



APCOM volunteers hand out condoms at the g-Circuit SK11 party in Bangkok (2016)

# TENACITY

leaving no one behind strategic framework

2018-2020



**apcom**

Equity. Dignity. Social Justice.





APCOM staff members (above) and members of APCOM's Regional Advisory Group and Thai Advisory Group (middle) and APCOM's Ambassador (below).

APCOM works to improve the health and rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across Asia and the Pacific.

Based in Bangkok, APCOM is a not-for-profit organisation representing and working with a network of individuals and community-based organisations across 38 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

APCOM has a primary focus on HIV because it is a key health issue for gay men and other men who have sex with men in the region. APCOM also addresses other related health issues for our communities such as sexual health, mental health and drug use.

APCOM also focuses on improving relevant human and legal rights across the region as discrimination, stigma, criminalisation and exclusion impact on the health outcomes of the communities we serve.

## OUR VISION

APCOM wants a world where all gay men, other men who have sex with men and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics can fully participate in and achieve sustainable development in all aspects of their health, rights and wellbeing.

## OUR COMMUNITIES

We serve and represent a range of diverse and dynamic constituents. They include:

Gay men and other men who have sex with men

&

SOGIESC people = people and communities of diverse, non-heteronormative and gender-nonconforming sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.



At every level we are committed to: the individual; their community; the country they live in; Asia and the Pacific region; and our place within the global response to **Sustainable Development** and the realisation of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

### Advocacy & Research

We work with individuals and community partners across the region to help implementers, legislators, policymakers, and international agencies including donor agencies to better understand the needs of our communities and compel them to act. We also undertake and support a range of local, national and international research projects, so we can inform this advocacy with appropriate evidence.

### Education & Innovation

We drive innovation and promote technology to build community-based models of evidence-informed interventions and responses. We produce campaigns to inform our community members about issues which affect their health and wellbeing. We deliver training and produce resources to help our community partners to improve how they work. We develop and trial new health promotion initiatives that can be used by community partners across the region.

### Community Engagement

We build capacities to ensure new generations of leadership among gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people. We engage communities to deliver strong responses based on evidence and good practice. We connect community members, community partners and other stakeholders so that we can all work together more effectively. We work with individuals and communities to focus attention on local needs that are emerging, forgotten or ignored.



# OUR WORK





# TOWARDS 2020

Participants at APCOM RRRAP Summit in Bangkok (2017)

The United Nation's fast track strategy to end the global HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030 is guiding the world towards this much anticipated outcome.

APCOM wants this strategy to work. However, the window to achieve its 2020 objectives in Asia and the Pacific is closing rapidly and the commitments made by governments across this region to us, their citizens – gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people – will not be realised if efforts to respond to HIV remain at present levels.

Without programmatic scale-up, Asia and the Pacific will face failure in its response to sustainable development, leaving gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people behind to experience stigma, vulnerability to HIV, and in some countries violence and the threat of killings.

It is a bleak picture to portray. However, APCOM rejects this scenario as inevitable. Working with affected communities and individuals, community-based organisations, civil society organisations and governments, we will promote and protect our rights, build our resilience and generate the resources needed to respond effectively and efficiently in the face of many challenges in the region. Our work will be at local, country, regional and global levels.

Over the next two years, APCOM will build on its track record of results and proven delivery, using a strategic approach to capacity development, campaigns and prevention.

At every opportunity, APCOM will work with and through local communities to ensure their capacity development, enhanced resilience and greater results. APCOM will continue our leadership role in innovation and the use of technology.

Our partnerships are vital to our mission and will benefit from renewed attention and focus, ensuring that these partnerships deliver benefits for all.

APCOM will consolidate existing partnerships but will also foster new and non-traditional partnerships to build a stronger and more diverse coalition of people and organisations across Asia and the Pacific who want to work with our constituents to deliver true results.



APCOM has identified **sustainable HIV funding** as one of the challenges that can derail our collective efforts to deliver sustainable development.

To address this, APCOM will advocate for continued international funding, increased domestic financing, and leverage philanthropy, corporate social responsibility and charities to resource the actions that are needed.

APCOM's advocacy will continue to use evidence. APCOM will call out misinformation and lies. APCOM will not tolerate intolerance and will vehemently defend the rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people.

APCOM will work to ensure gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across the region get the rights and services to which they are entitled as citizens of their countries, as well as the compassion and dignity to which they are entitled as human beings.

We welcome you to join us and support our efforts to create a sustainable future for Asia and the Pacific that's healthy, inclusive and free of HIV.



Participants at APCOM RRRAP Summit in Bangkok (2017)





# ABOUT THIS STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

APCOM's strategic framework has been developed as a flexible tool to support individuals, local communities and national governments to end AIDS and promote justice in Asia and the Pacific by 2030, and to realise the human rights of gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people.

Designed to guide APCOM's work through 2020, the framework is multifaceted and anchored around three themes:

1. **HIV Is Not Over:** Strengthening the HIV response for gay men and other men who have sex with men
2. **Our Rights:** Protecting gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people
3. **Our Strength:** Stronger interlinked communities and broader partner networks

This framework responds to the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by focusing APCOM's work in the coming years on the most vulnerable and on striving to leave no one behind.

Realizing the 2030 Agenda will require gay men and other men who have sex with men across the region to be protected from HIV, to have access to HIV testing, to have access to treatment if living with HIV, and enjoy lives free from stigma and discrimination.

This framework also reflects the commitments of Asia and the Pacific governments to 2020 milestones consistent with the 2030 Agenda and the stated goal of universal health coverage and access. APCOM will challenge and closely monitor governments to act and deliver on these promises.

This framework also sets out the results that APCOM will work towards in partnership with individuals and communities, national governments, international organisations and others.

Through this work, APCOM remains committed to our community's pursuit of equity, dignity and social justice for gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across Asia and the Pacific.

## TENACITY in ACTION

APCOM will focus on a range of specific activities and outcomes in pursuit of the broader objectives outlined in this document. These activities and outcomes are detailed in a companion document to this strategic framework called TENACITY in ACTION. This is available for viewing and download on the APCOM website: [www.apcom.org/tenacity](http://www.apcom.org/tenacity)

## Consultation Process

To develop this strategic framework, APCOM undertook a process of extensive consultations and discussions with a range of key stakeholders. These consultations took place in 2017 leading up to and including the APCOM Rights, Resources & Resilience Summit in November – which helped mark our 10th anniversary – followed by a focused workshop with key stakeholders in Bangkok in February 2018. This document also benefited from subsequent review and feedback from a range of community partners and other stakeholders before being released at the 2018 International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam.



# 1. HIV IS NOT OVER.

**strengthening the HIV response  
for gay men and other men who  
have sex with men**

Participant at the APCOM PrEParing Asia consultation in Bangkok (2015)

The HIV epidemic is far from over for gay men and other men who have sex with men in Asia and the Pacific. We live with HIV every day, in our bodies, our partners, our communities, our futures. We face illness, death, stigma and discrimination every day.

Without maintaining existing resources and delivering new national investments in HIV education, prevention, treatment and care for gay men and other men who have sex with men, Asia and the Pacific region and its government responses will fail, and we will not reach the target of ending AIDS by 2030.

APCOM has championed innovation in responding to HIV and will continue to push boundaries and call out inaction or ineffective programming.

We know that gay men and other men who have sex with men must be equal partners in the response to HIV and that their interests need to be effectively aligned to achieve good outcomes across the region.

We also know that young gay men and other young men who have sex with men in the region are adversely impacted by the HIV epidemic and must be more actively engaged as a solution to this profound threat.

APCOM will continue to develop, produce and lead innovative HIV programming that links education, prevention, treatment and care. APCOM has developed the resource – *Changing Gears* – that identifies the importance of prioritising programs that reach young gay men and other men who have sex with men. Let's change gears in the response and scale up our collective efforts.

APCOM will continue our role as a knowledge broker and a networking platform to bring the responses to scale for all gay men and other men who have sex with men at risk across the Asia Pacific region, especially young gay men and other young men who have sex with men.





### 1.1 No more early deaths from HIV.

APCOM believes that by 2020, affordable, available and accessible HIV services should be available to those gay men and other men who have sex with men in Asia and the Pacific who need them.

### 1.2 HIV prevention works.

APCOM believes that by 2020, governments across Asia and the Pacific must ensure that 90% of their gay men and other men who have sex with men populations are reached with effective, appropriate and affordable evidence-informed HIV prevention programs.

### 1.3 Asia and the Pacific must be PrEPed and PEPed.

APCOM believes that by 2020, at least 100,000 at-risk young gay men and other men who have sex with men in Asia and the Pacific are using PrEP consistently and PEP when needed.

### 1.4 Testing. Testing. Testing.

APCOM believes that by 2020, 90% of key populations in Asia and the Pacific – including gay men and other men who have sex with men – will have had an HIV test and received their results at least once.

### 1.5 Knowledge is power.

APCOM believes that by 2020, new and existing research architecture (including researchers and institutions) should be established or strengthened and producing much-needed research to inform programming and address social and cultural determinants relating to the health, rights and wellbeing of gay men and other men who have sex with men. APCOM believes that by 2020, these efforts will have ensured greater research capacity and expertise in communities of gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people.

## TENACITY in ACTION

APCOM will focus on a range of specific activities and outcomes in pursuit of these broader objectives. These are detailed in TENACITY in ACTION:  
[www.apcom.org/tenacity](http://www.apcom.org/tenacity)



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# 2. OUR RIGHTS.

## protecting gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people

APCOM is an active partner in efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Governments throughout the Asia Pacific region have committed themselves to this Agenda, and by doing so they have committed to its underlying principles of social justice and leaving no one behind. APCOM understands that 'leaving no-one behind' means that gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people are not criminalised under national or local laws, that there is no discrimination against us and that we are able to fully realise our human rights.

APCOM supporters at ICCAP Conference in Bangkok (2016)

Further, APCOM is committed to the full realisation of the **Yogyakarta Principles** (2007) and **Yogyakarta Principles Plus 10** (2017). The principles contained within these documents articulate the human rights of all SOGIESC people. Laws that punish us based on our sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or our sex characteristics – especially laws with a death penalty – must be changed, and APCOM will work with global, regional and national human rights organisations and institutions and any other interested entities across the region to achieve this outcome.

APCOM believes in a world that demonstrates tolerance and protects the rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people, and where culture and religion accept differences. APCOM will work with national human rights institutions as well as human rights groups to achieve sustained change that protects that rights of gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people.

### 2.1 Bad laws cost lives – no more criminalisation of same sex relations.

APCOM believes that by 2020, countries in Asia and the Pacific must revise their penal codes to remove the criminalisation of same sex relations.

### 2.2 Human rights are the rights of gay men, other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people. APCOM believes that by 2020:

- Countries in Asia and the Pacific reporting on UN Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights must include how they have addressed stigma and discrimination against us.
- Countries in Asia and the Pacific reporting on their response to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda must include how they have not left us behind.

### 2.3 Enough is enough – no more HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

APCOM believes that by 2020, HIV-related stigma and discrimination must be eliminated in healthcare settings across Asia and the Pacific.

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# 3. OUR STRENGTH.

**stronger interlinked communities  
and broader partner networks**



Participant at the APCOM PrEParing Asia consultation in Bangkok (2015)

APCOM is committed to advancing strong and sustainable community activism and advocacy in Asia and the Pacific. For over 10 years, APCOM has been a leader in advocating for the health and rights of gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people across Asia and the Pacific. This has embedded APCOM as part of the Asia Pacific region's solution for advancing strong and sustainable community activism and advocacy.

APCOM commends gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people, for their strengths in the face of adversity. We acknowledge those who have lost their lives in their personal efforts to challenge hate – your deaths will not be in vain. We will build on those strengths to ensure informed individuals and communities work together to deliver change.

APCOM is well positioned to use our knowledge, skills and networks to support the work of our community partners, and to develop new opportunities and partnerships that can further support their individual and our collective efforts.

APCOM will focus on the quality not quantity of partnerships and look for opportunities for joint activism and advocacy. A strengthened and resilient community of gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people will need to share stories and lessons learned on innovation and what has worked, along with the challenges that remain.

## 3.1 Cherish the strength.

APCOM believes that by 2020, vibrant and reenergised community responses should be addressing the challenges facing gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people in Asia and the Pacific.

## 3.2 New friends in new places.

APCOM believes that by 2020, increased resources should be available from the private sector for community lead action on HIV, rights and wellbeing for gay men and other men who have sex with men and SOGIESC people in Asia and the Pacific.

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