

UNIFEM ENSURES THAT POSITIVE WOMEN'S VOICES ARE HEARD

Empowering Positive, Affected and At Risk Women and Their Networks

- Despite progress in recent years, it still remains difficult for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) to become involved in prevention, care and support activities.
- UNIFEM works for improved representation by women with HIV in policy and decision making bodies, better advocacy on issues concerning women and HIV, and a more broad-based leadership in national networks of positive women where they exist.

Building Evidence, Analysis and Advocacy

- A comprehensive analysis of issues surrounding HIV and AIDS in relation to women is still lacking in most countries of the region. Through research and analysis UNIFEM seeks to lay the groundwork upon which effective initiatives can be built.

Improving Information Flow, Cooperation and Technical Capacity

- UNIFEM seeks to facilitate information flows on women and HIV issues as well as improve coordination among partners at both regional and national levels. By doing so HIV-related issues that affect women are incorporated into other programs and initiatives addressing women's human rights.

UNIFEM in Action in East and Southeast Asia

- UNIFEM has supported assessments relating to **spousal/intimate partner transmission** of HIV in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Cambodia while also documenting good practices and case studies.
- Cambodia: Since 2004 UNIFEM has supported the Cambodia Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS Positive (CCW) **helping bring women's voices into the national and community responses** to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.
- In October 2008, UNIFEM supported a three-day "Think Tank" meeting held to bring together key members of the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS to look into the **emerging needs of women networks**.
- In February 2009 UNIFEM and UNAIDS supported the Regional Technical Meeting on Responding to the **Feminization of AIDS** that brought together participants from South and Southeast Asia.
- Cambodia: UNIFEM's Gender and HIV Programme capitalises on its rights-based expertise in analysing evidence and gender-related issues, working with affected individuals and communities, advocating for policy and social change and building national capacity.
- **Diamonds**: UNIFEM is working with the Asia Pacific Network of People Living with HIV (APN+) to publish a book and DVD highlighting the lives of inspirational HIV positive women in the region. Diamonds will be launched at ICAAP.

For more information on the Gender and HIV Programme in East and Southeast Asia please contact Karabi Baruah at Karabi.b@unifem-eseasia.org.