

Intersections – Gender, HIV and infrastructure operations



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I. The gender dynamics of HIV/AIDS

Three inter-connected factors:

1. Risk and vulnerability to STI (HIV) are substantially different for men and women (► physiological, socio-cultural and economic factors, p. 9)
2. The gender impact of the epidemic differs markedly along gender lines
3. A gendered response to HIV prevention, treatment and care is needed

% Gender differences

Women

- Violence against women
- Lack of socio-economic power
- Lower education, skills level, confidence
- Expected to have children
- No power to negotiate condom use
- Physiologically more likely to contract HIV
- Discriminatory laws, practices
- Greater impoverishment due to HIV
- HIV infection rates rising more rapidly in women

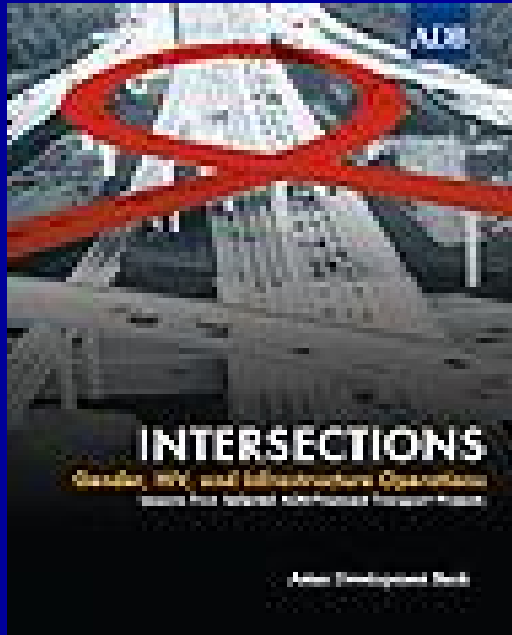
Men

- Accepted behavior - multiple partners
- Expected to be more powerful in relationship
- More likely to travel for work/ have expendable income
- Clients of sex workers
- Also have sex with men

II. Rationale for the 2009 Study

1. Progress in addressing gender and STI (HIV) issues/concerns in physical infrastructure projects
2. Need to assess gender and STI (HIV) design features of ADB Operations

III. Content of the ADB Report (2009)



Cambodia, India, PNG,
PRC, Tajikistan

1. State of the epidemic in Asia and the Pacific
2. **HIV Risks and Vulnerabilities associated with Infrastructure Development**
3. ADB HIV Interventions
4. Way Forward and Recommendations

(2) HIV Vulnerabilities associated with infrastructure development



- a) Construction Workers
- b) Women at risk from their partners
- c) Men who have sex with Men (MSM)
- d) Local Youth and Mobility

(3) ADB HIV Interventions

Cambodia

ADB Loan 1945-CAM: GMS – Cambodia Road Improvement Project

People's Republic of China (PRC)

ADB Loan 2014: Western Yunnan Roads Development Project

India

ADB Loan 2018-IND: Rural Roads Sector (I) Project, Chhattisgarh State

Papua New Guinea (PNG)

ADB Supplementary Loan PNG 2242/43 Road Maintenance and Upgrading, Highlands

Tajikistan

ADB Loan 2196-TAJ: Dushanbe-Kyrgyz Border Road Rehabilitation Project Phase 2.

Overall findings
ADB HIV interventions

- (a) Some improvement in the quality of social/gender analysis
- (b) Challenges in implementing (multi-sector) HIV interventions
- (c) Need for creative partnership among communities of practice and line ministries, NGO, private sector
- (d) Beyond the traditional ADB focus on 'prevention' and 'mitigation'. ► enhancement

Some findings
CAM: Cambodia Road Improvement Project

147 kilometer highway in north-west

- HIV intervention among construction workers and villagers
- Strong policy environment
- 100% condom use in brothels successful; nevertheless - *“I do not deny myself if condoms are unavailable”*.
- Village intervention not gender-responsive
- Income-generation skills inadequate



(4) Way forward and recommendations

Pre construction

- Community consultation especially with affected segments (e.g., women, sex workers, PLHIV)
- During feasibility phase, incorporate gender dimensions in assessment of HIV vulnerability.
- Establish forum or mechanism for strong collaboration between all relevant sectors.
- Include HIV interventions as part of project bidding documents.
- Develop gender-sensitive targets and indicators to measure progress
- Engage NGOs to monitor and evaluate.

(4) Way forward and recommendations

Post-construction

- Support for small business development including micro-finance projects for female-headed households
- Support for sustainable self-help groups (e.g., women living with HIV/AIDS)