

# Mapping of Social Protection measures for children affected by HIV in Asia-Pacific



Shirley Mark Prabhu

(UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Thailand)



# HIV Trends: Asia-Pacific (2011)

4.9 million people living with HIV

1.6 million women living with HIV

170,000 Children living with HIV

370,000 New HIV infections

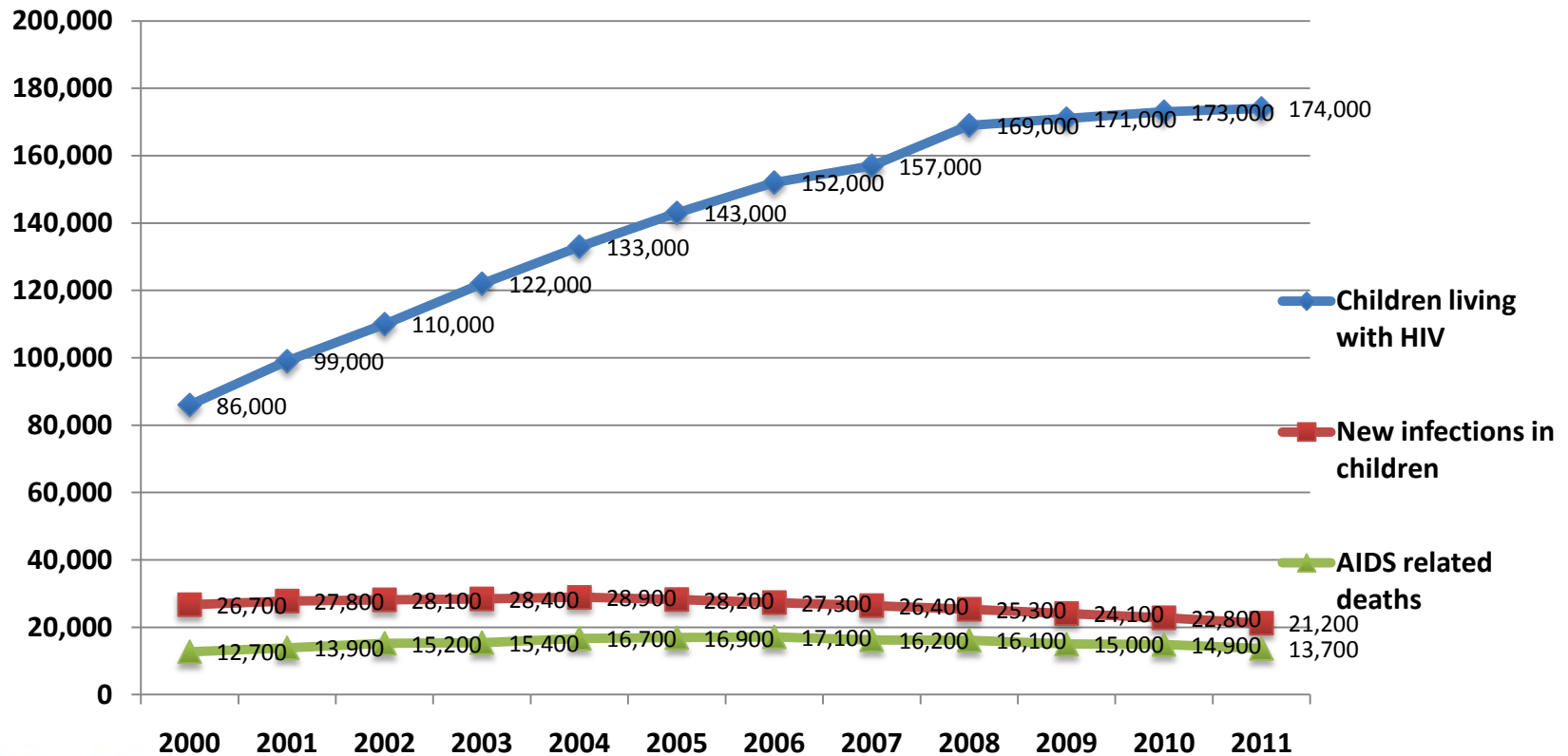
310,000 AIDS related deaths

21,000 Children newly infected

- **Stabilizing** overall though still **growing** among MSM and in Indonesia
- HIV increasingly **TREATABLE** and turning chronic
- New WHO Treatment Guidelines – more **adults** and **children** will be treated (CD4 <500, previously <350)
- **Eliminating** new HIV infections in children is now a real possibility in Asia-Pacific



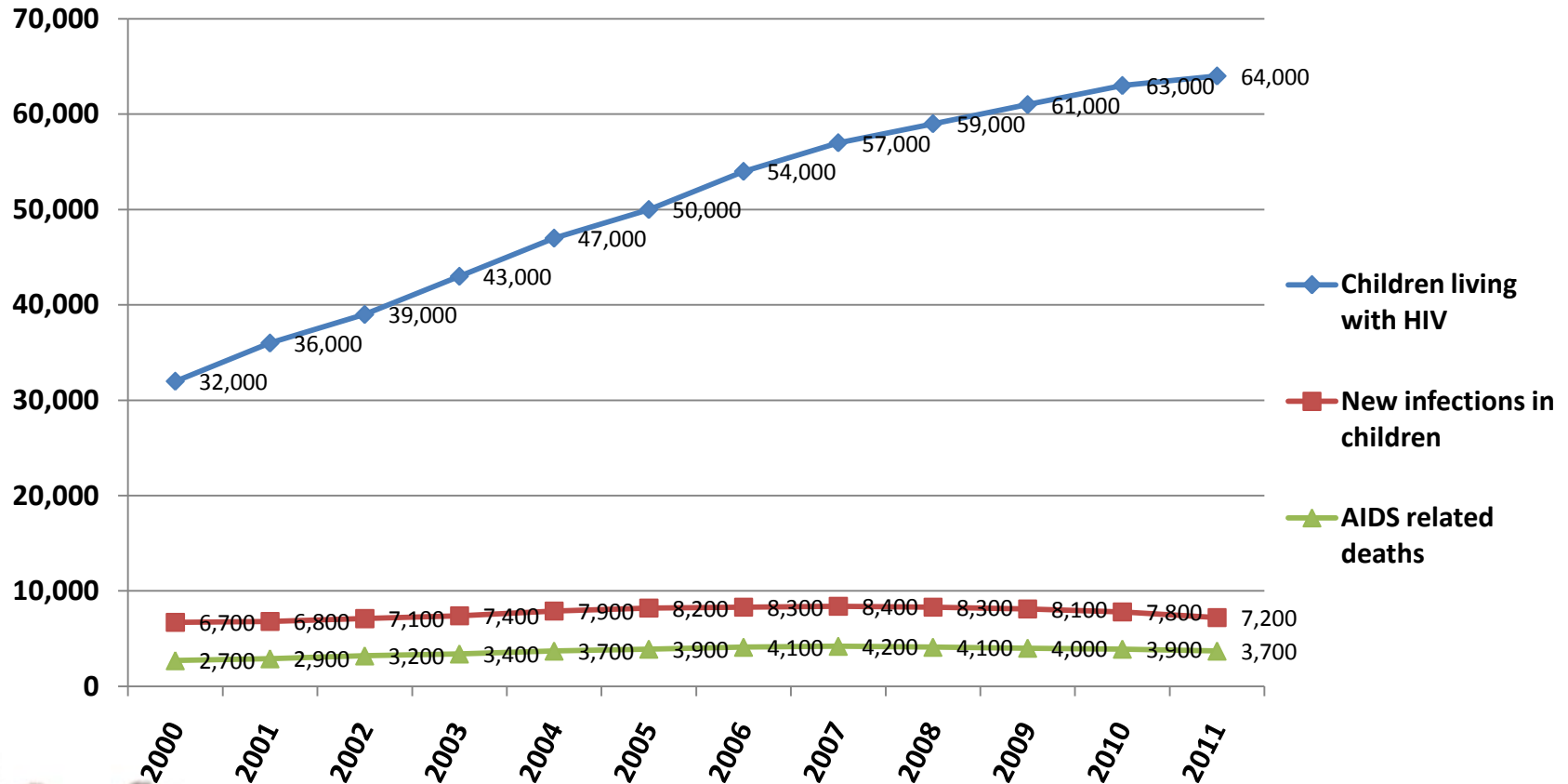
## Number of children (0-14) living with HIV, new infections and deaths due to AIDS, Asia-Pacific, 2000-2011



Source: UNICEF HQ 2012 Epidemiological Updates



# Number of children (0-14) living with HIV, new infections and deaths due to AIDS, East Asia-Pacific, 2000-2011



Source: UNICEF HQ 2012 Epidemiological Updates



# Children and Households affected by HIV in Asia-Pacific

## Critical Challenges

- Escalated financial burden on households due to loss of productivity and consequent reduction in household income
- Increased burden on people living with HIV and chronically ill caregivers to pay for health expenses or make up for lost income
- Limited/no access to life saving treatment and care for caregivers and children affected by HIV from migrant populations
- HIV testing without informed consent (especially migrant populations)



# Children and Households affected by HIV in Asia-Pacific

## Critical Challenges

- Higher household health expenditure and reduction in food or educational spending
- Education – disparities most evident in poorest households with dropout rates higher for children affected by HIV and even more severe for girls than boys
- Increased stigma and discrimination – Humiliation by peers and ostracism within the school and community leading to demotivation and falling behind studies and dropout of school system
- Increasing evidence of abuse, exploitation, violence and neglect among children affected by HIV leading to increase exposure to HIV and risk behaviours
- Limited psychosocial support to most vulnerable children



# Mapping of Social Protection in Asia-Pacific

Study commissioned by [UNICEF](#) and undertaken by the [Economic Intelligence Unit \(EIU\)](#) reviewed existing social policies and programmes using **Child- and HIV- focused criteria** to gain a regional perspective of the extent to which children and households affected by HIV are being supported within national social protection frameworks in Asia-Pacific

## **Countries reviewed**

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam

## **Categories of social protection programmes examined**

Social insurance, social insurance, access to social services, and policies and legislation

**Coding of each policy/programme:** Limited to Extensive



# Key Findings - social protection for children affected by HIV

## Social Assistance

## Social Insurance

Criteria	Provision of cash and food grants for at-risk children (orphans, street children, institutionalised, stateless children) and poor families	Insurance schemes— health, maternal support, nutrition, unemployment— for poor households and vulnerable groups
Bangladesh	Substantial	Moderate
Cambodia	Substantial	Limited
China	Extensive	Substantial
Indonesia	Substantial	Moderate
Nepal	Substantial	Moderate
Pakistan	Moderate	Limited
Papua New Guinea	Limited	Limited
Thailand	Substantial	Substantial
Vietnam	Moderate	Substantial



Source: Economic Intelligence Unit analysis



# Key Findings - social protection for children affected by HIV

## Social services (Access to)

Criteria	Access to ART for caregivers and children	Employment and livelihood initiatives for chronically-ill caregivers	Availability of healthcare, education, welfare, psychosocial support, livelihood training and alternative care for poor households and vulnerable children (access/ affordability)
Bangladesh	Moderate	Limited	Moderate
Cambodia	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial
China	Moderate	Limited	Substantial
Indonesia	Substantial	Limited	Limited
Nepal	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial
Pakistan	Moderate	Limited	Moderate
Papua New Guinea	Moderate	Limited	Moderate
Thailand	Extensive	Limited	Substantial
Vietnam	Moderate	Limited	Substantial

Source : Economic Intelligence Unit, 2011



# Key Findings - social protection for children affected by HIV

## Policies, legislation and regulation

Criteria	Explicit rights to access essential services for children affected by HIV	Existence of a legal framework that specifically protects children affected by HIV through inheritance rights, birth registration, school enrolment
Bangladesh	Substantial	Substantial
Cambodia	Moderate	Limited
China	Substantial	Extensive
Indonesia	Moderate	Moderate
Nepal	Substantial	Moderate
Pakistan	Moderate	Limited
Papua New Guinea	Substantial	Limited
Thailand	Extensive	Extensive
Vietnam	Substantial	Extensive

Source: Economic Intelligence Unit analysis



# Preferred instruments for disbursements of social protection to children affected by HIV

Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
China  
Indonesia  
Nepal  
Pakistan

## Social assistance

Provision of cash and food grants for at-risk children

China  
Vietnam

## Social insurance

Insurance schemes—health, maternal support, nutrition, unemployment—for poor households and vulnerable groups

Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
China  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Papua New Guinea  
Thailand  
Vietnam

## Social services (access)

Facilitate access to treatment (ART) for caregivers and children; employment and livelihood initiatives for chronically-ill caregivers; access to services, support and alternative care for poor households and vulnerable children

Source : Economic Intelligence Unit, 2011



# Trends : Analysis of activity around social protection of children affected by HIV

## Social Assistance

Most extensive in developing countries with a robust civil society network

China's national focus on targeting rural households is notable

## Social Insurance

Many formal high-coverage programmes preclude children affected by HIV/AIDS

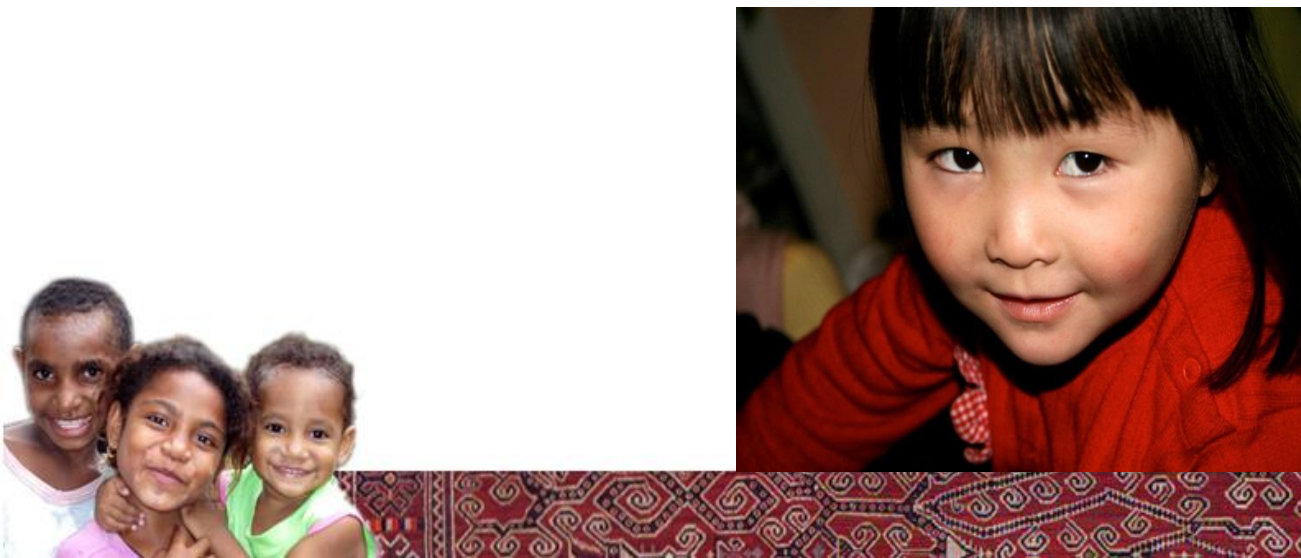
China and Thailand's focus on maternal support and improving access to healthcare for informal workers is notable.

Source : Economic Intelligence Unit, 2011



# Country responses to specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families

## China, Indonesia and Thailand



# China: Response to specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families

## Child-sensitive services

- HIV/AIDS policy - Four Frees and One Care (2003) addressed access to free PMTCT services, ARV treatment and living support and education for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
- Regulation on Free treatment - waiver of school tuition for children orphaned by HIV and free testing and treatment

## Social Assistance

- Provision of financial subsidies to families who care for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS



- **China:**  
**Response to specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families**

- **First policy for children affected by AIDS (2009)** extended cash grant benefits from those orphaned by AIDS to all children affected by AIDS (Children in communities not just child welfare institutions)
- In 2010, Government of China and UNICEF launched a **five-year HIV sensitive child welfare project** in 12 counties in HIV hard-hit areas (Yunnan, Sichuan, Xinjiang, Shanxi, and Henan province) with services extended to all children. The project will feed into the development of a comprehensive child welfare system



## China: Progress and Results



**Lessons learned from three pilots supported evidence based advocacy with policy makers at both the provincial and national level and led to:**

- National policy stipulating that all orphaned children and those without caregivers would receive a monthly allowance (600 Yuan (USD 90) for those living in family settings, and 1000 Yuan for those living in institutions)
- Family is the best environment to raise children
- The policy , a landmark achievement called for special funds from both central and provincial governments to support most vulnerable children in the community
- Policy benefitted over 714,000 children nationwide (2010) - 96% coverage of all reported children who are orphans



- **Indonesia:**  
**Response to specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families**

- Social protection for children in the form of cash and food grants for at-risk children, and antiretroviral treatments for mothers and children are substantial
- HIV-sensitive social services are limited, though there has been significant expansion in the provision of ART to adults
- Other social services including the provision of health care, education, welfare, work options for the chronically ill, and psychosocial support remain limited



- **Thailand:**  
**Response to specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families**

- Social assistance provision devolved to local and regional governments. Local initiatives focused on targeted subsidies to households
- Treatment for caregivers and children is extensive. More than 96% of population have access to universal health care

Thailand has the most extensive social protection provision in place for HIV-affected children. Limited employment and livelihood opportunities for chronically ill caregivers. Explicitly stated rights of access for vulnerable children to essential services



## The Global Fund 2010 grant (US\$ 42 million)

- UNICEF Thailand supported the government to strengthen **child-focused services, including those specifically related to HIV prevention, care and treatment, for vulnerable children**
- **Expected outputs:** Increased access for 113,000 vulnerable children in 29 provinces and 1,860 sub-districts, of whom approximately 61,000 of these vulnerable children are children affected by AIDS
- **Target population includes:**
  - Children directly affected by HIV and AIDS (CABA)
  - Children made vulnerable by other causes and living in communities with high HIV prevalence
  - Ethnic minority children who do not have Thai citizenship and are less able to access routine essential services.



To address needs of children affected by HIV, **social protection approaches** need to become **child sensitive** to respond to the patterns of child poverty and vulnerability and recognizing the long-term benefits of investing in children. When sensitive to children, social protection can address both the economic and social aspects of deprivation

### **HIV- sensitive social protection refers to a**

**“Strategic and systemic social response to poverty, marginalization and associated harms, which also protects vulnerable children in the face of challenges posed by HIV through links with other other sectoral or issue-focused programmes”**



Source: Integrated Social Protection Systems – Enhancing Equity for Children, UNICEF Social Protection Strategic Framework, March 2012



## Desired outcomes : HIV-sensitive social protection

- Ensuring progressive universal application of social protection interventions, including **adjusting the design** to respond to the **additional and specific needs of children infected by HIV and their families**
- Targeting a range of context-specific vulnerability indicators including poverty, education status, orphan status etc.
- Addressing not only economic causes and consequences of HIV but also broader social interventions such as **community-based care** and support to **remove stigma and social exclusion of marginalized groups affected by HIV and AIDS**



# Priority Considerations

## Child- and HIV- sensitive Social Protection

- Children's susceptibility to risk of infection from sexual abuse, drug abuse and exploitations
- Continued access to education, health care, nutrition as well as pre-ART and ART care to manage disease progression of parents and siblings including vulnerable groups such as information and mobile populations
- Enhanced caregiver's capacity through training or support to manage the needs of affected children
- Sensitivity to the psychosocial needs of children affected by HIV in social work monitoring





# Thank You

UNICEF EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE

