

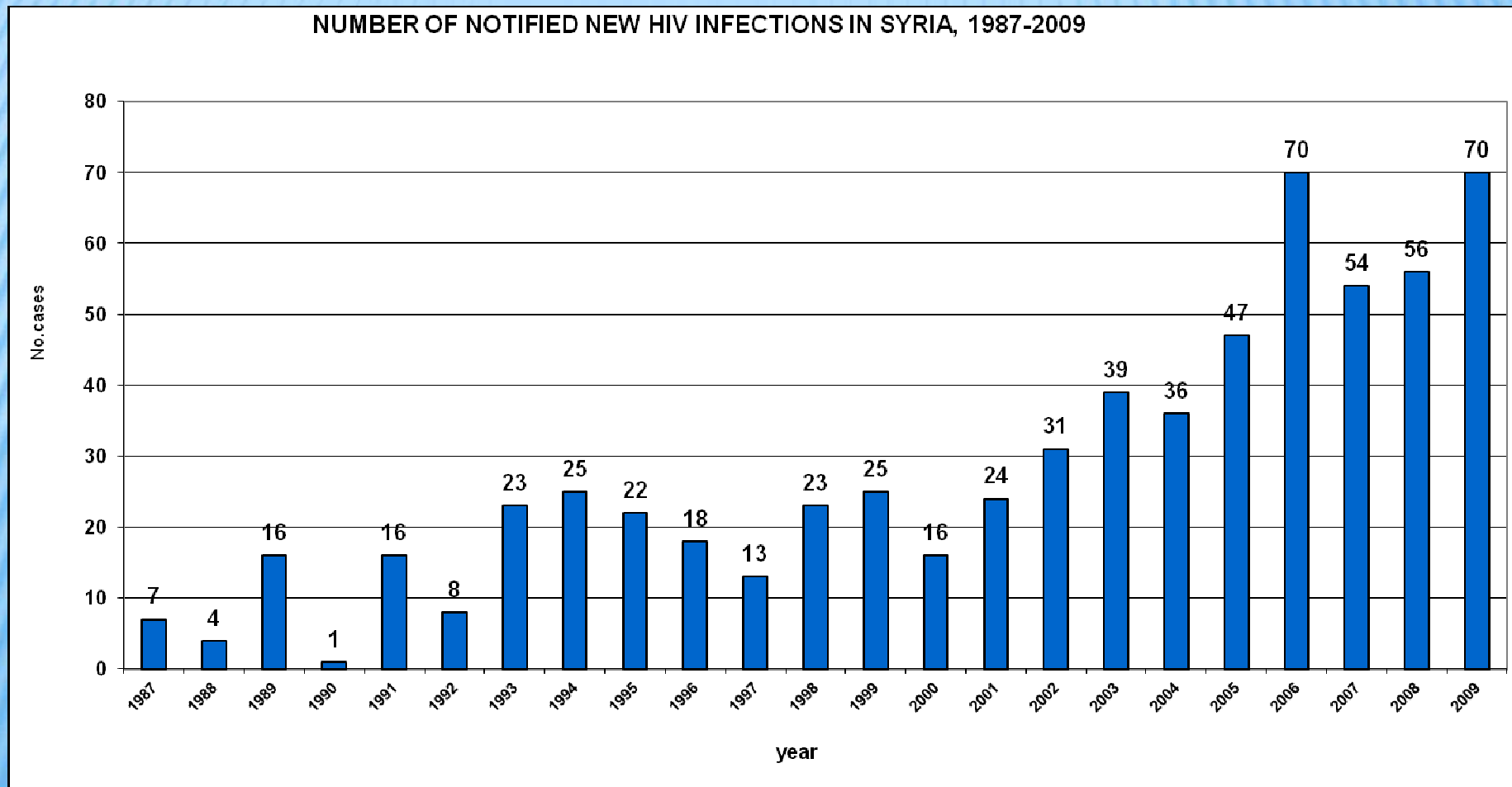
SYRIAN NATIONAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON HIV/AIDS 2012-2016

NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR HIV/AIDS IN THE WORLD OF WORK

KEY HIV STATISTICS SYRIA

- × 661 HIV cases reported (June 2010)
- × 371 Syrians (56%):
 - 114 still known to be alive
- × 290 non-Syrians (44%)

NOTIFIED NEW HIV CASES, 1987-2009



HIV tests in 2009: Main test mechanisms

HIV testing mechanism	Number of HIV tests	% of total number of HIV tests	Number of identified HIV cases	% of total HIV (n=70)	% HIV among persons tested
1. Blood donors	412,073	84.8%	2	2.9%	<0.00001%
2. Mandatory HIV testing	71,648	14.7%	64	91.4%	0.09%
3. VCT clients	2,089	0.4%	4	5.7%	0.19%
TOTAL	485,857	100%	70	100%	0.014%

KEY HIV STATISTICS SYRIA

- × *Mode of transmission (n=371)*
1987–2010 (Syrian nationals):
- × Heterosexual (63%)
- × MSM (10.5%) (14% of HIV+ men)
- × blood transfusions (8.5%)
- × MTCT (5%)
- × IDU (5%)
- × Unknown (8.5%)

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL “RISK” FACTORS FOR HIV/AIDS

- × Socioeconomic factors
- × Work-related Mobility (labour migration, transport, sailors: very large group)
- × Regional conflicts & Human trafficking
- × Organised sex industry
- × Stigma and discrimination of PLHIV and criminalisation of most-at-risk populations
- × Low condom use

MOST-AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Who are most at risk?

- × Female Sex Workers (FSWs)
- × Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)
- × Injecting Drug Users (IDUs)

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

Particularly vulnerable groups:

- × Mobile men, Labour migrants (Lebanon, GCC, Europe), Long-distance truck drivers
- × Most-at-risk Adolescents & Youth (MARA/Y): Working girls, Young men working in workshops, factories
- × Wives of Men engaging in unprotected sex with multiple partners (sex worker clients; married MSM)

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO DATE:

STRENGTHS

- × Early recognition of HIV and response despite very low HIV prevalence
- × Many sectors involved: National AIDS Committee, State Planning Commission, key Ministries, & NGOs, UN, bilateral partners, CCM
- × Government funding of programmes and services (VCT, general education, ARVs for PLHIV, blood safety, HIV testing)
- × Support structures at National and Governorate levels
- × Key policies, KAP studies among MARPs and vulnerable groups

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO DATE:

KEY CHALLENGES (1)

- × Lack of adequate data on risk groups and risk behaviours
- × Lack of data on HIV and World of Work (workplace risks, labour migration and risk behaviours)
- × HIV programmes do not effectively reach MARPs and vulnerable groups
- × Low awareness and priority for HIV prevention in World of Work

NATIONAL RESPONSE TO DATE:

KEY CHALLENGES (2)

- × Protecting labour and employment rights of PLHIV
- × Lack of experience with HIV prevention in the workplace to reach vulnerable groups: labour migrants, young working men and women
- × Addressing stigma & discrimination of PLHIV in the workplace

PRIORITY AREAS NSP 2012-2016

- × 1. Surveillance, Research, M&E
- × 2. *Quality, comprehensiveness & coverage* of MARPs programmes
- × 3. Focus on *most vulnerable* groups among general population (*world of work central*)
- × 4. Treatment & Care for PLHIV
- × 5. Supportive legal, policy and social environments (*including in workplace*)
- × 6. Strengthen institutional and technical capacity (*including for workplace programmes*)

PRIORITY ISSUES FOR 2011-2015

- × *“Know your epidemic”*:
Improve understanding of HIV risks, including in World of Work
- × *Build capacity for HIV prevention*
Use most effective ways to reach vulnerable groups: Workplace central, especially for reaching (young) men and working women
- × Create *supportive environments* for HIV prevention (incl. legal, social, workplace)
- × Address *stigma and discrimination* of PLHIV in all sectors (health care, workplace, education)

HIV/AIDS INTERVENTIONS IN “THE WORLD OF WORK”

- × 1. Research on HIV & World of Work
- × 2. Workplace HIV prevention programmes
- × 3. Partnership building / Supportive environments
- × 4. Labour-related rights
- × 5. Mainstreaming HIV in policies and plans of private sector and Min. of Labour

1. RESEARCH ON HIV & WORLD OF WORK

- × 1. Special study on Syrian labour migrants (esp. GCC and Lebanon)
- × 2. Special study on Stigma & Discrimination of PLHIV in the workplace

2. WORKPLACE HIV PREVENTION

- × 3. Development of special IEC materials for migrant labourers
- × 4. Workplace HIV programmes for long-distance truck & taxi drivers, sailors & other Mobile men (Education, VCT promotion, World AIDS Day, Clinics of Labour Union & Women's Union)
- × 5. Pre-departure & Post-return programmes for Syrian labour migrants working in GCC and other countries (promote VCT and HIV education through test centres)

2. WORKPLACE HIV PREVENTION

- × 6. Joint HIV-education programmes for Syrian labourers in Lebanon with Lebanese NAP and private sector
- × 7. Operational research in context of Workplace programmes (→ *identify successful approaches*)

3. PARTNERSHIP BUILDING / SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS

- × 8. Partnerships between (future) Syrian PLHIV Association and private sector employers, Trade Unions
- × → Advocacy & lobbying for employment rights
- × → Address workplace stigma & discrimination
- × → Income generation activities

4. LABOUR RIGHTS OF PLHIV

- × 9. Review and revise existing legislation:
- × Impact on PLHIV in workplace
- × Mandatory HIV testing by employers
- × Regional discussion of national testing policies for migrant labourers

5. MAINSTREAMING HIV/AIDS IN POLICIES & PLANS PRIVATE SECTOR & MOLSA

- × “Mainstreaming” HIV/AIDS in Min. of Labour & Social Affairs (MOLSA)
- × Assess impact of current policies of Ministry of Labour in HIV prevention & care
- × Develop MOLSA policies & guidelines for HIV-related issues