

Although the HIV prevalence rate is still low in South-East Asia, it is one of the most rapidly growing HIV/AIDS epidemics globally. Because of the large population base, and presence of several factors that enhance the spread of HIV, including poverty, gender inequality and social stigma, the South-East Asia Region is likely to increasingly suffer the brunt of the epidemic.

- HIV has already spread to an estimated 6 million people in the South-East Asia Region (SEAR); the second highest number of cases in the world after sub-Saharan Africa.
- While HIV/AIDS cases are now being reported by all countries in the Region, four countries, namely India, Thailand, Myanmar and Indonesia, account for 99% of the total burden in the Region.
- India, with 4.58 million cases of HIV/AIDS, is second only to South Africa in terms of the numbers. Six states in the country, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, and Tamil Nadu have the highest burden.
- The majority of HIV infections in the Region occur through unprotected sex between men and women.
- Throughout the Region, injection drug use is adding to the rapid spread of the epidemic. Around half of injection drug users have already acquired the infection in Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Manipur state in India.
- An estimated 800,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in the Region urgently require antiretroviral (ARV) treatment; but less than 40,000 are currently receiving it.
- A target of getting 400,000 people on ARVs by the end of 2005 is proposed for the Region requiring a scale-up by a factor of 10. The treatment gap from 2003–2005 amounts to 360,000 with the largest number of cases in India.

T R E A T A I D S N O W



HIV/AIDS in the South-East Asia Region — Facts and figures

HIV burden, coverage with antiretroviral treatment in SEAR countries, 2003

Country	No. of persons living with HIV/AIDS	No. of persons in need of ARV treatment	No. of persons on ARV treatment
Bangladesh	13,000	1,800	5
Bhutan	<100	14	5
DPR Korea	NA	NA	NA
Indonesia	130,000	18,400	500
India	4,580,000	600,000	13,000
Maldives	<100	14	0
Myanmar	420,000	60,000	1,000
Nepal	60,000	8,000	250
Thailand	670,000	96,000	23,000
Sri Lanka	4,800	680	25
Timor Leste	NA	NA	NA
Total	6 million	800,000	40,000