THE HIV epidemic in Papua continued to expand at a steady rate with an overall prevalence of 2.3 percent. 2013 Integrated Biological Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) showed that the bulk of infections were occurring among native Papuans with prevalence at 2.9 percent compared to non-Papuans at 0.4 percent. Geographically, prevalence in highland areas was slightly higher than lowland areas at 3 percent compared to 2.3 percent.

HIV related knowledge was also relatively low with 32 percent of IBBS respondents demonstrating understanding of how HIV is transmitted...
and only 9 percent showing comprehensive knowledge of HIV. Most frequent risk behaviours reported by respondents included both reported casual and commercial sex without consistent use of condoms.

Therefore, well targeted workplace programmes can offer effective HIV and sexual transmitted infection (STI) prevention education that is integrated into existing safety and health and ongoing communication programmes. The potential to promote and deliver health care and treatment (HCT) services through routine opt out testing linked to annual medical exams, through special promotions events for mobile testing, and through referrals to external services is immense. This is particularly important in light of recent evidence that shows early HIV testing and treatment is highly beneficial for both prevention efforts and treatment results, significantly reducing new infections and supporting improved long term health for individuals.

**Integrated Biological Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS)** showed that the bulk of infections were occurring among native Pauans with prevalence at **2.9 percent** compared to non-Pauans at **0.4 percent**.
The crucial role of private sector in delivering HIV prevention, treatment and care

The private sector in Papua and West Papua has strong potential to deliver effective, low cost and sustainable HCT services and support to the most vulnerable segments of the population. To strengthen the workplace prevention programme and support the important role of private enterprises, the ILO in collaboration with UNAIDS launched the Voluntary Counselling and Testing at Work (VCT@Work) initiative at the global level in June 2013 and nationally in Indonesia in December 2013.

The initiative is aimed to promote early testing and treatment programme through the workplace. Workers are likely to undergo VCT when their employers take steps to protect employment rights and ensure confidentiality and non-discrimination for people with the virus. The ILO International Labour Standard on HIV and AIDS (Recommendation on HIV and AIDS in the World of Work, 2010, No. 200) calls on employers to eliminate discrimination based on real or perceived HIV status and ensure work access to prevention, care and treatment services.

Through its Mobilizing the Private Sector to Deliver HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care in High Prevalence Areas of Papua and West Papua Project, the ILO provided technical assistance to the Provincial Manpower Offices in Papua and West Papua to increase private sector adherence to existing national and provincial policies on HIV in the workplace.

Funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Government of Australia
for two years (May 2014 – May 2016), the Project covered large-scale formal sector companies as well as informal sector work environments where workers were reached through supply chains, trade unions and industrial associations in partnership with civil society organizations.

**Priority districts and enterprise partners**

- Joint Operation Business Pertamina Petrochina Salawati (Salawati, West Papua) – Oil and Gas
- Pertamina RU 7 (Kasim, West Papua) – Oil and Gas
- Pertamina EP (Sorong, West Papua) – Oil and Gas
- Pertamina Marketing Operation Region 8 (West Papua and Papua) – Oil and Gas
- Hendrison Inti Persada (Klamono, West Papua) – Palm Plantation
- Hendrison Inti Kebun Sejahtera (Sorong, West Papua) – Palm Plantation
- Hendrison Iriana (Sorong, West Papua) – Plywood
- Sinarmas (Lereh, Papua) – Palm Plantation

*The initiative is aimed to promote early testing and treatment programme through the workplace.*
SEVERAL key measures were carried out to ensure the effective delivery of services and basic labour rights protection for workers living with HIV. Main activities conducted included:

- A policy or commitment to protect continued employment of worker living with HIV and ensuring confidentiality of their medical information.

- An ongoing communication strategy to deliver information on HIV prevention and promote benefits of early testing and treatment.

- A capacity building effort with in-house medical officers to provide confidential testing and treatment, in collaboration with external health service and civil community partners.

- Delivery of HCT services to workers using a variety of methods including mobile services bundled with other key health services, integrated HCT into annual medical exams with opt-out options and referrals with external public and civil society managed services.

- Delivery of adherence support to workers with HIV through in-house and/or external public services through supply chain, subcontractors and to key population groups in surrounding areas.

Lessons learnt on HIV workplace programme:

- A workplace HIV policy that protects the jobs and confidentiality of workers with HIV resulted in uptake of HIV testing and treatment referral. Testing, treatment and care linkages are most effective when such services are available at village-based clinics (Refer to the voices from the field: “I am as productive as other workers.”)

- A key lesson learned in this effort has been the fundamental role of the Manpower offices at all levels in driving private sector participation (Refer to the voices from the field: Local government of Papua to replicate HIV prevention programmes at workplace).

- Private sector workplaces are effective venues for HIV prevention, treatment and care services to reach unreached groups, such as indigenous Papuans and fill a major gap in National Programme coverage (Refer to the voices from the field: Private sectors in Papua and West Papua committed to prevent HIV at the workplaces).
TEN companies in Sorong and Jayapura districts (five companies in each district) have committed to continue the implementation of HIV workplace programmes, in collaboration with local governments through community health centers. These companies are committed to delivering effective HIV prevention, counselling and testing as well as treatment support services for their workers.

These companies implement a workplace HIV policy that protects jobs and confidentiality of workers with HIV. As a result, a total of 10,000 workers of these companies have received HIV prevention information through occupational safety and health (OSH) programmes, of which approximately 50 percent of them are indigenous Papuans. “We are committed as company is allowed to independently providing HIV related services. Innovative actions have been conducted

The initiative has helped us to reach more workers with HIV Testing and Counselling. Due to the long distance to the nearest hospital, we are now providing HIV treatment for workers living with HIV
in Papua and West Papua committed to prevent HIV at the workplaces

to attract workers to take HIV testing and treatment voluntarily. We conducted routine health talks and blood donors as well as gave away souvenirs,” explained dr Wilkananta from JOB Pertamina Petrochina.

Similar commitment was also raised by PT Sinar Mas in Jayapura. “The initiative has helped us to reach more workers with HIV Testing and Counselling. Due to the long distance to the nearest hospital, we are now providing HIV treatment for workers living with HIV. I hope the strong relationship between the company and the health office can be continued,” said dr Andreas Ari Wibowo representing PT Sinar Mas.

As a company doctor, Ari admitted that it was not easy to work in a remote area with limited resources. “But for me, this is the place where I can really help people who are often forgotten by the health system in general. My goal is to have all workers, particularly who are at high risk of HIV, receive a quality standard of health services.”

Editorial

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The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the ILO. For further information, please visit: www.ilo.org/jakarta
YOHANA* (name has been changed) is one of the plantation workers at one of the multinational company in Papua. She heard about HIV and AIDS, but she had never really learnt about it. She even never thought about HIV.

She started to learn more about HIV when her company began its HIV workplace programme. Her manager started to disseminate information related to HIV during their regular meetings. The manager shared and discussed about the importance of HIV testing and early detection.

“Since then I started to hear more about HIV. But I did not really pay attention to it yet until one day, in one of the routine meeting, the manager said that the company was organizing an event called HIV testing,” said Yohana.

In the meeting, Yohana continued, the manager explained that the HIV testing should be taken voluntarily and the results of the testing would be confidential and would not affect the workers’ jobs.

“On the testing day, the company picked up the plantation workers. We gathered in a tent where snacks and drinks were provided. We had a session with the local Community Health Center. They explained about HIV prevention programme and offered an HIV testing to us,” she said, adding that after seeing her manager got tested first, she voluntarily joined the testing programme.

Three hours later, Yohana was informed that she was HIV positive. “I did not really understand what it meant. I was told that I had to go to hospital in the city,” she continued. Confused and uncertain, Yohana did not know what to do. She did not have money to go to the hospital and she did not want to miss work.

“Two days later, the manager took me to the hospital. He told me that I could still work as usual. I did not have to worry about losing my job. My HIV status does not affect my employment status. I am grateful that my company is very supportive,” she said.

Today, Yohana does not have to travel far to the city to get her treatment and medications. The company has provided HIV treatment and care at the company’s clinic. “The company regularly gives me the medicines and condoms every month and I just need to consult with the company’s doctor that is more convenient for me. Again, I am grateful,” Yohana concluded.
“MY NAME is Yohana and I am living with HIV,” narrated Mariana Renata, a top Indonesian model, joining other artists and athletes around the world in the ILO’s “Voice of the Voiceless” initiative to give voice to people living with HIV/AIDS who are not able to tell their own stories. The initiative also aims at reducing HIV-related discrimination at work and promoting voluntary testing and counselling.

Mariana voices the true story of Yohana, a plantation worker in Papua, Indonesia, in fluent English and French. She was diagnosed by HIV after taking a voluntary testing organized by her company. Uncertain and confused, Yohana was terrified. Yet, she felt lucky as her company supported her and provided her with medication treatment.

“We are excited to work with Mariana Renata narrating the HIV/AIDS real-life story from Indonesia. As an actress and top model of Indonesia, we believe that Yohana’s story can help in reducing stigma and discrimination faced by workers living with HIV,” said Gita Lingga, Communications Officer of the ILO Jakarta.

Mariana’s participation in this initiative was pro-bono. “Many people living with HIV have no access to information and to care as well as treatment. Even in many countries they lose their right to employment,” said Mariana in the midst of five-hour shooting in Jakarta.

Mariana is known for her role in Janji Joni film (Joni’s Promise in English), a model for Lux soap and the winner of the 2005 Most Favorite Supporting Actress award at the MTV Indonesia Movie Awards. Focusing her career on modelling, she is now living in New York city, USA.
Local government of Papua to replicate HIV prevention programmes at workplace

THE Head of Provincial Manpower Office in Papua, Drs. Yan Piet Rawar thanked the ILO for its supports to mobilize private sector in delivering HIV and AIDS programmes in Papua during his meeting with the Country Director of the ILO in Indonesia, Francesco d’Ovidio in January 2016. He also recognized the activities conducted under the ILO’s Mobilizing the Private Sector to Deliver HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care in High Prevalence Areas of Papua and West Papua Project, yielded to commitments from five companies in Papua to continue the implementation of the HIV prevention programmes at the workplaces.

“Under the public-private partnership, local government will attempt to replicate the HIV prevention models to other areas of intervention that will be in collaboration with the Provincial Health Office. However, we still need technical supports and assistances from the ILO, particularly to implement the ILO International Labour Standards related to Conventions that have been ratified by Indonesia,” stated Drs. Yans.

Similar commitments were also raised by Suka Harjono, SSos., Msi, Deputy Head of District, who also acts as the Head of AIDS Commission in Sorong district and Harold Monim, S.Sos.,MSi, Head of Labour Office in Jayapura district. They both emphasized that HIV and AIDS programmes are not solely the responsibility of the government.

“Active participation from private sectors is crucially needed as workplace plays an important role in HIV prevention programme. We need to protect workers from HIV, and there should not be any discrimination because of HIV,” they said.  

Under the public-private partnership, local government will attempt to replicate the HIV prevention models to other areas of intervention that will be in collaboration with the Provincial Health Office.