

55th PCB, December 2024

Report of the Executive Director

Thank you Chair and Thank you Kenya for hosting us.

Thank you Winnie for your report.

I deliver this statement on behalf of the NGO Delegation.

Happy International Human Rights Day.

I am honoured to take part on the High Level Panel, as the only representative from Asia and the Pacific in reviewing the operating model of the Joint Programme to make us fit for the challenges of the future.

The members of the PCB have always agreed time and again that the community is central and an integral part of the HIV response.

We the community call to account, to make noise by going to the streets, to bring the evidence of the real and lived experiences of people living with HIV and key populations - and to remind us all here that our work is far from over.

The added value of UNAIDS has been creating the space and dialogue for marginalized groups to dialogue with government agencies, and other development partners which we may not get access to, let alone to tell what are the real issues on the ground - for us to be heard and seen is our most powerful advocacy.

In Asia and the Pacific, we have seen decreasing resources and the presence of UNAIDS. With diminishing UNAIDS presence, sadly it also means HIV and AIDS as a health and rights issue is also diminishing as an issue. For example, in our region there is a rise in HIV infections in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Timor-Leste, and pre-exposure prophylaxis scale up is woefully too slow to affect the course of the HIV epidemic: We're only reaching an abysmal 3% PrEP users in 2022.

For our region, 99% of new HIV infections are among young key populations and their partners - with the support of UNAIDS, voices and data of key populations; gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers, people who use drugs, sex workers, and of people living with HIV are elevated to policy makers.

The PCB is a prime example of how UNAIDS is engaged with civil society - and ensures key populations are not just forgotten but are meaningfully engaged for solutions.

As we look forward to the future, I make a plea that the Joint Programme stay united with strengthening community leadership and community-led HIV responses.

Thank you very much.

54th PCB, June 2024

Update on strategic human resources management issues

Thank you, Chair.

I speak on behalf of the NGO Delegation.

First, I would like to honor John Rock, a distinguished member of the NGO Delegation of the UNAIDS PCB, who represented Asia and the Pacific between 2013 and 2014 and passed away recently. John's dedication and passion for international development in the field of HIV and AIDS and for empowering people living with HIV left an indelible mark on countless lives and communities.

The epidemic continues to affect key populations and their sexual partners disproportionately. Key populations – which include gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject and use drugs, prisoners and detainees, sex workers, and transgender people – constitute small proportions of the general population but face elevated risks of HIV infection. This is, in part, because of the discrimination, criminalization, harassment, and social exclusion that they experience.

Despite the much-reduced personnel, we were glad to see efforts to pilot an initiative to reach out to young people from key populations through the Young Leadership Fellowship to create opportunities to build and strengthen personal and community leadership skills and to foster a vibrant network of change leaders within UNAIDS – and we look forward to seeing key populations being an integral part of UNAIDS staff to ensure the sustainability of community leadership, and community-led efforts as we near 2030.

Harry Prabowo, from Indonesia, working at the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV, told us in the 2023 World AIDS Day report that, "I am alive because of the community. When I was diagnosed with HIV in Jakarta in 2010, I had a CD4 count of 20. Staff at my nongovernmental organization took me to the doctor. They took turns looking after me. Today, I not only have an undetectable viral load, but I also have the confidence to embrace life fully and proudly as a gay man living with HIV. Treatment on its own could not get me here. I have been lucky. But to ensure the world can end AIDS as a public health threat, community-led support cannot be left to luck."

Finally, we look forward to seeing the implementation of the People Strategy, which aims to support staff well-being through investment in learning, development, and growth that enhances gender equality, diversity, equity, inclusion, antiracism, respect, and working differently.

53rd PCB, December 2023

Evaluation Annual Report and UNAIDS management response

Thank you, chair,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the NGO Delegation.

Concerning the UNAIDS Management Response to the Annual Evaluation Report and the Evaluation of UNAIDS Joint Programme Country Envelopes: 2018-2022, we have made the following observations and recommendations:

UNAIDS management would have heard yesterday about the added value that data generated by UNAIDS brings to the Global AIDS response, and many Programme Coordinating Board members are looking forward to the upcoming midterm evaluation 2021-2026 and the development of the next strategy. This is an area that the Joint Programme cannot cut back on, and therefore, we ask MS and donors to step up their investment and fully fund the UBRAF.

We, the NGO Delegation, know only too well we can't do more with less. We can only do less with less.

On Day 1, my colleague mentioned the USD 200,000 shortfall for the critical role of the NGO Delegation to enable us to lead.

We hope donors will step up the commitments to fully fund the UBRAF at an annual level of US\$ 210 million so that the Evaluation Office is adequately resourced, staffed, and supported with the target level of the budget for evaluation at 1% of organizational expenditures, which the Programme Coordinating Board approved in June 2019.

We are encouraged to see in the 2024-2025 evaluations to be conducted jointly with the Cosponsors include HIV as an element of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 Global Action Plan, Sustaining Impact on HIV through Community Systems, UNAIDS Partnership with the Global Fund and PEPFAR, and the Role of the Joint Programme in Sustaining the Response to HIV beyond 2030.

We thank the leadership of the UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director of the Programme Branch for taking on the responsibility of the recommendations to the evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the country envelopes as a mechanism to allocate and disburse funds for the Joint Programme at the country level.

Lastly, thank you to the outgoing Director of Evaluation, thank you for your leadership that has established an independent, fully functional, and quality-assured evaluation function in UNAIDS.

Thank you.

52nd PCB, June 2023

Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework (UBRAF) 2022-2026

Performance reporting 2022

Thank you very much Chair.

I am delivering this intervention as NGO Asia and the Pacific.

We thank Member States, Cosponsors of the Joint Programme, and UNAIDS for recognising the important role and voice that the NGO Delegation brings to this unique Programme Coordinating Board.

We have seen the rise of HIV infections in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, and Timor-leste.

We have seen an increase in AIDS-related deaths in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, and Timor-leste.

We have seen that 99% of new HIV infections are among young key populations and their partners – with MSM accounting for 52%.

We need to scale up innovative interventions and differentiate HIV services across the continuum of prevention, treatment and care cascade.

However, pre-exposure prophylaxis scale up is woefully too slow to affect the course of the HIV epidemic: We're only reaching an abysmal 3% PrEP users in 2022, and we need to programme long acting injectable PrEP in our region.

The Joint programme is failing the gay men and other men who have sex with men in my region, particularly for the young generations.

We welcome Member States stepping in to try and fully fund the UBRAF, however there's significant shortfalls to fully fund the Joint Programme.

In order to reach the 2025 target set within the 2021 Political Declaration on AIDS of US\$ 29 billion – Asia and the Pacific region needs 32% of this resource.

As a gay man from the region, I ask why we are continually being left behind – and we demand equal and safe access to comprehensive HIV services, and end all forms of stigma, discrimination, criminalization and punitive laws against gay men and other men who have sex with men.

We must not leave out communities in Afghanistan and Myanmar due to the political situations.

Lastly, the Pacific Islands are often left behind in the response, and the civil society in the Pacific are disappointed that the UNAIDS Pacific Office will close at the end of August – as Australia mentioned yesterday, Fiji and Papua New Guinea are seeing a rise of HIV infections.

Thank you.



51st PCB, December 2022

Follow-up to the thematic segment from the 50th PCB meeting

Thank you Chair and thank you Suki and Caroline for the presentation.

As an NGO Delegation from Thailand, I would like to also say Sawasdee krub – a very warm welcome to Chiang Mai and to Thailand. And thank the leadership of Thailand for hosting the 51st PCB Meeting, and for arranging the field visits that shows strong involvement and meaningful engagement with key populations-led interventions.

The NGO Delegation welcomes the report harnessing the power of education to end HIV related stigma and discrimination, empower young people and provide a comprehensive HIV response through education.

We welcome many examples of how CSE have made a positive impact on young people's empowerment, that CSE was one of best HIV prevention tools, especially when integrated with sexual and reproductive health and rights and psychosocial support.

We stress:

The incorporation of granular data disaggregated by age and gender.

Develop and scale up implementation of policies and programmes to end HIV- related stigma, discrimination, sexual and gender-based violence in education settings.

Increased investment in innovative, sustainable and equitable financing for the education sector and for school and out-of-school programmes is needed to promote an integrated, multisectoral and coordinated HIV response in the education settings.

We note that the power of education and the importance of CSE is also mentioned in the 51st Thematic Segment on HIV and men, in all their diversity: How can we get our responses back on-track?

The report stresses HIV awareness, advocacy and responses by and for young people, including transgender people, and gay men and other men who have sex with men, and education includes peer education programme and social marketing campaigns.

We really need member states to support countries with policy guidance and technical assistance as set out in the Global AIDS Strategy as well as in evidence-based programmes to end HIV-related stigma and discrimination through education and empowering young people.

Kob khun krub. Thank you very much.

50th PCB, June 2022

Independent Organizational Oversight Reports and Management Response

Thank you chair,

I speak on behalf of the NGO Delegation, and wish everyone a Happy Pride Month.

There have been positive developments and encouraging initiatives taken up to address grievances at the workplace. It is laudable to learn that the majority of staff at UNAIDS completed training courses on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as well as courses on ethics and integrity and preventing fraud & corruption.

It was very interesting to learn about the Independent External Oversight Advisory Committee (IEOAC) observations and advice to the PCB and the Executive Director, with a view to strengthening governance and oversight within UNAIDS.

We suggest that:

UNAIDS fast-track the implementation of long-outstanding audit recommendations noted in the report of the Internal Auditor; and that

UNAIDS senior management ensures that the organization has sustainable funding for its core programmes.

Please note that the external auditor found that some indicators of UBRAF 2016-2022 were not recorded consistently, including one indicator related to a human rights related indicator. This was not addressed in any of the UBRAF reports, so we need to make sure that the new matrix will address issues found by the external auditor.

We are delighted that an Independent Ethics Office has been established and the head of the Ethics Office is now in place. Sufficient resources and support to the Ethics Office are needed – otherwise there comes a time when the office consists of only one person which may not be enough to effectively deal with the breadth and depth of the work required.

The Joint Inspector Unit (JIU) recommended that consideration is given to “how to best support the office with appropriate staffing and/or backup”. We hope that PCB, UNAIDS Executive Director and Secretariat will ensure that the Ethics Office has adequate resources to carry out its functions.

The NGO Delegation would like to know what measures are in place to protect staff from retaliation because this is critical for ensuring that UNAIDS is a safe workplace. The 2020 Global Staff Survey showed that only 37% staff members reported confidence they would not face adverse consequences if they reported a case of abusive conduct. We hope that this percentage will improve in the next Global Staff Survey.

Thank you.