

Spaces of Vulnerability

**Moving beyond
Stigmatizing Migrants**

Satellite Session

**Tuesday, July 20th
07h00 - 08h30
Session Room 7**

Featured Speakers:

Chair: *Ms. Marita Van De Laar, HIV/STI Programme Coordinator,
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)*

Stephen Sianga, SADC Secretariat, Botswana

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Caritas Internationalis, Switzerland

Dr. Asif Altaf Chowdhury, The International Transport Workers' Federation, UK

Malu Marin, ACHIEVE and Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS
in Southeast Asia (JUNIMA), Philippines

Penpaktr Uthis, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Reiko Matsuyama, IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa, South Africa

Coffee, tea and Austrian cakes will be served

Background

Many migrants, particularly those who are undocumented or have irregular migration status, face barriers in accessing even basic health services. Often the places where migrant workers live, work or pass through are high-risk "spaces of HIV vulnerability". The presence of many different migrant and mobile populations and interaction with local communities at such places as land border posts, ports, construction sites, informal settlements, farm compounds and mines creates a fluid social environment in which social norms regulating behaviour may not be followed and migrants may feel a sense of anonymity and limited accountability, which can lead to high risk sexual behaviour. Poverty and lack of job opportunities in the communities surrounding such places also induces many women (both migrants and locals) to engage in transactional and commercial sex with those who have resources or disposable incomes.

To understand HIV in spaces of vulnerability, it is important to begin to understand the ways in which migrants and mobile populations interact with local communities, including sex workers and other sexual partners in an environment conducive to multiple concurrent partnerships or higher-risk sex. These sexual networks link mobile workers, their partners at home, their partners on their journey and their partners at their destination. These relationships stretch across regions, often connecting low prevalence and high prevalence epidemics, different levels of sexual and HIV education, and one vulnerable space to another.

The IOM Satellite Session "*Spaces of Vulnerability*" will explore the latest research, lessons learned on the ground, and the way forward to reducing HIV vulnerability and risk behaviours among populations living and working in spaces of vulnerability.



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

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Programme

Chair: *Ms. Marita Van De Laar, HIV/STI Programme Coordinator, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)*

Co-chairs: **Greg Irving**, Migration Health Officer, IOM Regional Office for East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)

Rosilyne Borland, HIV and Health Promotion Coordinator, Migration Health Department, IOM Headquarters (Geneva, Switzerland)

7:00 Welcome and opening remarks

Rosilyne Borland

7:05 Research Summary: Migrant Workers in Thailand

Dr. Penpaktr Uthis, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Nursing, Chulalongkorn University, (Bangkok, Thailand)

7:15 Spaces of Vulnerability: Evidence from Southern Africa

Reiko Matsuyama, Migration Health Officer, IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa (Pretoria, South Africa)

7:25 Research into Action: Southeast Asia

Malu Marin, Director, ACHIEVE and Joint United Nations Initiative on Mobility and HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia (JUNIMA), (Manila, Philippines)

7:35 Innovative Approaches: the Global Partnership on HIV and Mobile Workers in the Maritime Sector

Dr. Asif Altaf Chowdhury, Global HIV/AIDS Coordinator, International Transport Workers' Federation (London, UK)

7:45 Innovative Approaches: Southern African Development Community (SADC) HIV Cross-Border Initiative

Mr. Stephen Sianga, Director, Directorate of Social & Human Development and Special Programmes, SADC Secretariat (Gaborone, Botswana)

7:55 Innovative Approaches: Caritas Internationalis

Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Special Advisor on HIV & AIDS (Geneva, Switzerland)

8:05 Discussion

8:20 Final Remarks

