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REPORT

APCOM Community Summit 2024

Our Lived Experiences. Our Leadership.

Our Lived Experiences. Our Leadership.

APCOM Community Summit 2024

Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors and partners, whose unwavering support and generosity have been instrumental in the success of the APCOM Community Summit 2024. Your contributions have empowered community leadership to flourish and ensured the meaningful inclusion of diverse voices in addressing HIV responses and advancing LGBTQI+ human rights across Southeast and South Asia.

Your commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion, and human rights advocacy has been pivotal in overcoming challenges posed by discriminatory laws, political barriers and humanitarian crises. By standing with us, you have strengthened the capacity of community-led organisations to advocate for equality and sustainable development, promote health services, and champion human rights for key populations and individuals of diverse SOGIESC.

The progress and achievements highlighted during this summit, including the sharing of best practices, strategic dialogues, and collaborations, would not have been possible without your belief in the power of community leadership. Together, we are shaping a future where diversity is celebrated, and no one is left behind.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for being a driving force in realising a more equitable and inclusive world.

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apcom COMMUNITY SUMMIT 2024

20 - 22 NOVEMBER 2024

Executive Summary

Community leadership ensures that the needs of key populations are effectively represented and addressed. However, other communities that are criminalised (e.g., people who use drugs and sex workers) are left behind. Not fully recognising and prioritising community leadership could lead to non-inclusive programming that fails to address the unique challenges communities face effectively. By quantifying the support for community leadership through funding, we can ensure that those most affected by HIV are directly involved in shaping and implementing practical solutions. Additionally, it is crucial to scale up strategic efforts to sustain community-led responses.

In addition, the leadership of LGBTQI people and community organisations has been instrumental in promoting diversity and inclusion as a means to sustainable development. However, this advocacy work is challenging. Discriminatory laws, unfair targeting of national politics, and humanitarian crises create challenging environments that hinder progress toward diversity and inclusion. Through strong community leadership, strategic measures must be taken to ensure greater legal protection, address political barriers that impede progress toward equality, and provide support during times of crisis.

Over 100 participants from 10 countries across Southeast and South Asia attended the three-day forum, APCOM COMMUNITY SUMMIT 2024, held on November 20-22, 2024, at the Sukosol Hotel in Bangkok. The summit served as a pivotal regional platform for community-led organisations in HIV responses and LGBTQI+ human rights to scale up strategic efforts to sustain community-led responses and contribute to APCOM's new strategic plan for 2025. The annual community-focused forum brought together the LGBTQI+ community, and diverse SOGIESC communities, stakeholders, donors, activists, researchers, and technical experts for the sharing of the community's best practices, supporting one another and strengthening community leadership through community dialogues to improve health services, promote peer-community engagement, and advocate for diversity, inclusion and human rights toward equality and sustainable development.

Purpose and Goals

- To affirm the competence and indispensability of regional community-led organisations/networks in HIV responses and LGBTQI+ human rights advocacies.
- To reinforce the key population and LGBTQI's credibility in convening practical, strategic, and programmatic national discourses with stakeholders.
- To concretise community leadership and systems in regional and country HIV and LGBTQI human rights response.
- To align regional strategies and champion community-led dialogues for structural barriers and human rights advocacy.
- To quantify the current resource gaps and commit investments to operationalise community systems and community-led interventions.
- To balance the inequitable ratio of core and human resource investments towards community-led organisations and foreign non-government organisations in implementing HIV and human rights programs.

Key Highlights

The APCOM Community Summit serves as a regional platform for fostering exchange and dialogue among key populations, the LGBTQI community, and individuals with diverse SOGIESC. The innovative approaches, updates, and lessons in HIV and human rights advocacy were emphasised. The Summit brought together diverse communities, stakeholders, donors, activists, researchers, and technical experts to prioritise strategic discussions. Through community dialogues, the aims were to enhance health services, strengthen human rights and gender advocacy, and facilitate cross-country learning to promote best practices within communities.

Being both community-led and driven, we provide a safe, inclusive space for open dialogue, emphasising leadership, participation and representation of key populations and individuals with diverse SOGIESC. By leveraging diverse experiences and knowledge, we encourage innovative thinking, foster collaboration, and generate new ideas and approaches that drive progress.

Recommendations and Action Steps

Discussions at the Summit provided valuable insights into the unique needs and strengths of communities, fostering a comprehensive understanding of social, cultural, and structural factors. This enables the development of targeted and effective program recommendations tailored to each community's specific needs. The focus is on defining and operationalising the roles of key populations and LGBTQI+ communities in achieving the Global HIV 95-95-95 targets and the Sustainable Development Goals. Sessions explored ways to amplify and structure community leadership at regional and national levels, supporting a sustainable HIV response and more robust LGBTQI+ human rights initiatives.

Centre community leadership across the HIV cascade. Position KP- and LGBTQI-led groups as co-designers and co-implementers of national programs. Formalise their roles in testing, linkage, treatment literacy, adherence support, and viral suppression to accelerate 95-95-95.	**Make schools safe and inclusive.** Adopt whole-school approaches such as teacher training, inclusive curricula, anti-bullying policies, reporting mechanisms and data systems. Engage ministries and communities to institutionalise protections for LGBTQI+ learners.
Scale community-led monitoring (CLM). Adopt the AAAQ lens and standardise CLM tools (surveys, FGD guides, dashboards). Resource domestic social-contracting and create feedback loops so findings translate into service improvements, policy updates, and budget shifts.	**Align with COP/ROP and major funders.** Organise communities for proactive engagement in PEPFAR COPs/ROPs and Global Fund processes. Push for transparent budgets, KP-led service delivery, and legal-environment reforms that enable scale.
Expand the mixed-prevention menu to include long-acting PrEP. Ensure user choice (oral, CAB-LA, vaginal ring/implants), remove cost and access barriers via guideline updates, KPLHS delivery, and sustainable financing. Prioritise implementation research and equitable rollout in underserved areas.	**Invest in capacity, governance, and finance.** Build CBO skills in leadership, M&E, partnership brokering, and compliant financial management. Clarify documentation standards and finance–program collaboration to smooth disbursements and audits.
Supercharge U=U as a stigma-busting norm. Embed U=U in national guidelines and provider training; run culturally tuned public campaigns and peer-led narratives. Track impact via testing uptake, treatment initiation and durable viral suppression.	**Secure sustainable funding and diversify sources.** Pair donor investments with domestic mechanisms (social contracting, insurance, municipal budgets) and private-sector partnerships. Earmark predictable lines for KP-led organisations and track equity of allocations.
Strengthen harm reduction and chemsex responses. Integrate PrEP, HIV/STI testing, mental health, and overdose prevention into CBO and KPLHS platforms. Build peer-led, transgender-affirming services; use digital outreach; and advocate for enabling policies and sustained funding.	**Use data, digital, and AI responsibly.** Develop shared data standards, CLM dashboards, and low-barrier digital outreach, backed by privacy-by-design, cybersecurity, and consent safeguards. Prioritise age- and gender-sensitive UX.
Advance person-centred care (PCC). Train providers in shared decision-making, confidentiality, and cultural competence. Link biomedical care with mental health, social protection, and peer support; expand flexible delivery (mobile, telehealth, after-hours).	**Broaden inclusion and representation.** Systematically include youth, transgender, intersex, LBT, and under-reached key populations in governance, service design, and monitoring. Set participation targets and report on them.
Address mental health at scale. Close the gap between need and access with LGBTQI-affirming services, provider sensitisation, crisis support and peer networks. Embed anti-discrimination safeguards in healthcare and monitor access by country and sub-population.	**Legal and policy reform for enabling environments.** Prioritise decriminalisation, anti-discrimination laws, and access to essential commodities (condoms, lubricants, needles/syringes). Engage UN mechanisms and regional bodies to sustain pressure and support.
Protect intersex rights and bodily autonomy. Ban non-consensual medical interventions; introduce inclusive legal recognition and ethical care pathways. Build intersex leadership, knowledge hubs, and cross-regional learning to accelerate policy change.	**Regional learning and south-south collaboration.** Maintain communities of practice (e.g., CLM, chemsex, PCC) and cross-country exchanges to rapidly surface and replicate what works, with APCOM convening and curating practical toolkits.

Day 1

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Opening Plenary: A Call for Resilience and Leadership

The first day of the APCOM Community Summit 2024 commenced with an inspiring opening plenary featuring a message of support from Dr Brigitte Quenum, Senior Adviser at UNAIDS Asia and the Pacific. In her address, Dr Quenum acknowledged both the ongoing challenges and the remarkable resilience of LGBTQI+ communities in the region.

Despite significant progress, the Asia-Pacific region continues to grapple with pressing human rights and health challenges. Dr Quenum highlighted key concerns, including:

- The ongoing HIV crisis, with 79% of new HIV infections occurring within the region.
- The alarming rate at which young people are being infected, with nine new infections every hour.
- Structural inequalities and disparities in access to HIV prevention services continue to hinder progress in the regional HIV response.
- Societal stigma deters LGBTQI+ individuals from seeking life-saving services such as HIV prevention and mental health care.

Despite these challenges, LGBTQI+ communities and key populations have continued to demonstrate resilience, leadership, and credibility. Dr Quenum emphasised the vital role these communities play in leading national-level strategic discussions and advocating for inclusive policies. She specifically commended APCOM's efforts in:

- Conducting a Situational Analysis of the 30-80-60 targets, which strengthens the engagement of sexual minority and transgender (SM and TG) communities in the Global Fund's new funding model.
- Advocating for inclusive, community-led services that prioritise accessibility and effectiveness.
- Improving access to condoms and lubricants among young MSM communities, ensuring that prevention tools reach those most at risk.

Dr Quenum underscored the importance of collaboration, stressing that engaging peer communities is the most effective way to ensure services reach those who need them most.

"Collaboration is key," she stated. "It is critical to prioritise community leadership, respect their voices at every step, and put them at the centre of every activity. Promoting community-led service delivery will ensure the sustainability of interventions. To empower the community, we need collective actions, and UNAIDS is honoured to participate in this forum."

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Driving the HIV Response: Insights from the 2023 APCOM Community Summit

The second session of the APCOM Community Summit 2024, moderated by Siripong Srichau, Digital Key Population Engagement Officer at APCOM, focused on reflecting on the progress made since the previous summit and identifying key recommendations to drive the HIV response forward. This session highlighted the importance of community leadership, inclusivity, and innovative strategies in tackling persistent challenges.

1. **Establishing Safe Spaces for LGBTQI+ Voices**
   A fundamental priority from the 2023 summit was the creation of safe spaces—both physical and virtual—where LGBTQI+ individuals can freely express their identities, concerns, and needs without fear of discrimination or judgment. Facilitated by trained professionals, these spaces must uphold respect, confidentiality, and emotional support, ensuring that all community members feel heard and protected.
2. **Enhancing Regional HIV Programming and Community-Led Services**
   Standardised yet adaptable protocols for HIV prevention and care must be developed to cater to diverse regional contexts. Community feedback should be actively integrated into the design and implementation phases to ensure inclusivity. Additionally, investing in training and resources for local health workers will enhance program efficiency, making services more accessible and sustainable.
3. **Innovating HIV and Mpox Management Strategies**
   The summit emphasised the need for technology-driven solutions across prevention, testing and treatment. Leveraging mobile apps, telemedicine, and digital outreach can significantly improve accessibility and awareness. Further collaboration with researchers should be pursued to develop region-specific interventions that address emerging health challenges.
4. **Strengthening Community Leadership and Political Inclusion**
   Empowering grassroots leadership is critical for sustainable change. LGBTQI+ activists and community leaders must have a greater role in strategic decision-making, policy advocacy, and representation in political spaces. Strengthening leadership networks, promoting mentorship, and fostering international solidarity will reinforce the capacity of community-driven movements.
5. **Securing Sustainable Funding for Community-Led Initiatives**
   For long-term impact, financial sustainability must be prioritised. Funding policies should allocate a fair share to grassroots organisations, ensuring resources are directed to the communities most in need. Transparency in fund allocation and investment in advocacy training can bolster the effectiveness of community-driven HIV response efforts.

These five priorities will drive the HIV response forward by ensuring community-led action, fostering inclusivity, and leveraging innovation. By implementing these strategic recommendations, APCOM and its partners can continue to advance an equitable and sustainable future for LGBTQI+ individuals and key populations.

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Regional Discussion: Advancing HIV Response through COP/ ROP Strategies

Inad Quinones Rendon, Consultant at APCOM, provided an insightful discussion on global HIV targets and the intersections of HIV and LGBTQI+ advocacy. He reiterated the importance of achieving the 95-95-95 targets for HIV diagnosis, treatment, and viral suppression, alongside the 30-80-60 community-led service targets and the 10-10-10 framework to reduce legal barriers, stigma and discrimination. Major HIV funders such as PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and domestic investments play a pivotal role in shaping regional HIV strategies, with Country Operational Plans (COPs) and Regional Operational Plans (ROPs) guiding national and multi-country efforts. These plans focus on reviewing policy requirements, strengthening epidemic control strategies and ensuring effective budget allocation to drive sustainable HIV responses.

PEPFAR's funding and strategic direction emphasise scaling proven HIV innovations and sustaining key population community-based organisations. Regional Operational Plans (ROPs) divide Asia into four key clusters, including India, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, each with designated funding structures. The approval memo for 2024 prioritises targeted investment in countries such as India, Nepal, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia. The discussion highlighted the need to expand high-impact interventions and provide long-term financial sustainability for KP-led organisations. Specific country budget allocations from 2023 to 2024 reflect continued funding for HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, with an emphasis on scaling services for key populations and ensuring community ownership in program implementation.

To strengthen community engagement and program effectiveness, several key recommendations were proposed. These include proactive outreach to key populations, increased representation of LGBTQI+ voices in stakeholder meetings and enhanced technical assistance tailored to community needs. Other priorities involve improved PEPFAR implementation frameworks with active community monitoring, more transparent communication of program documents, and integrated health management addressing both HIV and mental health. Further, advocacy efforts should focus on decriminalisation, legal reforms and investment in community-led monitoring (CLM). Strengthening partnerships beyond PEPFAR, fostering media cooperation, and ensuring transparency in project implementation will be essential in sustaining an inclusive, effective, and equitable HIV response across the region.

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Driving the Movements: Diversity, Inclusion, and Legal Barriers

Nidup Tshering, Senior Social Development Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), presented ADB's approach to fostering SOGIESC inclusion through key guiding principles. These include country-specific implementation for culturally appropriate and sustainable solutions, demand-driven engagement to ensure local ownership and a flexible, incremental approach to progress. The "Do No Harm" commitment underscores the importance of interventions that do not increase vulnerability, while research integrity ensures ethical guidelines and equitable adherence to fit sharing. The principle of "Nothing about us without us" reinforces meaningful involvement of SOGIESC organisations at every stage of project development and implementation.

Discussing the current landscape of progress and challenges, Tshering highlighted positive developments, including increasing legal recognition of diverse SOGIESC identities, same-sex partnerships and gender identity across multiple countries. Private sector advocacy for LGBTQI+ rights is expanding, and UN agencies are fostering a broader understanding of gender diversity. Additionally, multilateral development banks, including ADB, are integrating LGBTQI+ inclusion into their institutional frameworks and development programs. However, persistent stigma and discrimination, limited access to essential services, lack of legal recognition and discriminatory laws continue to hinder full inclusion. Insufficient funding further exacerbates these barriers, limiting the reach and impact of inclusion efforts.

ADB's commitment to SOGIESC inclusion is reflected in its Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), making it the only development bank to formally include sexual orientation and gender identity in its policy framework. This framework addresses key areas, including labour rights, health and safety, land acquisition and stakeholder engagement, to ensure equal treatment. Looking ahead, the ADB's 2025-2030 Roadmap for SOGIESC Inclusion aims to expand gender definitions beyond the binary model, establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, enhance stakeholder engagement, and develop targeted interventions that effectively address the unique needs of LGBTQI+ communities. These efforts position ADB as a leader in fostering meaningful inclusion across the Asia-Pacific region.

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Understanding Intersex Identities: Challenges and Progress in Asia

Hiker Chiu, the first openly intersex activist in Taiwan and the Executive Director of Intersex Asia, led an insightful discussion on intersex identities, highlighting the biological variations that define intersex individuals. Contrary to common misconceptions, intersex people do not necessarily have two sex organs, nor does being intersex determine one's gender identity. Additionally, intersex individuals are not required to identify as non-binary or queer and their existence should never be treated as a source of shame. Raising awareness about these misconceptions is essential in fostering greater acceptance and respect for intersex communities.

Intersex individuals continue to face systemic discrimination, violence, and harmful medical practices that violate their bodily autonomy. Many undergo unnecessary and irreversible medical procedures in infancy without consent, resulting in long-term health and psychological consequences. Structural discrimination is further compounded by gender norm enforcement, as seen in cases of intersex female athletes facing scrutiny over their gender identity. In some regions, intersex infants are at risk of infanticide due to societal stigma. The lack of legal recognition exacerbates these issues, making it critical to advocate for inclusive gender markers, protective policies, and accessible healthcare tailored to intersex needs. Legal recognition is vital to securing the dignity and rights of intersex individuals worldwide.

To support intersex individuals, advocacy efforts must prioritise legal protections, ethical medical practices, and educational initiatives. This includes prohibiting non-consensual medical procedures, integrating intersex identities into school curricula, and providing comprehensive healthcare services. Leadership development programs and economic empowerment projects should be expanded to strengthen intersex-led activism and ensure financial independence. Additionally, international collaboration through regional dialogues, fellowship programs, and the establishment of an International Intersex Forum will facilitate knowledge exchange and amplify advocacy efforts on a global scale. A centralised knowledge hub offering resources and training will further equip allies and activists with the tools needed to drive meaningful change. By challenging stigmatisation and promoting inclusive policies, the movement for intersex rights can build a future where intersex individuals live with dignity, autonomy, and full societal acceptance.

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Addressing Mental Health Challenges for LGBTIQ+ Communities in Southeast Asia

Leow Yanfa from Oogachaga, on behalf of Prof. Dusita Pheungsamran of IPSR, Mahidol University, presented findings from the "Voice Unheard: Mental Health Insights for LGBTIQ+ Communities" survey. Conducted between November 2023 and January 2024 in Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines, the survey sought to identify key mental health challenges, assess the availability of LGBTIQ-friendly mental health services, evaluate the capacities of community-based organisations (CBOs) to provide such services, and recommend actionable interventions to improve mental health outcomes in the region. With over 2,000 respondents representing diverse gender identities, the survey provided a comprehensive snapshot of mental health struggles and access to services.

The survey revealed a significant prevalence of depression, loneliness, and stress among LGBTIQ+ individuals, with Singapore reporting the highest rates of distress (79%), followed by the Philippines (68%), Indonesia (52%), and Thailand (43%). Severe depression symptoms were most commonly reported in Singapore (30%), with lower but still concerning rates in the Philippines (17%), Indonesia (11%), and Thailand (5%). Accessibility to mental health services varied widely, with a striking disparity between the need for and actual access to services: Singapore (81% need, 71% access), Thailand (28% need, 26% access), the Philippines (57% need, 27% access), and Indonesia (72% need, 33% access). Notably, less than half of those needing mental health support in Indonesia could access the necessary services. An assessment of CBO capacities to provide mental health services found significant gaps, with Singapore scoring the lowest (2), followed by Indonesia (11), the Philippines (13), and Thailand (17). Despite no significant surprises in the findings, the widespread mental health challenges and urgent need for accessible mental health services remain critical concerns.

To address these pressing mental health issues, the survey outlined several key policy recommendations. These include increasing accessibility to mental health services specifically tailored for LGBTIQ+ individuals and providing healthcare provider training on sensitivity, inclusivity, and LGBTIQ+ issues. Raising awareness about mental health to reduce stigma and encourage individuals to seek care is also essential. Additionally, strengthening anti-discrimination policies within healthcare systems will help create safe and inclusive environments for LGBTIQ+ individuals. Finally, expanding community-based mental health support, such as counselling services, peer support networks, and crisis intervention programs, will be vital in ensuring comprehensive and culturally competent mental health care for LGBTIQ+ communities in Southeast Asia.

Day 1: 20th Nov 2024

Honouring Lives, Renewing Commitment

At the end of the first day of the summit, participants came together in a solemn circle to commemorate Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), a moment to honour the transgender and gender-diverse individuals whose lives were tragically lost to violence and discrimination. The ceremony began with the lighting of candles placed on the transgender pride flag, symbolising both remembrance and resilience.

Facilitated by Naphat (Jim) Krutthai from APCOM, the reflection offered space for grief, solidarity and collective resolve. Participants shared personal dedications and moments of silence to remember those who could no longer be with us. The event reaffirmed APCOM's commitment to ending stigma and violence against transgender people, while uplifting the leadership and courage of trans advocates who continue to drive change in their communities.

As candles illuminated the room, participants renewed their call to action to ensure that every transgender person can live with safety, dignity and pride. The remembrance served not only as a tribute to lives lost but also as a reminder of the power of compassion, advocacy, and collective action toward equality.

Day 2

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Empowering Marginalised Communities: Strengthening Community-Led Monitoring (CLM)

Matthew Kusen, Senior Technical Advisor at SKPA-2 Health Equity Matters, and Sita Shahi, Regional Coordinator at ICWAP, highlighted the transformative potential of community-led monitoring (CLM) in enhancing HIV service delivery. Unlike rigid frameworks, CLM offers flexibility in its application, centring on data collection and advocacy to hold service providers accountable while strengthening the technical capacity of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and key populations. Despite its relatively recent implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, CLM has already yielded impactful results, though challenges persist in investment, scaling, and documentation of best practices. Initiatives such as the Regional CLM Community of Practice, hosted by UNAIDS and the Seven Alliance, and regional dialogues that engaged over 100 participants have fostered shared learning and collaboration across countries.

The SKPA-2 CLM Toolkit provides adaptable tools and frameworks that empower communities to take a leading role in monitoring health services. Grounded in the AAAQ Framework (Availability, Acceptability, Accessibility, and Quality), it links CLM activities to national and global HIV targets. Data collection employs both quantitative and qualitative methods, including surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, enabling comprehensive analysis across population segments such as age, gender, and key populations. By integrating community leadership into data-driven advocacy, CLM strengthens service accountability and ensures that key populations receive high-quality, responsive care.

- **Capacity Building and Sustainability** – Invest in targeted training for community organisations to develop skills in data collection, analysis and advocacy. Strengthen domestic funding mechanisms, such as social contracting, to ensure long-term sustainability and autonomy.
- **Data Collection and Ethical Practices** – Prioritise ethical engagement and informed consent in all monitoring activities. Address challenges in digital literacy and expertise through targeted training and resource development.
- **Engagement and Policy Advocacy** – Deepen engagement with governments to establish national CLM control programs and guidelines. Expand geographic reach to include underserved populations and ensure broader inclusion in HIV service monitoring.
- **Enhanced Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)** – Align M&E frameworks with national and global standards to track whether CLM activities lead to measurable health service improvements. Focus on tangible outcomes for key populations, ensuring accessibility and impact.
- **Driving Accountability through Feedback Mechanisms** – Strengthen feedback loops between community organisations, governments, and key populations. Use insights to inform program scaling, resource allocation and policy advocacy, ensuring transparency and responsiveness in HIV service delivery.

By implementing these strategic recommendations, CLM can continue to evolve as a dynamic, community-driven approach that improves health outcomes for key populations while contributing to the global HIV response.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Chemsex, PrEP, and U=U: The Future of HIV Prevention

Injectable PrEP Trial in Thailand: Expanding Options for HIV Prevention

Dr Sirin Tangcharoensathien, Research Physician from IHRI, provided insights into the evolving landscape of HIV prevention, particularly the role of long-acting injectable PrEP. While oral PrEP has been available for some time, accessibility remains a significant challenge. New formulations such as CAB-LA (long-acting injectable PrEP) and vaginal rings are expanding options, providing individuals with more choices for HIV prevention. CAB-LA, in particular, offers improved adherence and efficacy compared to daily oral PrEP, yet concerns around accessibility, cost and scalability remain. Key Population-Led Health Services (KPLHS) are crucial in ensuring these innovations reach those who need them most, with an emphasis on accessibility, acceptability and quality of service delivery.

One key takeaway from the discussion was that no single PrEP modality is best for everyone. Instead, offering diverse prevention options ensures that individuals can choose what works best for them. The implementation of new PrEP modalities should prioritise user choice, accessibility, feasibility and cost-effectiveness to achieve health equity. Research gaps continue to hinder the effective rollout of these innovations, underscoring the need for further implementation studies. Additionally, national guidelines must be established to ensure standardised service delivery, with active community involvement playing a central role in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Flexibility in transitioning between different PrEP modalities will also be essential in meeting users' changing needs over time.

1. **Expand PrEP Options** – Ensure the availability of diverse prevention modalities, including oral PrEP, injectables, vaginal rings and implants, to cater to individual needs and preferences.
2. **Enhance Accessibility** – Reduce costs, improve supply chain logistics and build infrastructure for regular clinic visits required for injectable PrEP, particularly in underserved areas.
3. **Strengthen Community Engagement** – Involve key population-led health services (KPLHS) to enhance the acceptability, delivery and reach of PrEP services, incorporating community-driven feedback to refine program implementation.
4. **Develop Standardised National Guidelines** – Establish clear and consistent protocols for all PrEP modalities to ensure high-quality, standardised services across healthcare systems.
5. **Support Policy and Funding Initiatives** – Advocate for international and local funding to subsidise PrEP costs, collaborate with stakeholders to reduce prices, and develop sustainable, affordable long-term solutions by 2027.

By implementing these strategies, long-acting injectable PrEP can become a more viable, scalable, and inclusive option for HIV prevention, significantly advancing the goal of ending the HIV epidemic.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Chemsex, PrEP, and U=U: The Future of HIV Prevention

Enhancing Harm Reduction: Addressing Emerging Drug Use Trends

Susie McLean, Senior HIV Prevention Adviser at the Global Fund, emphasised the critical role of harm reduction strategies in mitigating the risks associated with drug use and HIV transmission. Proven interventions such as sterile needle exchanges, opioid substitution therapy, HIV testing, counselling, and education have significantly reduced transmission rates among people who use drugs (PWUD). Beyond HIV prevention, these programs address broader health concerns, including Hepatitis C treatment, overdose prevention, and improved access to healthcare services. UN agencies now widely endorse harm reduction, recognising its importance in minimising the adverse effects of drug use rather than focusing solely on elimination.

Despite the success of harm reduction programs, challenges persist. Outdated self-testing methods and inconsistent access to treatment limit efforts to prevent transmission. Political constraints and shifting global development priorities create funding instability, impacting HIV and malaria programs. Although technological advancements, such as self-tests and digital outreach, offer new opportunities, many marginalised populations, including young people, gay men and transgender individuals, still struggle to access prevention tools. Expanding harm reduction strategies to reach harm reduction is essential for achieving equitable health outcomes. Additionally, integrating digital platforms for education and tool distribution, alongside strengthening community-based organisations (CBOs), will enhance frontline delivery of self-tests and PrEP, ensuring prevention services meet evolving needs.

1. **Expand Access to Harm Reduction Programs** – Prioritise underserved populations, particularly injecting drug users and vulnerable communities, ensuring equitable access to prevention tools, education, and healthcare services.
2. **Strengthen Community-Based Organisations (CBOs)** – Enhance digital outreach and frontline service delivery to integrate new prevention models, including PrEP and advanced self-testing kits.
3. **Leverage Technology for Scalable Prevention** – Utilise social media and online platforms to provide private, scalable ways to disseminate prevention resources and facilitate HIV self-testing and PrEP distribution.
4. **Advocate for Sustainable Funding** – Increase investment in evidence-based harm reduction programs and redirect funding towards scalable interventions for public health emergencies.
5. **Foster Innovation in HIV Prevention** – Support research into new prevention technologies and equip communities with the resources to implement innovative strategies effectively.

By leveraging harm reduction, digital tools and community networks, a robust, scalable HIV prevention framework can be established. These strategies will empower individuals with knowledge, tools, and access to critical services, significantly reducing HIV transmission rates and addressing the health needs of those most at risk.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Chemsex, PrEP, and U=U: The Future of HIV Prevention

Breaking Barriers: Community-Led Approaches to Chemsex Education and PrEP Access

Mx. Yashwinder (Lisa), Founder of TDeX and member of Pahal Foundation, led discussions on innovative harm reduction strategies tailored to transgender individuals engaging in chemsex. Recommendations from India emphasised the need for peer-led harm reduction services, transgender-affirmative healthcare, and mental health support. Legal advocacy was also highlighted as crucial for reducing stigma and ensuring the safety of transgender individuals, particularly sex workers. Expanding access to integrated health services, including sexual health, harm reduction, and mental health counselling, was identified as a key component of practical programming. Additionally, increasing community visibility and challenging stigma through education and advocacy were essential steps in improving health outcomes and social inclusion.

In Vietnam, CARMAH emphasised the importance of staff and counsellor training, digital outreach through social media, and partnerships with psychiatrists to support individuals engaging in chemsex. The integration of PrEP services with community activities, such as psychological support workshops and soft skills training, was identified as an effective strategy to increase engagement. Nepal's Blue Diamond Society focused on scaling up PrEP distribution, advocating for policy integration, and strengthening harm reduction initiatives tailored to chemsex users. In the Philippines, HASH highlighted the need for volunteer training and retention, expanding PrEP accessibility through online platforms, and fostering partnerships with NGOs and international organisations. Meanwhile, Thailand's Rainbow Sky Association (RSAT) advocated for enhanced service delivery through KP-led clinics, targeted interventions for youth, and policy frameworks that reduce stigma and systemic barriers to care.

1. **Chemsex-Focused Health Interventions** – Develop and integrate chemsex-focused modules into health programs, assess implementation effectiveness, and expand preventive measures such as PrEP and harm reduction strategies.
2. **Community Empowerment** – Strengthen transgender and LGBTQ+ networks to enhance advocacy and improve access to services, while fostering national and cross-country solidarity frameworks.
3. **Data-Driven Approaches** – Implement robust data collection systems to monitor and evaluate chemsex-related interventions, ensuring evidence-based decision-making.
4. **Cross-Learning and Collaboration** – Promote knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and foster partnerships with international organisations to effectively scale chemsex-related programs.
5. **Government and Policy Support** – Advocate for stronger government engagement, address legal barriers, and push for policy changes that reduce stigma and improve access to comprehensive chemsex and HIV prevention services.

By leveraging awareness, accessibility, advocacy and collaboration, a multi-faceted approach to chemsex and mental health challenges can be developed. Strengthening networks, empowering communities, and enhancing stakeholder cooperation will be crucial in achieving sustainable progress in Southeast Asia.

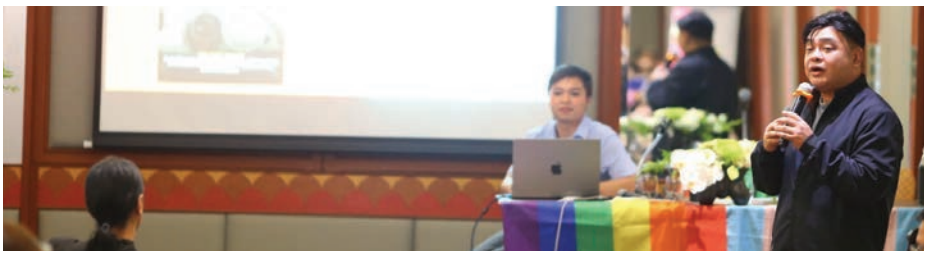
Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Chemsex, PrEP, and U=U: The Future of HIV Prevention

U=U: Shaping New Conversations and Realities in HIV Prevention and Care

Moderated by Siripong Srichau of APCOM, the session featured speakers from Malaysia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, and Nepal, highlighting the significance of the Undetectable = Untransmittable (U=U) message. U=U asserts that people living with HIV (PLHIV) who maintain an undetectable viral load through consistent antiretroviral treatment cannot transmit the virus. This public health breakthrough not only reduces HIV transmission but also combats stigma and discrimination, allowing PLHIV to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. Spreading awareness of U=U encourages HIV testing, early treatment and medication adherence, fostering a more inclusive and supportive society.

To mainstream U=U within national HIV programs, collaboration with government health departments is essential to secure formal endorsement and allocate resources. Healthcare providers play a key role in delivering the U=U message, necessitating targeted training and culturally appropriate materials. Public awareness campaigns should challenge misconceptions and promote social acceptance by emphasising that PLHIV on treatment pose no transmission risk, even during unprotected sex, daily interactions, or shared living spaces. A structured multi-phase communication strategy should guide individuals through the HIV care continuum, from testing and treatment initiation to sustained viral suppression.



1. **Enhance Provider Education and Engagement** – Train healthcare professionals to discuss U=U confidently, integrate it into consultations, and provide clear, accessible materials tailored to diverse populations.
2. **Promote Public Awareness and Stigma Reduction** – Launch nationwide education campaigns that normalise HIV, challenge discrimination, and reinforce that PLHIV on treatment cannot transmit the virus.
3. **Strengthen Community and Peer Support** – Foster peer-led initiatives that share lived experiences of U=U, ensuring that PLHIV receive empowerment, advocacy, and support.
4. **Leverage Digital and Cultural Outreach** – Utilise storytelling, short videos, interactive quizzes, and social media influencers to amplify U=U messaging, ensuring relevance across cultural and legal contexts.
5. **Expand Youth-Focused and Sectoral Collaborations** – Engage young key populations in U=U campaigns, promote comprehensive sexual education, and strengthen partnerships between governments, CSOs, and global agencies to advance HIV prevention efforts.

By integrating these strategies, U=U can be positioned as a transformative message in HIV prevention and care, breaking barriers to treatment, fostering social acceptance, and empowering PLHIV to lead stigma-free lives.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Supporting LGBT Rights in Asia: Leadership & Management Skills Building Workshop

The "Lead & Link: CBO Power-Up for Partnerships Workshop" was designed to empower LGBTQI+ community-based organisation (CBO) leaders with essential leadership and partnership-building skills. Aligned with the APCOM Community Summit 2024, this initiative focused on sustainable partnerships with the business sector to enhance LGBTQI+ leadership and economic empowerment. Trainer Nikki Natthineethiti, Founder of TransTalents Group, encouraged participants to maintain an open mind, ensuring that all voices were heard in a safe and inclusive environment.

"To be a leader, you need to envision, to communicate and to convince," Nikki emphasised. The workshop was structured into three modules:

1. **Leadership Essentials** – Understanding leadership styles and strategic visioning.
2. **Building Bridges** – Exploring approaches for CBO-business partnerships.
3. **Action Planning** – Developing measurable and achievable strategies for sustainable impact.

Participants engaged in reflective activities to identify their leadership styles and areas for growth. Through vision board exercises, they assessed their confidence in forming partnerships and strategised ways to build trust among partners, including government institutions. The Vision Pyramid Framework (Vision, Strategies, Core Values) guided participants in structuring their long-term goals. The session also emphasised the importance of realistic planning and seeking support when necessary.

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Participants explored case studies on human rights campaigns and inclusive workplace policies. They identified advocacy strategies such as allyship training, professional networking, and gender-sensitivity workshops to enhance workplace inclusivity. Trainer Nikki introduced six key strategies for building partnerships:

1. **Partnership Overview** – Identifying business and community stakeholders.
2. **Key Shareholders** – Mapping the primary decision-makers.
3. **Mutual Benefits** – Ensuring win-win outcomes for both parties.
4. **Engagement Strategy** – Developing joint campaigns for visibility and impact.
5. **Potential Risks** – Addressing challenges that may arise in partnerships.
6. **Success Metrics** – Defining measurable goals for partnership evaluation.

Each group applied these principles to propose partnerships with businesses, including UN agencies, multinational corporations and technology firms. They presented collaborative strategies, highlighting potential risks and success indicators, ranging from social media engagement to policy changes in corporate settings.

The final module introduced business measurement tools, including SMART goals, OKRs (Objectives & Key Results), and ROI (Return on Investment or Social Impact). Participants applied these frameworks to develop real-world projects, including:

- Online and offline discussions for young LGBTQ+ individuals (YVC & Zoom Cares, South Asia).
- Job creation initiatives for unemployed LGBTQ+ individuals.
- A charity run raising LGBTQ+ visibility and financial support.
- Advocacy for free or subsidised sanitary pads for LGBTQ+ and underserved communities.
- A public engagement campaign on LGBTQ+ rights through embassies and NGOs.

The workshop concluded with a commitment pledge and reflection exercise, allowing participants to internalise their learnings and future actions.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Empowering through Learning: Building Inclusive Education for Young LGBTIQ+

Led by Worapot Yodpot, Associate Project Officer at UNESCO Regional Office in Bangkok, this session aimed to equip LGBTQI+ advocates with strategies to create inclusive education environments. Participants from the Philippines, Lao PDR, Indonesia, and Cambodia shared personal experiences, emphasising the urgent need for awareness and support systems for LGBTQI+ students.

Statistically, around 45% of LGBTQI+ youth globally report experiencing bullying in schools, with online bullying significantly affecting students in China (70%), Singapore (58%), and India (53%). Many LGBTQI+ students face greater discrimination than their non-LGBTQ+ peers, impacting their mental health and academic success.

UNESCO highlighted six key components of a holistic approach to ending violence in education:

1. Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning – Integrating gender-inclusive education.
2. Teacher Training – Preparing educators to foster inclusive classrooms.
3. School-Based Programs – Implementing anti-bullying and LGBTQI+ support programs.
4. Safe School Environments – Establishing codes of conduct, reporting mechanisms, and inclusion policies.
5. Partnerships and Mobilisation – Engaging governments and communities in advocacy efforts.
6. Data and Evidence Collection – Researching to assess and address discrimination.

Participants brainstormed approaches to communicating LGBTQI+ issues with school authorities and policymakers, with recommendations to:

- Develop LGBTQI+ teacher-training manuals, such as UNESCO's Connect with Respect resource.
- Utilise educational videos on sexuality and diversity in multiple languages.
- Leverage community-led advocacy to promote inclusive school policies.

The session concluded with a commitment to expand LGBTQI+ educational programs, strengthen cross-sector partnerships, and create safe, inclusive learning environments for young LGBTQI+ individuals across Southeast Asia.

Day 2: 21st Nov 2024
LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Feedback on the New APCOM Strategic Plan

As APCOM prepares to launch its new five-year strategic plan in early 2025, community partners were invited to provide initial feedback to ensure the strategy effectively responds to evolving needs and supports LGBTQI+ communities in meaningful ways. This interactive session allowed participants to contribute their insights through structured discussions and written feedback on key focus areas.

The new strategy aims to strengthen legal protections, advance economic and social inclusion, and advocate for the decriminalisation of same-sex relationships. Participants emphasised the importance of ensuring equal economic opportunities, job creation, and workplace inclusion, while focusing on equitable rights tailored to each community's specific needs. A strong anti-discrimination framework was identified as a crucial priority for protecting and empowering SOGIESC individuals.

Recognising that HIV remains a critical issue, participants highlighted the need for data collection on intersectionality, identifying high-burden HIV pockets, and expanding engagement strategies. Innovative tools such as long-acting PrEP (LA-PrEP) and youth-centred online platforms were suggested to enhance outreach. Additionally, collaboration with key stakeholders, including UNODC and other institutions, was encouraged to strengthen health services. Concerns about the safety and security of LGBTQI+ youth were also raised, reinforcing the need for targeted protection measures.

To sustain long-term impact, participants stressed the importance of expanding engagement with LBT and intersex communities, amplifying APCOM's regional leadership, and sharing best practices among CBOs. Long-term capacity building over five years was recommended, alongside data-sharing initiatives, hotspot mapping and advocacy-driven research to sustain capacity-building and ensure ongoing support for community organisations.

The potential of new technologies and artificial intelligence to improve access to and engagement with health care was a significant focus. Participants recommended creating a centralised communication platform for CBOs to ensure easy access, content sharing, and two-way communication. There was also strong support for data protection, privacy safeguards, and cybersecurity measures, ensuring that AI-driven health solutions remain safe and inclusive. An age- and gender-sensitive approach to ICT was suggested to ensure accessibility for diverse populations.

By integrating these insights, APCOM can refine its strategic plan to enhance rights protections, advance health access, build stronger networks, and harness technological innovations for the benefit of LGBTQI+ communities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Day 3

Day 3: 22nd Nov 2024
HIV Concurrent Session

Advancing Person-Centred Care (PCC) in HIV Services

Moderated by Rodenie Arnaiz Olete and Ferolyn Guillermo, this session emphasised the shift from a purely medical model to a holistic, person-centred approach in HIV care. The discussion underscored the dual focus of PCC, treating HIV as a disease while addressing the broader social, emotional, and economic factors that impact individuals living with HIV. Recognising the need for collaboration with experts, the workshop sought to define strategies for integrating PCC principles into HIV services across the Asia-Pacific region.

Key objectives included:

- Understanding PCC within the HIV response and adapting it for the Asia-Pacific context.
- Exploring PCC implementation across different stages of the HIV care continuum.
- Developing a regional PCC framework through the co-design of a Training of Trainers Manual for community and healthcare providers.

Key Recommendations

1. Respect for Autonomy & Shared Decision-Making – Clients should be empowered with clear, accessible health information to make informed decisions. Healthcare providers must be trained in empathetic communication and active listening, ensuring collaboration in care planning that aligns with clients' values and preferences.
2. Integration of Comprehensive Care – HIV care must incorporate biomedical, psychological, and social support services to address the full spectrum of individuals' needs. Mental health support and peer counselling should be essential components, recognising the intersectionality of health and well-being.
3. Community Involvement & Cultural Competence – Engaging clients and community representatives in the design, implementation, and evaluation of HIV care programs is vital. Healthcare providers should receive cultural sensitivity training to respect diverse identities and tailor services to the unique contexts of each population.
4. Tailored and Accessible Services – Flexible service delivery models, such as mobile clinics, telehealth, and demand-driven services, should be developed to improve access, particularly for marginalised groups. Strategies should also address regional gaps in prevention services through culturally sensitive initiatives.
5. Addressing Systemic Challenges & Ensuring Sustainability – Strengthening policy frameworks to embed PCC principles in national HIV strategies is crucial. Investment in provider support (e.g., training, mental health resources) will prevent burnout and improve service quality. Leveraging technology and partnerships will enhance sustainability and ensure universal adoption of PCC across the region.

By embedding these strategies into HIV care frameworks, APCOM and its partners can enhance holistic, respectful and inclusive healthcare services, ultimately improving health outcomes and well-being for key populations and individuals living with HIV.

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Strengthening Financial Planning and National Workshop Strategies

Led by Kanokwan Sookjai, Financial Officer at APCOM, this session aimed to enhance participants' skills in budget forecasting, financial reporting, and audit compliance. The workshop underscored the need to maintain accurate financial records to ensure seamless fund transfers and financial transparency.

Key takeaways included:

- Essential documentation for fund disbursement, including narrative reports, financial reports, and supporting documents.
- Guidelines for financial document filing, emphasising proper categorisation of expenses such as salaries, consultancy fees, and meeting costs.
- Samples of financial reports, helping partners understand expectations for submission accuracy.
- The importance of collaboration between Project and Finance Officers, ensuring budgets are utilised efficiently and in alignment with project goals.

During the Q&A session, participants clarified technical aspects of financial reporting, including translation requirements for invoices in local languages and best practices for managing past expenditures.

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Planning for National Workshops and Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meetings

Facilitated by Naomi Fontanos, Gender Equality & Sustainable Development Officer at APCOM, this session guided participants in planning national workshops and partnership-building initiatives tailored to their country's specific needs. Each country's Training Needs Analysis (TNA) informed the development of workshops and coordination strategies, ensuring that activities aligned with community priorities.

Each country was expected to:

- Conduct one national workshop and coordination activity with 50 participants from 10 partner organisations.
- Host two national partnership meetings with 20 participants each.
- Maintain a balanced representation of 50% LGBTQI+ and 50% LBT participants.

Key country-specific training focuses included:

- Indonesia: Trainer development, project management, and financial sustainability.
- Lao PDR: Project management and strategic advocacy skills.
- The Philippines: Policy advocacy, policy drafting, and stakeholder engagement.
- Thailand: Strategic planning, financial sustainability, and legal knowledge on LGBTQI+ and human rights laws.

Each country developed detailed national workshop and partnership plans, outlining key topics, potential facilitators, and partner organisations:

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Country-Specific Workshop and Partnership Plans

Cambodia

- National Workshop (May): Fundraising and financial management, engagement with government (Partners: CCHR, NHHS, BC)
- National Partnership Meetings (March & July): LGBT networking development (Partners: CCHR, NHHS, BC)

Indonesia

- National Workshop (April-May): Capacity building, resilience management, risk management, and fundraising (Partners: APCOM, Trans Voice)
- National Partnership Meeting (May 4-5): Strengthening national coordination

Lao PDR

- National Workshop (July): Youth strategy and support plan for 2030, LGBT economic inclusion (Partners: PFSA, RDA, WeCare, Global Vientiane Hub)
- National Partnership Meetings (March & April): Resource mobilisation, gender equality, and gender-based violence (Partners: ABL+, PFSA, RDA, WeCare, sub-grantees, NCA, youth networks)

The Philippines

- National Workshop (January): Election planning and national strategy (Partner: Forest Foundation)
- National Partnership Meetings (January 24-25 & July): Queer advocacy, protecting children, and proposal development training (Partners: LGBT Network)

Thailand

- National Workshop (March): Outreach strategy and communication (Partners: RZ, Bangkok Rainbow, SWING)
- National Partnership Meetings (March & May): Access to health rights, human rights, and mental health advocacy (Facilitators: Human Rights Committee, legal experts)

As part of APCOM's commitment to ensuring successful implementation, on-site visits will be conducted during national workshops to provide further guidance and collaboration. Cambodia and Indonesia will hold national workshops in May, while Lao PDR, Thailand, and the Philippines will conduct theirs in March.

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Human Rights Session

Engaging with UN Human Rights Mechanisms for LGBTIQ+ Rights Advocacy

Shivani Verma, Human Rights Officer from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights South East Asia Regional Office, led an insightful session on leveraging UN human rights mechanisms for LGBTIQ+ rights advocacy. The session provided activists, community leaders, and human rights defenders with the tools to engage with international legal frameworks, influence policy changes, and advocate for the rights and inclusion of LGBTIQ+ communities at both national and regional levels.

Shivani began by introducing the United Nations' role in promoting and protecting human rights, tracing its origins back to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, the first international legal document to recognise fundamental human rights. She emphasised that while nearly 80% of governments have signed and ratified multiple human rights treaties, ratification alone does not always translate into legal protections, as many treaties are not self-executing and require national governments to integrate them into domestic law.

She also highlighted the nine core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which set the foundation for the protection of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These treaties have been instrumental in shaping legal protections and advancing LGBTIQ+ rights globally.

Since 2002, the UN Human Rights Office for Southeast Asia, based in Bangkok, has played a crucial role in monitoring and addressing human rights violations. The office operates under three main pillars:

1. Promoting and Protecting Human Rights – By monitoring violations, issuing reports, and advocating for legal reforms, the UN Human Rights Office ensures that LGBTIQ+ rights remain on the global agenda.
2. Empowering Communities – Through education, training, and advocacy, the UN helps LGBTIQ+ activists amplify their voices and hold governments accountable.
3. Assisting Governments – The office provides legal advice, capacity-building support, and policy recommendations to governments to prevent abuses and advance human rights protections.

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LGBTQI Concurrent Session

Human Rights Session

Shivani highlighted recent OHCHR publications and resources, such as "Born Free and Equal" and "Living Free and Equal", which serve as global guidelines for advocating LGBTIQ+ rights. She also pointed to the Human Rights Council (HRC) as a critical platform where activists can engage with diplomatic representatives, submit reports, and influence policy discussions. Meeting three times a year, the HRC provides opportunities for LGBTIQ+ defenders to highlight human rights violations, call for reforms, and collaborate with UN-appointed human rights experts.

Despite the significant progress made in LGBTIQ+ rights advocacy, many governments remain resistant to international human rights monitoring. Some countries refuse official visits by UN human rights experts, making it difficult to document violations. However, activists and civil society organisations (CSOs) can still submit reports, share lived experiences, and lobby for diplomatic support.

Shivani encouraged participants to actively engage with UN mechanisms, noting that LGBTIQ+ communities are the eyes and ears on the ground. Even if a country is uncooperative, community leaders can use UN channels to raise concerns, advocate for legal protections, and drive policy change.

She ended the session by urging participants to explore the OHCHR website, where they could access resources, reports, and engagement opportunities on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) issues. The session reinforced that while global progress on LGBTIQ+ rights is slow and uneven, sustained engagement with the UN system can be a powerful tool in achieving long-term change.

Reflections from Participants

A post-event evaluation was conducted through the Daily Assessment Form, completed by participants across all three days of the Summit. The results reflect strong satisfaction and engagement, affirming the event's relevance, quality and impact.

Evaluation Area	Average Rating *(out of 5)*	Key Insights
Overall Summit Experience	**4.6 / 5**	Participants commended the event's structure, inclusivity, and networking opportunities.
Relevance of Session Content	**4.2 / 5**	Sessions were seen as timely and practical, particularly those on community-led monitoring, chemsex, and PrEP.
Effectiveness of Moderators and Speakers	**4.4 – 4.5 / 5**	Moderators were praised for fostering inclusive and engaging discussions.
Learning and Knowledge Exchange	**4.3 / 5**	Participants valued opportunities for cross-country sharing and hands-on workshops.
Organisation and Logistics	**4.5 / 5**	The event was described as "well-coordinated," "safe," and "energising."
Usefulness of Tools and Resources Provided	**4.1 / 5**	The CLM toolkit, strategic planning exercises and leadership workshops were highlighted as especially valuable.

"Valuable insight of the PCC concept with the lesson learn from other country."
— Participant, Person-Centred Care Session

"I felt truly seen and valued. The sessions on trans leadership and intersex rights opened my eyes to more inclusive advocacy."
— Participant, Thailand

"This Summit reminded me that our movements are strongest when we listen to each other. I'm leaving inspired and recharged."
— Participant, Philippines

"Ron was very enthusiastic and I enjoyed the workshop."
— Participant, Leadership Workshop

"Great realization where PCC is beneficial."
— Participant, HIV Concurrent Session

"Learning from other countries' experiences gave me concrete ideas for our national workshop back home."
— Participant, Lao PDR

"The discussions on PrEP and chemsex were practical and sensitive… finally, real conversations that reflect our lived realities."
— Participant, Indonesia

"This was one of the few spaces where I could be fully myself while learning. Thank you, APCOM, for creating that environment."
— Participant, Cambodia

"PCC works! We need to see more of Rodnie please!"
— Participant, Person-Centred Care Session

"CLM is a tool that can be beneficial to CBOs."
— Participant, Community-Led Monitoring Session

"Good to be included in the process, thanks!"
— Participant, Strategic Planning Discussion

"Issues from across the region can be addressed."
— Participant, Regional Coordination Dialogue

"Nikki is very effective facilitator!"
— Participant, Leadership & Management Workshop

"Very great and direct to the point."
— Participant, Opening Plannery

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