

Paris and Bangkok, 12 January 2004

To whom it may concern,

Workshop to be held in Paris in September 2004:

**How can Development Strategies strengthen policies and programs against HIV/AIDS?
Exploring the inter-relations between Development, Spatial Mobility and HIV/AIDS.**

The issue

The most common approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemics is through a health paradigm which encompasses from the immediate risk of HIV infection through counselling, care, treatment to ultimate death. Most of the present prevention, treatment and care and support strategies are the direct consequence of this health perspective and its logical outcome.

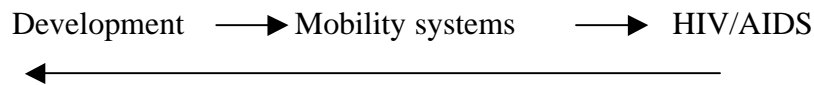
However, it is clear that in most countries, health strategies alone have not been able to stop the epidemics and it is necessary to explore other strategies which could complement and reinforce the health based ones. From this perspective, another way to complement the health strategies in approaching the HIV/AIDS epidemics is through a development paradigm. Development activities on one hand and differences in levels of development between *sub-national areas*, **countries** and **regions** on the other, play a significant role in the background of the epidemics through creating and modifying vulnerabilities of populations which can lead to their exposure to the risk of infection. For example, rural poverty can lead farmers to sell their blood in high risk conditions or to migrate seasonally to cities to find jobs; transborder formalities result in truck drivers idling for days at border crossings attracting numerous sex workers, etc.

The Objective

Inter-relations between development and HIV/AIDS are complex and still little understood or studied. The benefit of gaining a better understanding of these inter-relations is that development activities are generated by macro socio-economic policy and programme decisions. Furthermore, socio-economic policies and programmes which result inadvertently in creating conditions favouring the spread of HIV can be identified through research and, if necessary modified, or perhaps, even prevented.

One of the most important linkages between development and HIV/AIDS occurs through *mobility systems*. Migration is but one aspect of a mobility system which broadly encompasses not only the movements of people, but also, from the HIV epidemic perspective, their interface with their sending areas, points of transit and receiving areas. The systems can operate at various scales: sub-national, national or regional (e.g. Caribbean, Southern Africa

or South-East Asia). What is important for action is to identify the systems and its key components and analyse its dynamics.



The objective of this project is to start a process through which one will first find out what has been already done, then review the present state of knowledge through a survey and synthesize the most important and potentially promising efforts from a policy, programme and research perspective. The authors of the best efforts will be selected and brought together at a meeting to discuss their implications for both AIDS programmes and development strategies as well as highlight the crucial directions for the future. The results will be brought to the attention of decision-makers and funders in order to integrate them into activities and support action oriented research.

The Action

Researchers working on the above inter-relations and interested in participating are invited to complete the attached questionnaire and return it to CICRED (cicred@cicred.org) by Monday 16 February 2004. Based on the results of the selection, the organizers are ready to cover the costs for about ten researchers from Southern institutions to participate in the workshop. It is however expected that for the researchers selected from Northern institutions, their institutions would cover the costs of their participation in the workshop.

The Organizers

This workshop is co-sponsored and organized by CICRED and UNDP South East Asia HIV and Development Programme (SEAHIV) in order to promote and accelerate South-South and North-South exchange.

With best regards,

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