

IOM MYANMAR

HIV CONTROL ACTIVITIES



Why are IOM's HIV programs important in Myanmar?

Migrants include a mix of diverse populations including internal migrants, emigrants in overseas work, victims of exploitation and abuse, irregular migrants and displaced persons. Such sub-populations have varying levels of HIV risk and vulnerability. Many factors, including separation from spouses and families, poor access to HIV prevention services, discrimination and lack of knowledge and access to testing and treatment can make migrants vulnerable to HIV. Once diagnosed, migrants can face additional obstacles to ongoing HIV treatment and care due to financial, logistical, linguistic and cultural barriers to accessing health care and weak referral mechanisms between services in origin and destination areas.



IOM approach to HIV:

- Supporting Village Mobility Working and Groups (VMWGS)
- Recruiting, training and supporting outreach health workers (OHW) and peer educators (PEs)
- Supporting research and translating experience into policy

How does IOM control the spread of HIV?

- HIV prevention using a community participatory approach by delivering social mobilization activities and health education sessions in workplaces and migrant cluster.
- Testing and counseling in worksites and a drop in center and promotion of referral services at community level.
- HIV treatment, care and support by providing Anti-retroviral therapy, Treatment adherence counseling, social support including psychosocial and food assistance, Screening and management of HIV-TB co-infection.
- Health and community system strengthening by supporting community structures such as Self Help Groups for people living with HIV in home-based care peer education and counseling and VMWGs in budget and proposal writing, record keeping and reporting.

Community-Based HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Care and support in migration affected communities



This is the brief story of my life. In the past, I was a sex worker named Rainbow. Originally I was born in Yangon and moved to Myawaddy on the border with Thailand for the livelihood of my family. Finally I worked as a sex worker to provide support to my family in critical condition. At the beginning I didn't use condoms regularly. Sometimes I could not use condoms regularly due to the preference of clients. One day, I was contacted by an IOM staff member in Myawaddy and visited Drop in Center. I could not forget the day I knew the result of HIV

positive test at IOM DIC. I still remember 29 September 2014, that I started to take ART treatment. I felt very happy again to be able to live a long and healthy life by taking this medication regularly. Luckily, in September 2015, I was selected to work as Outreach Health Worker at HIV program in IOM, Myawaddy.

HIV Programme in South-East Myanmar

IOM has collaborated closely with the National AIDS Program (NAP), State Public Health Department and other partners since 2007 to deliver comprehensive HIV services to migrants and other high risk populations, including female sex workers and men who have sex with men. Activities are currently implemented across seven townships in Mon and Kayin States.



IOM's key partners in HIV programme include the Ministry of Health, Mon and Kayin State Public Health Department, Local authorities, community based organizations, UN, INGO and LNGO partners.

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