- Results after an 18-month follow-up to the Kisumu circumcision trial indicate risk reduction increased to 65% from 60% at two years

[Other Outcomes]

■ Clinical Research II

- Studies and modeling indicate enormous potential of task shifting as strategy for addressing health care worker shortages (frees up to 78% of physician time)

Roll Up to National Level



[Other Outcomes]

- **Prevention Research**

- Vaccines: back to basics, new focus on replicating adenovirus vectors rather than the non-replicating vector used in the failed STEP trial
- Microbicides research focusing on using ARV compounds in topical applications rather than broad-spectrum compounds



[Other Outcomes]

■ Social, Behaviour and Economic Science

- ‘Combination Prevention’: deploy multiple, concurrent approaches that include structural/social as well as behavioural and biomedical interventions
- Most at-risk populations (MSM, IDUs, sex workers) continue to face high HIV prevalence and lower access to HIV interventions due to structural barriers
- HIV-related stigma index: quantitative and qualitative approach to assess changes at country level over time

[AIDS 2008 Immediate Impact]

- **Global Impact –**

- Marriage of treatment and prevention
- Highlighted epidemic in MSM globally and renewed commitment
- Commitment to link rollout of HIV services to strengthening of health systems
- Limited but significant success achieved in expanding access to treatment and prevention

[AIDS 2008 Immediate Impact]

- **Regional**

- Education Ministers commit to comprehensive sex education for 8-12-year-olds in LAC
- Removal of last sodomy laws in Latin America
 - Decriminalization of homosexuality in Panama

- **Local**

- Negotiation of drug pricing
- Renewed political commitment
 - On stigma & discrimination of most at risk groups

AIDS 2008 Outcomes in the context of the African epidemic

- Implementation of Treatment Guidelines challenged by limited access to treatment:
 - First step – achieving 100% access to PMTCT
- Health Systems strengthening through HIV/AIDS programmes is particularly important in resource limited settings:
 - PEPFAR
 - Global Fund Resources
- Significant Human Rights issues needs to be tackled:
 - Criminalization of HIV transmission*
 - Gender Inequities
 - Stigma & Discrimination
- Limited concentrated epidemics*, but most at risk populations need more specific attention and targeted prevention:
 - Women & Girls, who represent 60% of the people living with HIV in Africa
 - Sex Workers
 - MSMs, in particular in Senegal*
 - IDUs, for instance in the Indian Ocean Sub-Region*

[THANK YOU!



■ EVALUATION

- **As your feedback is of most importance to assess the success of ICASA 2008, you will be invited shortly after the conference to complete an online survey (available in both English & French) - all data will be kept confidential.**
- **In order to participate in the evaluation process, please share your contact details in the form under circulation.**