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## **Acknowledgements:**

On behalf of the entire SHIFT Program, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous amount of effort and collaboration made in kickstarting the SHIFT program in the region. All of our achievements wouldn't have been made possible without the help, support and dedication from all of the sub-recipients, partners and AFAO staff. Likewise, we value the support and guidance from the UNAIDS Regional Support Team, UNAIDS Datahub, World Bank, SHIFT Regional Task Force members, Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), and in-country key population networks/coalition.

We commend and appreciate the commitment and engagement of key populations and civil society members in advocating for sustainable HIV financing and transitioning to effectively response to the HIV epidemic. We believe and continue to support the communities to play a critical role in ensuring investments for HIV interventions are impactful, efficient, and inclusive of most affected populations i.e. key populations in the Asia Pacific region.

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**Cover Photo:** SHIFT source

# *Contents*

Country Data	<b>6</b>
Capacity Building	<b>7</b>
Strategic Information	<b>8</b>
Advocacy	<b>9</b>
Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>10</b>
Thailand	<b>12</b>
Malaysia	<b>13</b>
Indonesia	<b>14</b>
Philippines	<b>15</b>



» SHIFT partners inaugural grant management training meeting held in Bangkok

As countries in Asia approach middle income status and transition out of international donor support, a critical issue of sustainability faces the HIV response in the region, especially the continued investments in programs for the most affected key populations (KP) – men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender people, sex workers and people who use drugs.

A Global Fund two-year regional advocacy program - the Sustainable HIV Financing in Transition (SHIFT) Program – aims to enable and empower civil society, including key population communities, to advocate for sustainable HIV financing. The program is being implemented in four middle-income countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

The program comprises AFAO as the principle recipient, APCASO and APCOM as the sub-recipients at regional level, and country sub-recipients: ACHIEVE in Philippines, IAC in Indonesia, MAC in Malaysia and TNAF in Thailand.

The program has three specific objectives:

- **Capacity Building:** to enhance the capacity and technical skills of civil society and communities of HIV key populations to advocate for increased allocative efficiency in HIV financing, increased domestic HIV funding, and improved fiscal space for the HIV programs of civil society organisations (CSOs);
- **Strategic Information:** to increase CSO's and KP's access to and use of strategic information on HIV financing; and
- **Advocacy:** to support CSO advocacy for sustainable HIV financing in the four countries and in regional and international platforms.

This report provides an overview of the programmatic achievements of the SHIFT program made in 2017 in line with the three objectives mentioned above. It also discusses the achievements made in monitoring and evaluating HIV financing advocacy program.

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**2** year program to help sustain funding for HIV programs in four countries in Asia where international aid is declining

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**3** regional partners act as a consortium partners to support the in-country work

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**4** country partners involved in the program

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## Country Data

Malaysia and Thailand are classified by the World Bank and the Global Fund as upper-middle-income. Indonesia and the Philippines are classified as lower-middle-income and may graduate to upper-middle-income status before too long.

The Global Fund projects that the Philippines will become an upper-middle-income country in the 2020–2022 allocation period and that its malaria component will become ineligible for Global Fund support at that time. Malaysia is currently eligible for Global Fund support only for its HIV program. The Fund expects that Malaysia will graduate to high-income status by 2019 and therefore become ineligible for Fund support.

Therefore, it makes sense that for all four countries involved in SHIFT, transition planning would be a top priority. In three of the four countries, there is a gap between the proportion of new HIV infections represented by key populations and the proportion of HIV prevention funding for these populations.



# Capacity Building

The program undertook 19 capacity building related activities at national and regional levels in 2017. These were in the form of training workshops, meetings, and learning & sharing (brownbag) sessions.

Key activities included country-specific advocacy trainings on HIV financing, which were organized in the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia respectively, with participation of 89 community advocates from the three countries. The pre and post evaluations that were conducted for these trainings indicate improved knowledge and skills on HIV financing, particularly in relation to budget analysis and advocacy, among the majority of the training participants.

With the improved knowledge and skills, many participants from HIV CSOs and KP networks started or became more active in engaging in HIV budgetary processes at national or local levels since the rollout of the training workshops. In **Malaysia**, for the first time key population representatives were invited by Malaysian Ministry of Health (MOH) to be a part of the Technical Review Panel (TRP) for the government-funded HIV programs for 2018. During a TRP meeting, the key population representatives were able to present and argue on the project proposals they submitted to MOH for 2018. In the **Philippines**, HIV CSOs from Metro Manila attended hearings to support champions on HIV financing during budget deliberations; In **Indonesia**, CSOs in both Bandung and Semarang districts, where SHIFT focuses on, have been participating in the discussions of Musreimbang, a local budget cycle process. In **Thailand**, four NGOs, including the program country sub-recipient (SR) - Thailand National AIDS Foundation - got invited to be in a decision-making committee for allocating 45 millions Thai Baths (approximately 1.4 million USD) to CSOs, as Subsidiary Fund for the year of 2018

The program identified two additional partners at country level to engage further in the discourse on health financing and budget allocation. They are Seknas Fitra in Indonesia and Social Watch Philippines in the Philippines. Both have been working on budget transparency and advocacy for two decades. These two NGOs have been providing technical assistance to the program country SRs in the two countries, in terms of facilitating training sessions on HIV budget analysis and research on CSOs funding mechanisms.

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**19** capacity building activities at national and regional levels

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**89** community advocates trained in HIV financing The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia

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**2** new budget analysis partners secured in Indonesia and The Philippines

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# Strategic Information

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## 7 Studies conducted on regional and national HIV financing

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### National Situational Assessment produced on HIV financing in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and The Philippines

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### Research findings presented at key regional conferences

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To generate strategic information, the program conducted seven studies on HIV financing-related issues at regional and national levels in 2017.

At regional level, a National Situational Assessment on HIV financing was conducted in the four program countries, focusing on budget cycles and financing mechanisms. This report:

- provides a current snapshot of HIV financing in the four SHIFT countries
- outlines HIV expenditure against key population epidemiology in the respective SHIFT countries
- identifies existing national HIV financing mechanisms and funding structures
- identifies national budget cycles and budgetary processes

Additionally, a capacity needs assessment was also carried out in the four program countries aimed at assessing CSOs' knowledge and understanding of HIV financing, and their capacity of advocating for sustainable HIV financing.

At the national level, the program studied CSO national funding mechanisms in Malaysia and those at the district level in Indonesia. In addition, the program researched HIV financing laws and relevant CSO practices in Thailand as well as how people with HIV are perspectives of JKN, the Indonesia version of universal health coverage.

Key findings of the above-mentioned studies were translated into strategic information and used for promoting and advocating HIV financing issues at various conferences or forums. For instance, at APCOM's regional Rights, Resources, and Resilience Asia Pacific Summit (RRRAP), APCOM and AFAO co-organized a session called Sounding the Sustainability Alarm: Financing Key populations in the Region. Using the key findings from the national situational assessment and the program baseline evaluation, the session delivered a key message on allocative efficiency that across SHIFT countries, a small proportion of both national prevention and total expenditure were invested to prevent HIV among key populations, especially among MSM, despite the fact that most new infections and/or HIV prevalence rates were much higher among key populations than that among the general population.



# Advocacy

**33** national and regional advocacy activities conducted

**800** people representing over 400 organisations from the program countries were involved in our advocacy activities

New local, national and regional advocacy mechanisms established and existing ones strengthened

The program accomplished 33 advocacy activities at regional and national levels, in the forms of forums, policy dialogues, courtesy visits, and sensitization workshops with decision and policy makers.

These activities covered a total of 801 people representing 403 organizations from the four program countries, including local NGOs, governments, multi-lateral, academia, private sectors and media.

As a result of these advocacy activities, a number of advocacy coalitions, working groups or task forces on HIV financing were newly established or strengthened. Furthermore, through working together in the past months, these advocacy coalitions/ task forces have identified specific advocacy objectives for the SHIFT program and have even made progress towards these objectives.

In Thailand for example, the Thai National AIDS Foundation (TNAF, the program country SR) together with the advocacy coalition of CRM have been working with the National Health Security Office (NHSO) to advocate for a standardized guideline for a 200-million Thai baht scheme on HIV. With a standardized guideline, all NHSO District Offices will follow the same procedure for selecting recipients, including management protocols such as required documents, legal status, report submission, installments and reimbursements. In the last quarter of 2017, the NHSO agreed to develop national guidelines for the scheme, which would promote all equal access for all CSOs to the scheme. TNAF has been invited to be a member of a Core Working Group for developing the guidelines, together with NHSO, Ministry of Public Health and CCM.



ACHIEVE Philippines team are all smiles and making full use of social media to spread important advocacy messages at a meeting on HIV and AIDS Policy

# Monitoring and Evaluation

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6 impact indicators created for the program

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17 outcome indicators created for the program

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Baseline evaluation conducted

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The program developed a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in 2017, which has defined six impact indicators and 17 outcome indicators for measuring the program outcomes and impact in relation to the program objectives, as well as specific domains for measurement, these being: fiscal space, allocative efficiency, transitioning, domestic funding mechanisms for CSOs, and sustainable financing for CSOs.

Some of the key indicators:

- Total budget and expenditure on HIV per year
- Proportion of domestic and external resources in HIV expenditure
- Number of laws, policies or procedures (local, national, regional) drafted, proposed, adopted or modified to support project goal
- Number of advocacy coalitions, plans or mechanisms that support evidence-based key messages (disaggregated by level)
- HIV CSOs and coalition partners are able to contribute effectively to budget processes
- Number of strategic recommendations integrated in CSO advocacy messages for sustainable HIV financing

Based on the framework, a program baseline evaluation was conducted, which collected baseline values for all the indicators. These indicators and baseline values will be used to measure the outcomes and impact of the SHIFT program at the end of the two years of implementation.

The M&E framework represents the first attempt to develop a coherent evaluation methodology not only for the SHIFT program but also any future project involving HIV financing, transitioning and sustainability for CSOs.



› AFAO and APCOM colleagues meeting with UNAIDS Datahub team discussing the importance of strategic information to inform and support SHIFT advocacy work

## Key Findings

### A Funding mechanism for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)/community organisations

All project countries have established national mechanisms to fund CSOs with domestic resources. However, in all countries except for Malaysia, the funding mechanisms are either difficult to access due to increasingly stringent accessibility criteria, or provide limited support that would not significantly contribute to achieving sustainable HIV responses

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Funding mechanisms difficult to access or provide limited support

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### Allocative efficiency

Small proportion of both national prevention and total expenditure were invested to prevent HIV among key populations, especially among Men who have sex with men (MSM) group, despite the fact that significant more new infections were identified among key populations and/or HIV prevalence rate were much higher among them than that among general population

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Small proportion of national prevention and total expenditure invested in KP programs

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### Gaps in strategic information

The baseline assessment revealed common gaps in strategic information across all four project countries and up-to-date incidence and prevalence data disaggregated for every key population. In addition, data on domestic funding for CSO and a list of recipients was not available in all project countries save Malaysia. Expenditure data, disaggregated by key population was available only for Thailand and Malaysia.

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Gaps in data for every key population

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ACHIEVE Philippines team hosted a SHIFT media forum in Philippines HIV and AIDS Policy

# Thailand

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The Thai National AIDS Foundation established a new national advocacy working group for HIV financing

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**171** participants attended a national workshop on laws and regulations related to HIV financing

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**2** CSO coalition meetings were held

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The program's Thailand country partner Thai National AIDS Foundation (TNAF) established a local advocacy working group in the country's northeast Khon Kaen Province in October with 10 members from 10 different CSOs. The working group is named CSO Resource Mobilization on AIDS (CRM), which has become a part of the national CSO Resources Mobilization (CRM), a key advocacy body on HIV financing in Thailand.



› AIDS Almost Zero launch with members of TNAF and partner organizations hosted

# Malaysia

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The Malaysian AIDS Council hosted a regional forum attended by representatives from all program countries

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**35** participants from Malaysian CSOs attended a civil society coalition meeting in Kuala Lumpur

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The program's country partner in Malaysia, the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC), hosted a regional forum on financing mechanisms for CSOs as well as a SHIFT progress review meeting.

## Regional Forum

The inaugural SHIFT regional forum focused on CSO financing mechanisms was held from 5 - 6 September 2017. The objective of the forum was to showcase the Malaysian model for CSO HIV financing and carry out a SWOT analysis of the feasibility of this approach in each of the other program countries and identify best practices across the region.

Being the first forum, it crafted a unique and meaningful opportunity for greater involvement of the CSOs to share, analyze and document their experiences in HIV financing mechanisms and to also generate and share ideas on transition and sustainability plans to effectively address the AIDS epidemic in their respective countries.

*"The knowledge of participants for basic advocacy training and capacity strengthening workshop on HIV Financing and Sustainability has tremendously increased to more than 40% in their post test results. The CSO participants were polished on their skills to create advocacy messages and write position statements on HIV financing according to the developed advocacy plan."*



MAC team at SHIFT grant management training

# Indonesia

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The Indonesian AIDS Coalition helped create a new national working group focused on HIV budget advocacy

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**77** participants attended planning meetings, training events and sensitization workshops in Bandung, Semarang and Jakarta

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The program's country partner in Indonesia, the Indonesian AIDS Coalition (IAC), helped create an advocacy coalition working mainly on budget advocacy. The coalition was created in Bandung district in September and comprises CSOs, KP networks and legal aid providers.

*"The Policy Dialogue on UHC provides an overview of the landscape of the funding situation in Indonesia where there is a funding gap for donor and APBN HIV response programs; it is a concern in the sustainability of its funding. APBN funds themselves cannot be used directly for fund channeling to the community. JKN is one of the opportunities for the sustainability of HIV responses in Indonesia, but it is necessary to re-do a cost analysis study. In order to encourage it, it is necessary to change the policies related to JKN, this is the input from the CSO for JKN which is then welcomed by partners such as World Bank and USAID to collaborate. The issue of JKN later on became an issue as one of the advocacy targets that will be jointly undertaken by the CSO Coalition in the national." - IAC SHIFT program coordinator*



➤ AFAO team and IAC management meeting with the Indonesian CCM members

# Philippines

ACHIEVE created a new working group to recruit advocacy champions and technical specialists on HIV financing

ACHIEVE conducted high level meetings about the SHIFT program with all major Filipino HIV/AIDS authorities

**20** participants attended a HIV finance technical writing training workshop in Manila

The program's country partner in The Philippines Action for Health Initiatives Inc. (ACHIEVE), conducted a range of activities during 2017 and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness among key stakeholders on the objectives of the SHIFT Program.

A working group was established to identify potential champions for advocacy on increased HIV fiscal space for CSOs in the Philippines. The group has met with identified potential champions who will hopefully compose the technical working group of the project.

*"One champion in the Senate, Sen. Risa Hontiveros is pushing to increase the budget of HIV and AIDs in the country. She is also advocating to focus resources where they are most needed— optimizing prevention interventions for key population, and scaling up treatment. With this, it is necessary to support the her during budget deliberations in the Senate, as well as in her*



Executive Director of ACHIEVE Mara Quesada prioritizing strategies



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