



Australian Government

Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice

Indonesia

Indonesia – IDN37946 – Jakarta –
HIV/AIDS – Health authorities – Hospitals
– Social attitudes

13 January 2011

- 1. Please provide an update to 2004 advice on treatment of people with HIV/AIDS in Indonesia by Indonesian authorities, including health authorities, and the community.**

Indonesian Authorities

Indonesia consists of approximately 254 million people living across an archipelago of 17,000 islands. Almost 90 per cent of the country is Muslim, and “Islamic views have a strong influence on state policy.”¹ Of the estimated 43,000 people with advanced HIV infection in Indonesia in 2006, UNAIDS estimated that only 15 percent were receiving antiretroviral treatment.² In 2006 Indonesia’s Ministry of Health had established over 1000 voluntary counselling and testing sites and provides antiretroviral therapy (ART) through 75 of the 1246 hospitals in Indonesia, of which 49.8% are in private hospitals and just over 50 percent are located in Java.³ Although ART are provided free to patients, the costs of other drugs and health services required by People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) are borne by the individual. In 2009, a study published in the journal, *Health Policy and Planning* found that almost half of respondents (all PLHIV) had suffered catastrophic expenditure, “indicating that paying for HIV care [in Indonesia] is likely to cause poverty for many people living with HIV.”⁴

¹ National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 -2007,

http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 1

² Riyarto, S., Hidayat, B., Johns, B., Probandari, A., et al., 2010, ‘The financial burden of HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy, on patients in three sites in Indonesia’, *Health Policy and Planning*, Oxford University Press, pg 1- 11, <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2010/02/15/heapol.czq004.full.pdf> - Accessed 4 January 2011, Attachment 2

³ Riyarto, S., Hidayat, B., Johns, B., Probandari, A., et al., 2010, ‘The financial burden of HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy, on patients in three sites in Indonesia’, *Health Policy and Planning*, Oxford University Press, pg 1- 11, <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2010/02/15/heapol.czq004.full.pdf> - Accessed 4 January 2011, Attachment 2

See also <http://www.jakartaupdates.com/12794-12/many-hospitals-in-indonesia-are-not-accredited> - Accessed 4 January 2011

⁴ Riyarto, S., Hidayat, B., Johns, B., Probandari, A., et al., 2010, ‘The financial burden of HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy, on patients in three sites in Indonesia’, *Health Policy and Planning*, Oxford University Press, pg 1- 11, <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2010/02/15/heapol.czq004.full.pdf> - Accessed 4 January 2011, Attachment 2

Strategies for treatment for PLHIV and transmission prevention are severely hampered by a combination of factors: including a lack of access to clinics for testing, and limited counselling and support for those who are HIV positive; significant community stigma attached to the disease (including stigma around being tested to ascertain your status); poor quality national statistics on HIV/AIDS prevalence⁵; low rates of knowledge of disease prevention strategies in the community; and poor access to ART.⁶

Given community knowledge of the disease is low, and access to services remains poor, the Indonesian government has implemented strategies and programs which seek to increase community education and access to services, including fully subsidised ART. Most at risk populations – Men who have sex with men (MSM); female sex workers (FSW); and injecting drug users (IDUs) have been targeted by education and outreach programs, and small gains in knowledge and safe sex practices have been recorded between the reporting periods, 2004-05 and 2006-07 (MSM rates of knowledge increased from 15.4per cent to 31per cent; IDU from 18.1per cent to 35.9per cent). However, significant barriers to condom use and promotion remain, and as the National AIDS Commission notes, the “main challenge is in persuading religious authorities to adopt public health perspectives in dealing with the epidemic”.⁷

This UNDP report also states that the “widespread stigma and discrimination [against PLHIV] ... limited availability of testing and counselling related to HIV, and facilities for antiretroviral treatment... [and] a large gap between the national estimates of the number of people living with HIV and the number of reported cases” limit the successful coverage of HIV interventions.⁸

Stigma within the community

People living with HIV/AIDS face considerable stigma throughout Indonesia⁹. The US Department of State reported in 2009 that “stigma and discrimination against persons with

⁵ Directorate General Communicable Disease control and Environmental Health (Ministry of Health Indonesia), ‘Country Profile: Indonesia’, *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia Pacific ‘Evidence to Action’*, Attachment 3

⁶ National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 -2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 4; in 2005, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Indonesia was estimated to be between 90,000 -130,000 people; as printed in United Nations Development Programme: Indonesia 2005, ‘The UK Government Pledges £25 Million for the Indonesian Partnership Fund for HIV/AIDS’, 18 May, *United Nations Development Programme* website, <http://www.undp.or.id/press/view.asp?FileID=20050518-1&lang=en> - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 5

⁷ National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 -2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 4

⁸ Directorate General Communicable Disease control and Environmental Health (Ministry of Health Indonesia), ‘Country Profile: Indonesia’, *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia Pacific ‘Evidence to Action’*, Attachment 3; see also, National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 -2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 4

⁹ See for instance, De Suryani, L. 2010, ‘AIDS stigma rivals the disease itself’, *The Jakarta Post*, 25 October, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/25/aids-stigma-rivals-disease-itself.html> - Accessed 24 December 2, Attachment 6; and Gunawan, R. 2009, ‘Indonesia must combat AIDS ignorance’, 6 May, *UPI Asia*,

HIV/AIDS were pervasive.”¹⁰ Many Indonesians believe that people living with HIV/AIDS are promiscuous¹¹; or are suffering because they have disobeyed their religious beliefs¹². Many also believe that HIV is transmissible through the air, or by touching an infected person.¹³ There is some recent evidence that this attitude is slowly changing - AIDS Indonesia reported in December 2010 that although “diseases such as HIV/AIDS have been associated with moral decadence”, public discussion of the disease has slowly moved toward a public health framework. Nevertheless, “AIDS remains a difficult and sensitive issue within all levels of Indonesian society.”¹⁴ The program director of the Community Legal Aid Institute based in Jakarta describes Indonesian government efforts to tackle the spread and treatment of HIV/AIDS among vulnerable populations, particularly intravenous drug users and MSM as a “criminal-based approach toward the worst affected [populations, which has] generated stigma and revulsion. It has dragged people away from civil society so they have become a ‘hidden population’ without access to health services, preventative measures or treatment.”¹⁵

2. Is treatment more accessible for residents of Jakarta?

No information was located which dealt with the comparative accessibility of HIV/AIDS health services in Jakarta and other parts of Indonesia. Most information on ART and support for PLHIV discusses the national situation. Regardless of their location, PLHIV often travel away from their home communities to receive treatment in an attempt to avoid being seen at treatment centres by people they know. For instance, Santi, a middle-aged woman from Karangasem, drove two hours to get to the ARV clinic:

[a]lthough she could get the drugs at Amlapura Hospital in Karangasem, which is much closer to her home, [Santi] prefers to go to Sanglah, because she is afraid someone from her area might recognize her and find out about her condition.¹⁶

3. Is stigma likely to be less for people living with HIV/AIDS in Jakarta?

No information was located which suggested that a different level of stigma was attached to AIDS in Java or Jakarta, compared with other parts of Indonesia. It is probable that

http://www.upiasia.com/Human_Rights/2009/05/05/indonesia_must_combat_aids_ignorance/5953/ - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 7

¹⁰ US DOS Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2009.

¹¹ ‘Delivering the AIDS Message to Indonesia’, 2010, *AIDS Indonesia*, 1 December,

<http://www.aidsindonesia.or.id/delivering-the-aids-message-to-indonesia.html> - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 8

¹² Erickson, C. 2010 ‘Breaking Down the Stigma of HIV/AIDS Through Football in Indonesia’, *Idea exChange*, 16 September, <http://smblog.changemakers.com/breaking-down-the-stigma-of-hiv-aids-through-f> - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 9

¹³ Gunawan, R. 2009, ‘Indonesia must combat AIDS ignorance’, 6 May, *UPI Asia*,

http://www.upiasia.com/Human_Rights/2009/05/05/indonesia_must_combat_aids_ignorance/5953/ - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 7

¹⁴ ‘Delivering the AIDS Message to Indonesia’, 2010, *AIDS Indonesia*, 1 December,

<http://www.aidsindonesia.or.id/delivering-the-aids-message-to-indonesia.html> - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 8

¹⁵ Gunawan, R. 2009, ‘Indonesia must combat AIDS ignorance’, 6 May, *UPI Asia*,

http://www.upiasia.com/Human_Rights/2009/05/05/indonesia_must_combat_aids_ignorance/5953/ - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 7

¹⁶ De Suryani, L. 2010, ‘AIDS stigma rivals the disease itself’, *The Jakarta Post*, 25 October,

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/25/aids-stigma-rivals-disease-itself.html> - Accessed 24 December 2, Attachment 6

urban centres are more exposed to community information and NGO advocacy which may result in better access to outreach/support programs. Jakarta has the fourth highest rate of HIV infection in Indonesia.¹⁷ Although community knowledge regarding the transmission of HIV/AIDS is slightly higher in urban areas¹⁸, the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS does not appear to abate in larger population centres.

Reports of discrimination against family members have been reported in Jakarta in 2009¹⁹. For instance, the health and medical news website *Medical News Today* note that only a small number of the MSM community in Jakarta are aware of HIV/AIDS, and that “many MSM refuse to be tested for HIV ‘because they fear society’s judgement.’”²⁰

Attachments

1. National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 - 2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010.
2. Riyarto, S., Hidayat, B., Johns, B., Probandari, A., et al., 2010, ‘The financial burden of HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy, on patients in three sites in Indonesia’, *Health Policy and Planning*, Oxford University Press, pg 1- 11, <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2010/02/15/heapol.czq004.full.pdf> - Accessed 4 January 2011.
3. Directorate General Communicable Disease control and Environmental Health (Ministry of Health Indonesia), ‘Country Profile: Indonesia’, *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia Pacific ‘Evidence to Action’*.
4. National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 - 2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010.
5. United Nations Development Programme: Indonesia 2005, ‘The UK Government Pledges £25 Million for the Indonesian Partnership Fund for HIV/AIDS’, 18 May, *United Nations*

¹⁷ <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/07/12/aids-“everywhere”-jakarta-govt.html> - Accessed 4 January 2011

¹⁸ Directorate General Communicable Disease control and Environmental Health (Ministry of Health Indonesia), ‘Country Profile: Indonesia’, *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia Pacific ‘Evidence to Action’*, Attachment 3

¹⁸ National AIDS Commission (Republic of Indonesia), ‘Country report on the Follow Up to the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS’, (UNGASS), Reporting Period 2006 -2007, http://data.unaids.org/pub/Report/2008/indonesia_2008_country_progress_report_en.pdf - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 4

¹⁹ Gunawan, R. 2009, ‘Indonesia must combat AIDS ignorance’, 6 May, *UPI Asia*, http://www.upiasia.com/Human_Rights/2009/05/05/indonesia_must_combat_aids_ignorance/5953/ - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 7

²⁰ ‘Few MSM In Jakarta, Indonesia, Aware Of HIV/AIDS; Stigma Hindering Prevention Efforts’, 2007, *Medical News Today*, 23 April, <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/68365.php> - Accessed 24 December 2010, Attachment 10

Development Programme website,

<http://www.undp.or.id/press/view.asp?FileID=20050518-1&lang=en> - Accessed 24 December 2010.

6. De Suryani, L. 2010, 'AIDS stigma rivals the disease itself', *The Jakarta Post*, 25 October, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/10/25/aids-stigma-rivals-disease-itself.html> - Accessed 24 December 2010.
7. Gunawan, R. 2009, 'Indonesia must combat AIDS ignorance', 6 May, *UPI Asia*, http://www.upiasia.com/Human_Rights/2009/05/05/indonesia_must_combat_aids_ignorance/5953/ - Accessed 24 December 2010.
8. 'Delivering the AIDS Message to Indonesia', 2010, *AIDS Indonesia*, 1 December, <http://www.aidsindonesia.or.id/delivering-the-aids-message-to-indonesia.html> - Accessed 24 December 2010.
9. Erickson, C. 2010 'Breaking Down the Stigma of HIV/AIDS Through Football in Indonesia', *Idea exChange*, 16 September, <http://smblog.changemakers.com/breaking-down-the-stigma-of-hivaids-through-f> - Accessed 24 December 2010.
10. 'Few MSM In Jakarta, Indonesia, Aware Of HIV/AIDS; Stigma Hindering Prevention Efforts', 2007, *Medical News Today*, 23 April, <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/68365.php> - Accessed 24 December 2010.