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Bringing Co-op People Together



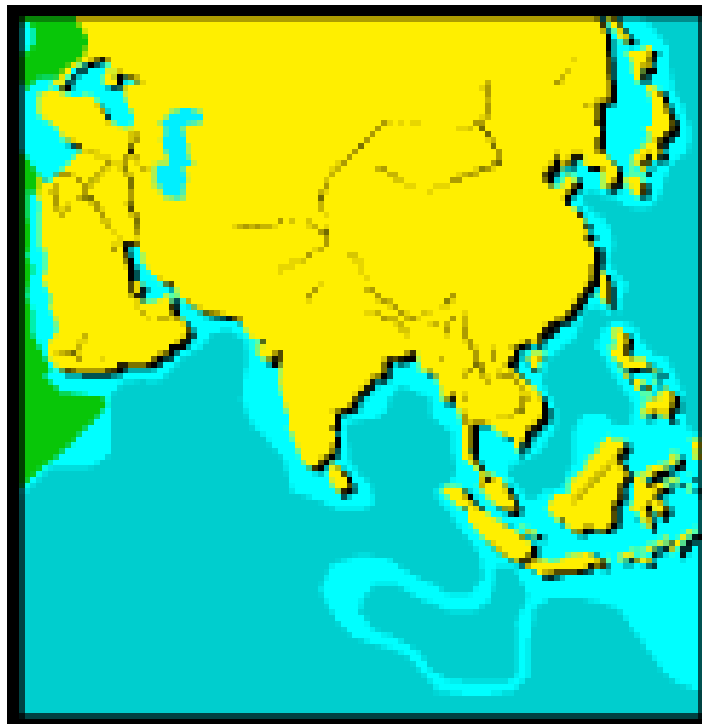
HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS CARE BY CO-OPERATIVES IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

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The Region Covers

- Countries
- Co-operative Organizations
- Individual Co-operative Members
- Regional Office
- Business Office



22

53

520 million

New Delhi,
India

Singapore



- Cooperative Leaders Training Programme.
- Promotion of Agriculture Co-operatives.
- Development of Consumer Co-operatives.
- Improvement of Co-op Legislation & Policies.
- Gender Integration and Advancement of Women in Co-operatives.
- Post earthquake rehabilitation Project of Handicraft Artisans in India.



HIV / AIDS Situation in Asia (WHO)

- AIDS was first reported in Asia in 1984.
- It is estimated that in the year 2000 alone, more than 550,000 people died of AIDS in Asia, about 1500 a day.
- This number will reach about 800,000 by 2005.

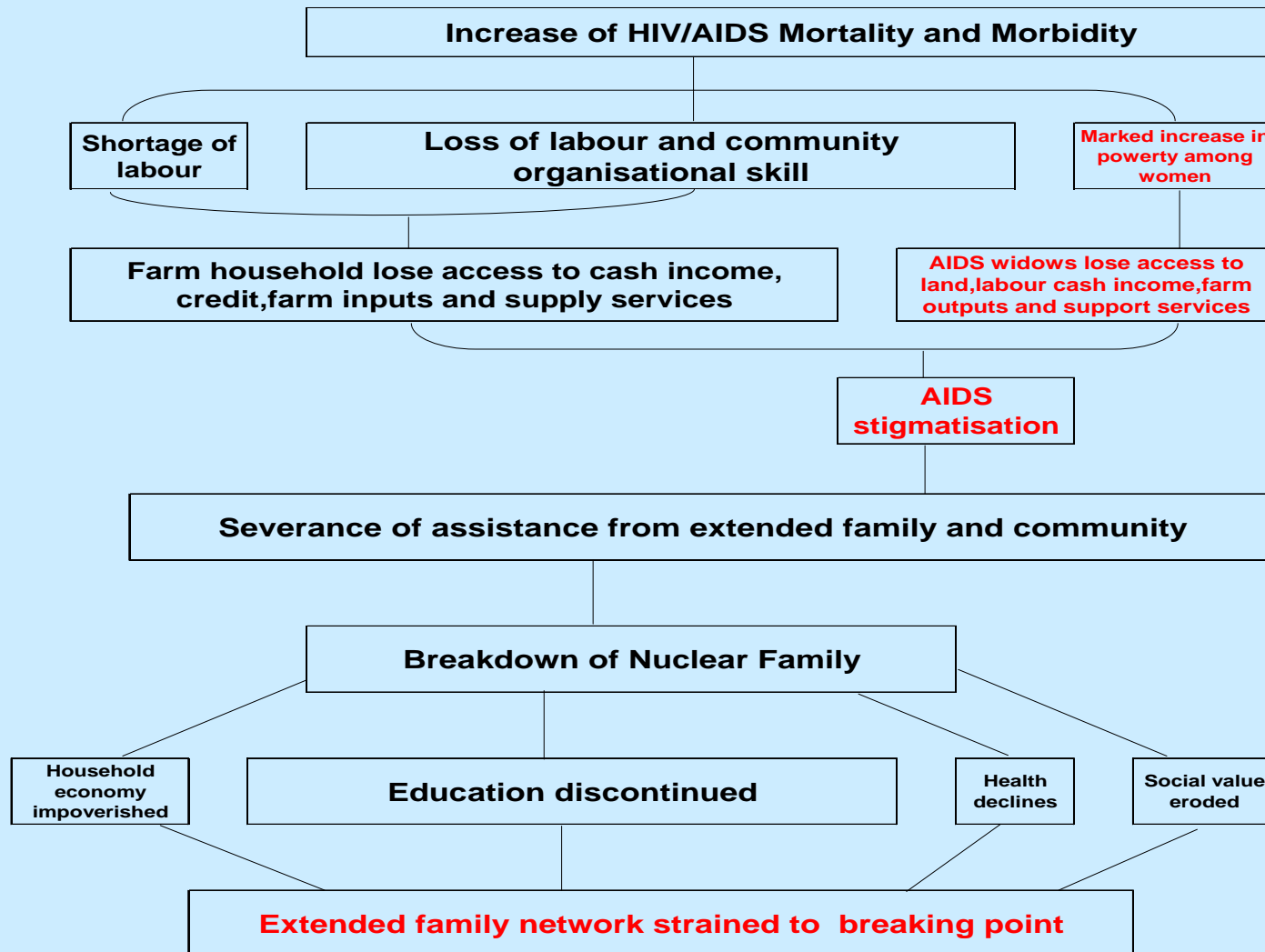
UNAIDS/WHO Global Report - 2000

Country	Population Age 15-49	Number of HIV+	HIV Prev (%)
Bangladesh	68 021 000	13 000	0.02
Bhutan	938 000	100	0.01
Cambodia	6 091 000	169 000	2.77
India	522 862 000	3 900 000	0.75
Indonesia	116 009 000	100 000	0.09
Japan	58 098 000	10 000	0.02
Myanmar	25 768 000	510 000	1.99
Nepal	11 259 000	34 000	0.30
Sri Lanka	10 572 000	8 500	0.08
Thailand	36 241 000	671 000	1.85



Impact of HIV/AIDS on Rural Economies (Farming Community and Women)

(source FAO)





In most of the Asian Countries, Co-operatives are providing health care services and regularly organizing health Care programmes for the members.

In some Co-operatives, member health care is one of the important activities and considerable amount of funds are being spent for such activities.



National Co-operative Union of India



As of year 2000-2001, there are 181 Hospital Co-operatives with membership of 111,000.

50 Co-operative education field projects for men and women.

Family welfare and health awareness programmes are the part of regular project activity.



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During the year 2002, these projects have organized 372 health awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS for the members.

More than 7000 rural and urban people including Youth and Women participated in these meetings and benefited.

These programmes are not limited only to members. All the people are welcome to derive benefits, thus serving the whole community.



IFFCO Member Health Care

Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative is having regular health care programmes for Farmers and their families in the adopted villages and its special project areas.

General Physicians, ENT and Eye specialists & Pediatricians are engaged to provide free services to patients. Free medicines are also provided to the needy.



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Insurance Cover is provided up to maximum of INR 100,000 to each member or his representative under the Group Personal Accident Policy.

ITGI with patronage of IFFCO launched 'SANKAT HARAN BIMA YOJANA' which is a Personal Accident Insurance Scheme offered with purchase of 50 kg. bag of fertilizer from any co-operative outlet.



- NCUI has established 4 exclusive co-operative education field projects for development of women only, in rural areas of the Country.
- These projects have more than 10,000 women individual members.
- Health care of members and other women in the community is one of the most important activities of these projects.



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- The lady education instructors and women mobilisers are responsible for conducting monthly awareness workshops for better health practices, hygiene and child care with special attention to pregnant women.
- During the year, 75 education classes on awareness about AIDS and HIV infection have been held only for women. 150 classes held for awareness about general healthcare and family welfare.



National Co-operative Federation of Nepal Ltd.

- The Co-operative health care service known as 'Sajha Swasthya Sewa' is serving the members and community in major cities in Nepal.
- A number of consumer Co-ops and health service Co-ops supply medicines, medical instruments, medicated materials, etc.



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- Public health concern Co-operative established in 1993 and has started Kathmandu Model Hospital as a referral for patients from the communities.
- Members and other people visit to health care co-operatives for medical care. HIV/AIDS cases are usually referred to Kathmandu Model Hospital.



Vietnam Co-operative Alliance

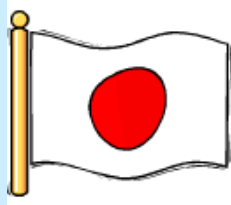
- VCA in coordination with other concerned agencies, regularly organizes workshops on labour safety, prevention of occupational diseases and labour accidents.
- VCA is coordinating with all the concerned Govt. organizations to conduct awareness and information workshops for co-operative members for prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS.
- This is especially focused to high HIV/AIDS prevalence areas.



ANGKASA



- There are 6 health co-operatives registered with the co-op development department and are involved in community health care.
- Co-operatives are taking initiative to generate awareness about HIV/AIDS through campaigning, information dissemination by distribution of leaflets and also through health clinics, to help prevention of spread of the disease.



Zenkyoren National Federation of Fisheries Co-operatives Association

- Zenkyoren provides many health care services to promote better health and well being of the members as well as the community.
- Regular health check-up.
- Health care and nursing care Hotlines for members.
- Funds for medical check-up, recreational activities, daily care and nursing for elderly.



NTUC Income

- This insurance co-operative's products provide coverage for 30 major diseases, such as Cancer, Heart Attack, Encephalitis, Stroke, etc.
- First Insurer to cover AIDS for Medical Personnel such as Doctors, Nurses, Laboratory Technicians, Ambulance worker or Dental Surgeon, if AIDS is contracted during the course of their work.



Co-operative Medical & Health Care

There are several Co-operative Hospitals functioning as separate Co-operative societies and one Co-operative hospital managed by a Multi Purpose Co-operative Society.

About 11,000 families are the members of these Co-operative Hospitals.



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These Health Co-ops provide following services :

- Indoor and Outdoor Patient Treatment,
- Maternity Services,
- Pharmacies & Dispensaries,
- Laboratory Services,
- Minor Operations.



- Promotion and Development of health Co-operatives in the region through it's specialised body 'Asia Pacific Health Co-operative Organization' (APHCO).
- APHCO organizes conferences seminars and workshops for development of healthy community in member countries through member organizations.



Project on HIV/AIDS Prevention

- As we have seen, health care is a priority to Co-operative Sector, yet much is needed to be done for health of women and combating the challenges of HIV/AIDS which has posed serious threat to mankind in general and co-operative community in particular.
- To address the challenges of the epidemic the Regional Office has developed a project for prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS among Co-operative Members.



Prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS among Co-operative Members through Education & Training In ASIA.

OBJECTIVES :

- A. To Spread awareness among rural population, mainly women and youth in Co-operatives for prevention of spread of HIV/AIDS.
- B. To increase informed demands for condoms and increase access to appropriate youth friendly STI prevention and treatment services for Co-op members.



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BENEFICIARIES :

- A. Young men aged 15-49 among the Co-operative Members.
- B. Young women aged 15-24 and children.



Gender Aspect of the Project

- Stimulating active participation and mobilization of women.
- Separate Programmes for Women by Women Health Personnel.
- Training of more Women Health Workers.
- Sensitise men about safe sex practices and majority of promotion work focused on harder to convince Young Men.



ACTIVITIES

- Awareness raising and Social Mobilization.
- Orientation of Co-operative leaders about the issue.
- Creating enabling environment.
- Building support structure.
- Capacity building and skill development.



PARTNERS



- Member co-operative organizations in the region.
- APHCO.
- The Youth & University Co-operatives.
- Network of already existing facilities.



CONCLUSION



- The HIV/Aids crisis in the Region needs to be addressed seriously by the Co-operatives as this epidemic hits hardest at the most productive age group causing serious economic, social and cultural crisis.
- Experience has shown that prevention and intervention activities can successfully bring reduction in HIV prevalence.



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- ICA-ROAP plans to start the project initially in 3 countries in the Region by January 2004. Duration of the project is 3 Years. Gradually all the countries with high HIV prevalence will be covered.
- We Hope the intensive campaigning, information and training about preventive measures and capacity building of women and youth in Co-operatives will certainly help in risk reduction and harm reduction of the epidemic.



TOGETHER
WE CAN FIGHT IT
AND WE WILL