

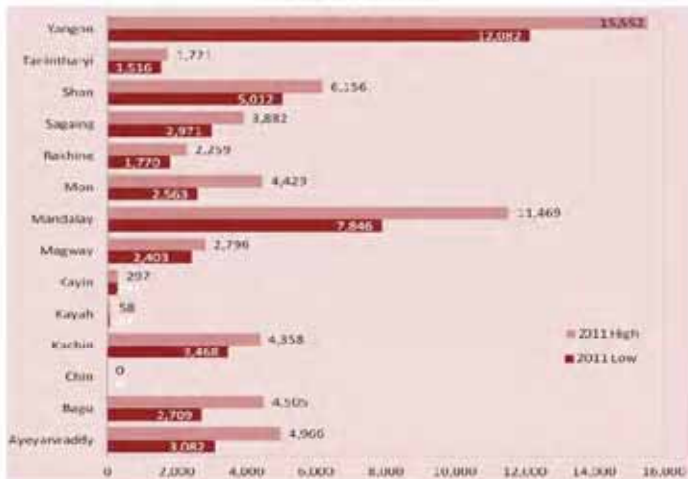
THE SITUATION

The HIV prevalence among sex workers was high at 33% in 2006. In 2007, the HSS protocol was improved and the following years measured a considerably lower prevalence of 16%, 18% and 11% for 2007, 2008 and 2009. A BSS conducted in 2007 suggested that at least knowledge among sex workers was very high as well as reported condom use with the last client (over 90%). While research with clients indicates that this may be over reporting and consistent condom use may be considerably lower, however, there is strong indication that condom use in sex work has reached levels that reduce incidence. While sex worker programmes have grown substantially in existing sites as well as through expansion to new sites, programmes for clients of sex workers were few and small in scale. Most programme continued to target male occupational groups. The prevalence of clients is estimated through surveillance of male clients with STIs. This prevalence has been more or less stable which raises concern and some questions. The sampling methodology may need to be reviewed to ensure that it is fairly representing the clients of sex workers. The size estimate of female sex workers in Myanmar is 60,000.

THE RESPONSE

The number of sex workers reached with prevention activities continued to increase each year since 2006. The total number of sex workers reached in 2011 by all organisations in all townships was estimated at 62,420. It was also reported that sex workers remained highly mobile and that they change establishments on a regular basis. The degree of mobility is however not exactly known. The majority of services to sex workers continue to be provided by a few large organisations with multiple sites through community and peer outreach model. The top three organizations reaching most number of sex workers are PSI, NAP and AZG. The smaller providers operated fewer sites or had other core business with sex workers constituting only a small part of their overall programme. In 2011, over 35 million condoms were distributed (both free and through social marketing). The target for 2015 is 65 million condoms.

FSW reached by HIV prevention programme (2010 and 2011)

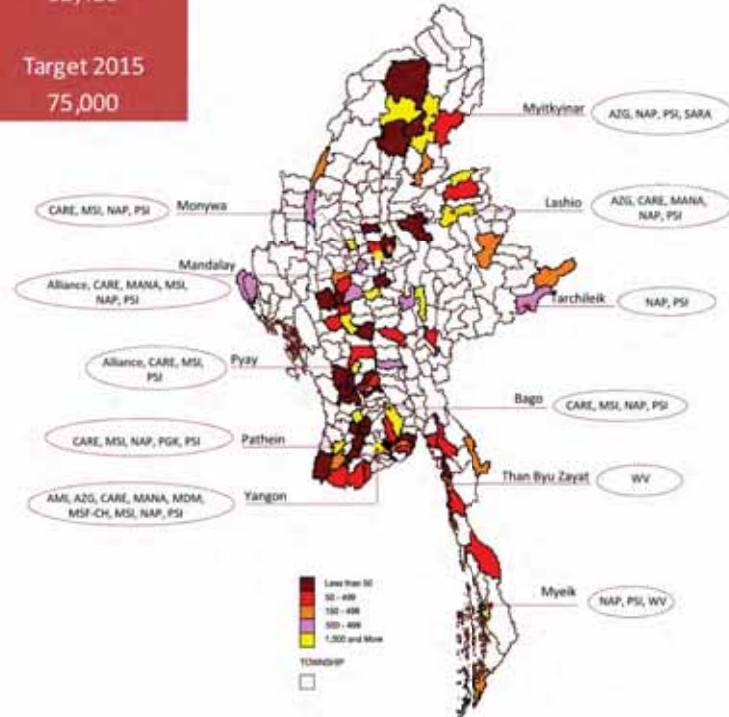


GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Female Sex workers

Achievement 2011
62,420

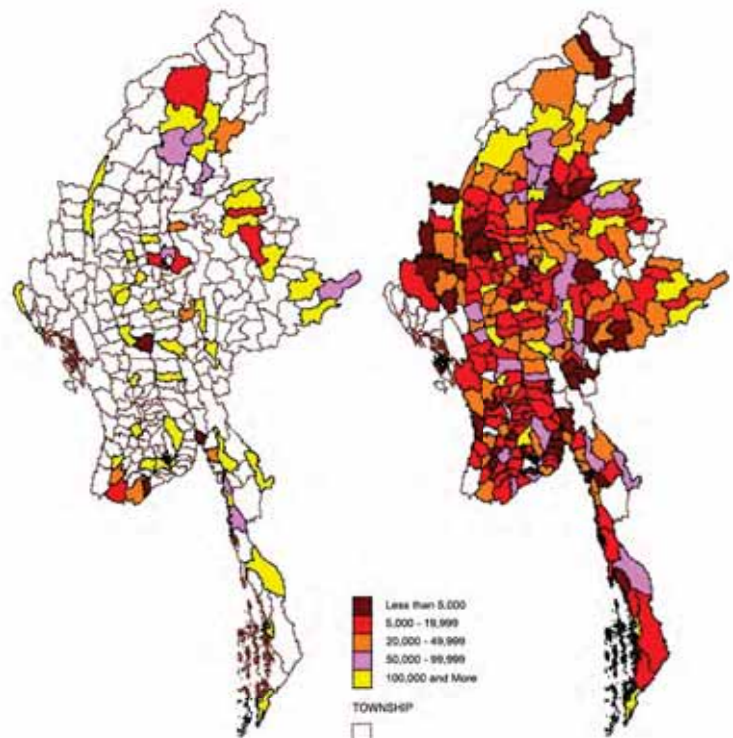
Target 2015
75,000



Condom distribution

Free distribution

Social Marketing





HIV prevention information session at TOP centre, PSI

LEGAL AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Order number 1046 (1 November 2000) of the Myanmar Central Body for Preventing and Eradicating AIDS Disease states that condom must not be used as material witness to arrest sex workers. However, possession of a condom has at times been interpreted as evidence of sex work.

CHALLENGES

- Limited availability of client friendly and high quality services
- Inadequate involvement of related sectors for promoting enabling environment to reduce stigma, discrimination towards key affected populations
- Weak coordination and collaboration of different partners to ensure the effective delivery of prevention services to sex workers
- Inadequate involvement of key affected populations in programme planning and implementation
- Few specific interventions to reduce intimate partner transmission i.e. regular partners of priority key populations at most risks of acquiring HIV infection and who do not yet practice preventive behaviour consistently

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sex worker programmes need to be expanded to the maximum coverage
- Overlap needs to be minimised through better coordination, information sharing and programme planning
- Clients and intimate partners of clients as well as sex workers will need to be covered with specific targeted programmes
- Behavioural and biological data on sex workers and clients need to be improved to reliably assess the impact of programmes

THE NEW NSP (2011-2015)

Coverage targets for 2015

Output/Coverage Targets	Size estimate	Baseline 2009	Target 2015
Number of female sex workers reached with HIV prevention programmes	40,000-80,000	45,489	75,000
Number of clients of female sex workers reached with HIV prevention programmes	881,220	NA	176,244

RESOURCE NEEDS

The new National Strategic Plan estimates the costs of key services for sex workers and their clients as follows:

Resource Needs for Sex Workers, Clients and Regular Partners up to 2015 (in US\$)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
5,614,900	6,246,448	6,969,188	7,688,417	8,351,772

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Government:	MoH (NAP)
INGO:	AHRN, Alliance, AMI, AZG, CARE, IOM, Malteser, MDM, MSI, MSF (CH), PSI, WV
Local NGO:	MANA, PGK, SARA