



Ministry of Health and Sports

Knowledge Gap and Revisiting of prioritized research topics

National AIDS Program

Research Agenda update and planning workshop

Pyin Oo Lwin DMR

7-8 August 2020



Brainstorming Workshop for Further Development of Action Plan for Implementation Research (NAP), DMR (POLB), 7th-8th August



Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Population**

- People who use drugs (PWUD)
- Transgender persons (TG)
- Clients of sex workers
- People in closed settings
- Sexual partners of priority populations
- Young priority populations and children
- Migrants
- Overlapping risk





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 1**
 - Community based service delivery approaches
 - Linkage to ART among priority populations and their sexual partners
 - eMTCT of HIV and Syphilis
 - PrEP





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 2**
 - New service delivery approaches and assessment of quality of care
 - Social contracting
 - Pharmacovigilance for new ARV
 - Cascade analysis
 - Co-infections and co-morbidity
 - HIV self-testing
 - HIV recency test





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 3**
 - Gender-responsive and right-based HIV service delivery models
 - Public-private partnership
 - Community-led HIV services
 - HIV legal and policy review
 - Assessment on sensitization of law enforcement on KP issues
 - UHC





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 4**
 - Data security initiatives
 - Unique identification system
 - STI surveillance, drug resistance surveillance, sentinel surveillance for drug toxicity
 - Technical feasibility assessment of electronic case-based recording and reporting system for HIV and STI
 - Triangulation of mortality data
 - Interoperability policy to ensure health information exchange
 - Assessment of HRH needs in HIV SI management
 - Social media-based HIV interventions
 - Sub-national NASA
 - HIV specific SARA





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 5**

- Cross-border policy/framework and services
- Enabling environment and guidance on better coordination in conflict area and hard to reach area
- Assessment of HR need for broader HRH plan to link with other departments
- Assessment of transition plan for GF seconded staff positions, task shifting
- Assessment for staff motivation
- Plan review for transition of ART patients to public sector based on capacity and service availability in public sector





Knowledge gaps regarding NSP IV

- **Strategic direction 5**

- Innovative purchasing models (e.g. contracting out and social contracting)
- Assessment of administration bottlenecks and pilot the financing models (e.g. trust fund, taxation and co-payment)
- PR-SR-SSR model
- Operational feasibility studies and analysis of the financing modalities, human resource, management, structures, mechanisms and processes to support a decentralized, more comprehensive partnership.





Revisiting prioritized research topics



Prevention with PWID



No.	Key Research Questions, Topic Area	Suggested Methodology	Study populations	Implementation Status
1	What is the effectiveness and evidence for different models for scaling up service delivery?	Mixed methods study	PWID in Kachin, Shan (N), Sagaing	In progress
2	What are the risks and barriers for female people who inject drugs (PWID) and people who use drugs (PWUD) to access harm reduction services?	Qualitative study; index testing	Female PWID/PWUD in Kachin, Shan (N), Sagaing	
3	What are the barriers and challenges to anti-retroviral treatment (ART) uptake and treatment outcomes among PWID?	Secondary data analysis; mixed methods study	HIV positive PWID, family members of HIV positive PWID in Kachin, Shan (N), Sagaing, Yangon, Mandalay	In progress
4	What are the social factors including geography, environment, and rituals related to risk behaviors of PWID/PWUD?	Qualitative study; desk review	PWID and PWUD, family members, related stakeholders in Kachin, Shan (N), Sagaing, Yangon, Mandalay	



Sexual Transmission and PMCT



No.	Key Research Questions, Topic Area	Suggested Methodology	Study populations	Implementation Status
1	What are the situations of sexual and reproductive health knowledge and access to available services among key affected populations (KAP) and other vulnerable people (OVP)?	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	Men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW), PWID, and their sexual partners in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing	
2	What is the perception of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among KAP (MSM, FSW, PWID) in terms of awareness, willingness to take, and willingness to pay?	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	MSM, FSW, PWID in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing	Preparing for IR grant by DMR
3	What are barriers to access positive prevention among adolescents living with HIV?	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	HIV-positive adolescents in Kayin and Mon	
4	Feasibility of point of care (POC) early infant diagnosis (EID) testing on case detection and ART initiation	Mixed methods	HIV-positive mothers and service providers in Myintkyina and Taunggyi	
5	What are the perceptions towards condom usage among youths (condom culture)?	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	Unmarried young men and women (18-30 years) in Yangon	



Care and Treatment



No.	Key Research Questions, Topic Area	Suggested Methodology	Study populations	Implementation Status
1	Retrospective/prospective analysis on isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) eligibility and provision for adults and children (e.g., considerations of liver enzyme levels, hepatotoxicity, peripheral neuropathy, active TB)	Prospective patient cohort (stratified cluster sampling); retrospective cohort analysis	States and regions with high TB burden	
2	Major non-communicable disease (NCD) prevalence among people living with HIV (PLHIV) on ART	Cross-sectional quantitative study	PLHIV in care	
3	Barriers for initiating ART for TB co-infected patients and pregnant women at decentralized sites	Mixed methods	Patients with TB and HIV; pregnant women with TB and HIV	
4	Cohort analysis on different 1st line ART regimens (DTG, EFV 400, EFV 600) at 6 months and 1 year after ART initiation across the country	Cohort study	PLHIV in care at ART centers and tertiary hospitals	
5	What are the challenges and barriers in providing rapid ART initiation (e.g., patient decision, counselling sessions)?	Mixed methods	People diagnosed with HIV, PLHIV in care	In Progress Yangon, Mandalay



Integration of Community and Health



No.	Key Research Questions, Topic Area	Suggested Methodology	Study populations	Implementation Status
1	Client perception and service preferences for HIV services in public sector after ART transition	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	PLHIV on ART who were transferred from private to public sector ART centers and decentralised sites in Yangon, Kachin, Shan (N)	
2	Implications of community-based screening (CBS) in improving coverage of HIV testing	Cross sectional quantitative study; mixed methods	Clients, service providers, KAP (FSWs, MSMs, PWIDs), implementing partners (IP), community health workers in Yangon, Mandalay, Kachin	
3	Community perceived priority services for HIV prevention and care in Myanmar	Cross sectional quantitative study	General population, nationwide	
4	KAP perceived barriers for accessing HIV services (prevention, care, treatment)	Mixed methods	KAP in Yangon, Mandalay, Kachin	
5	To assess the capacity and readiness of task shifting at public sector sites (PHS2) to increase HIV prevention coverage	Mixed methods	PHS2 staff, MW nationwide	



Strategic Information



No.	Key Research Questions, Topic Area	Suggested Methodology	Study populations	Implementation Status
1	Situational analysis of security and confidentiality for HIV-related data recording and storage (surveillance and routine information)	Desk and record review; clinicians, M&E staff, data manager interviews; observation with checklist; storage equipment	Routine HIV data, HIV data systems (recording, transmission, storage, dissemination) in public site hospitals and NAP clinics at different levels	
2	Evaluation of HIV surveillance system	Desk review; record review; staff interviews; site visit	Public and private sector IP at central, state, and regional levels	Planned in 2020
3	Cost effectiveness analysis of key preventive measures and treatment regimens (e.g., conditional outreach, enhanced outreach)	Cost effectiveness analysis, costing analysis, mixed methods	KPSC; peer outreach programs, satellite sites (ART center, decentralised site) in Yangon and Kachin	
4	Evaluation of OpenMRS/DHIS2	Desk review; interviews with site leaders (management of human resources)	Functioning site vs non-functioning site (>70 sites)	Conducted in 2019 (for OpenMRS)
5	Assessment of routine and research data utilization for guiding strategic direction	Interviews; desk review; review annual reports	Central, state, regional levels, IP, DMR, and all agencies conducting research	





Questions, comments and suggestion

