

COUNTERING THE TREND OF INCREASED DIAGNOSIS AMONG MOBILE AND MIGRANT POPULATIONS

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In 2017 in the Eastern states, the ratio of new HIV diagnoses in gay men to heterosexual men was approximately 65:35, whereas in WA it was 50:50. Our more mobile population requires a broader approach to HIV related education, prevention and care. At the end of 2018, a program was developed at Western Australian AIDS Council and M Clinic based on the five priorities outlined in the HIV and Mobility in Australia: Road Map for Action report, and the consequent creation of a Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility in WA (CoPAHM WA).

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN AIDS COUNCIL AREAS FOR ACTION:

Community Mobilisation of Key Migrant Populations and International Students

Peer education: training and educating members of CALD communities and student bodies so that appropriate and informed information is disseminated via trusted parties, eliminating hearsay and inaccurate fact sharing. Six separate training sessions held educating 65 people from CALD and student communities.

- Address barriers to testing: a pilot self-test program was started.
- Increasing engagement with communities/ university guilds:
- All five universities provided with safe sex packs and sexual health resources.

Development of Services for Key Migrant Populations and International Students

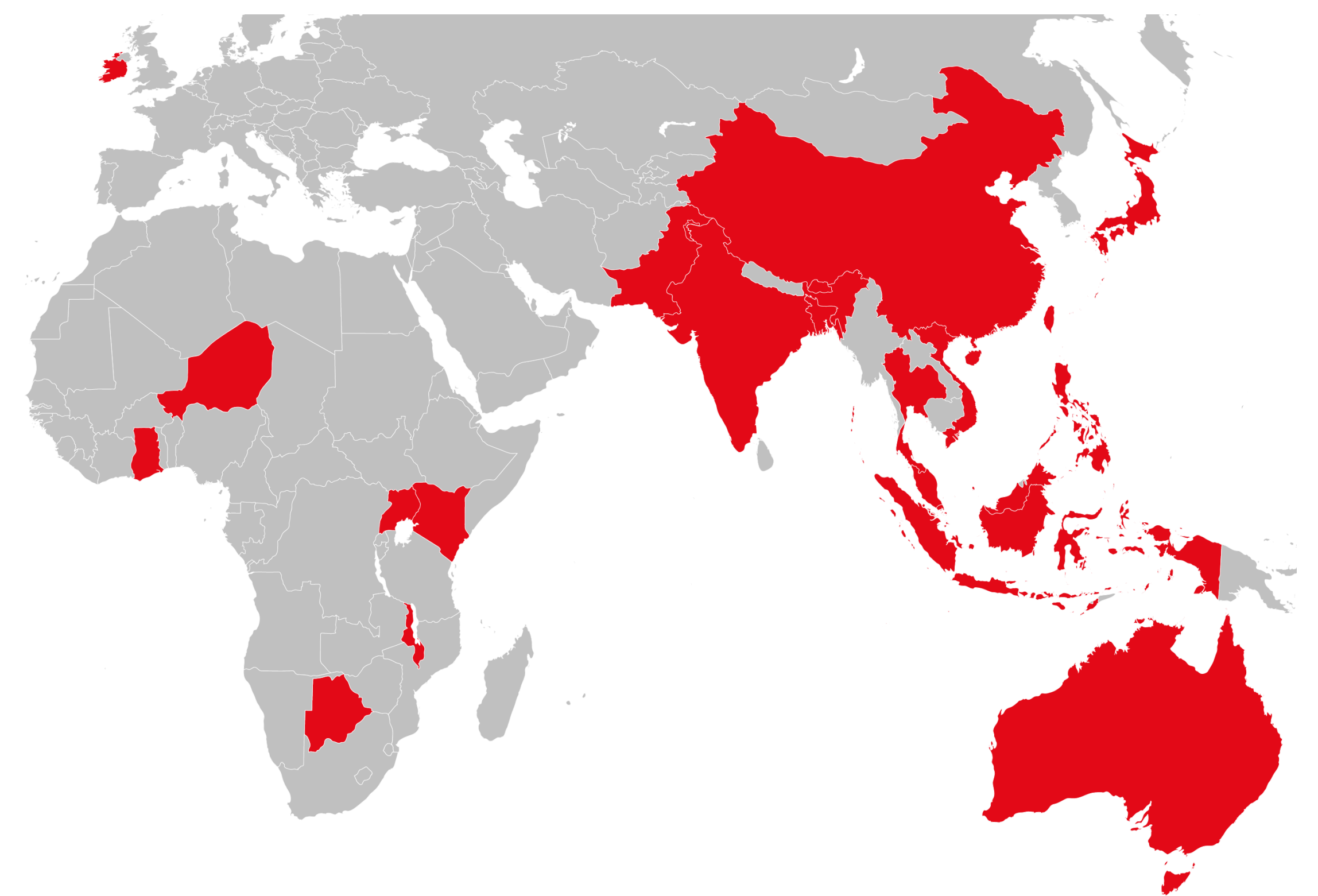
- Offering access to rapid health testing: rapid HIV testing is provided at M Clinic with a health professional Mondays to Thursdays. The Atomo HIV Self Test Kits were sold through the clinic, with 24 sold between May and July 2019.
- Promote free/anonymous testing and treatment services for non-Medicare cardholders: M Clinic provided affordably priced appointments covering all testing, treatment and vaccinations. Fees were waived if the client met certain criteria, of which approximately 30% of clients met.
- Improve targeting of key populations for PrEP implementation: Efficacy of PrEP use was discussed in all six training sessions ran to CALD populations.
- Work with student accommodation: collaboration with student accommodation, e.g. distributing educational brochures about HIV and sexual health through the Student Housing Company and UWA's residential colleges.
- Provide education to Australians travelling overseas to high HIV prevalent countries: The 'My Travel Health Passport' resource was developed, a concise booklet covering broad travel health topics such as vaccinations, medication and food safety, and HIV harm reduction including condom use, PrEP, PEP and testing. The resource was designed to be accessible by a broad range of travellers, including university students and heterosexual males. The resource was distributed to 3 universities, 8 medical centres and 8 backpacker hostels.

CoPAHM WA (Community of Practice for Action on HIV and Mobility in Western Australia) Pilot Project beginning in 2020

Exploring the efficacy of HIV self-testing to increase HIV screening among priority CALD populations. The project will use peer education and the Atomo HIV Self Test kits to increase HIV knowledge and testing among adults from Asian backgrounds in Western Australia, including migrants and refugees, international students and GBMSM.

Between June and July 2019 WAAC ran six training sessions

with a total of 65 participants, covering topics including HIV transmission, treatment and prevention, STIs, consent, alcohol and other drug use and LGBTIQ+ health.



Participants were from twenty countries, including:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, China, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Uganda, Vietnam.

6 SEXUAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS
65 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
24 RAPID HIV KITS DISTRIBUTED
715 TRAVEL PASSPORTS DISTRIBUTED

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

(Data from training sessions)

- 100% of attendees surveyed stated they felt more knowledgeable about HIV (7.1% agreeing and 92.9% strongly agreeing)
- 100% of respondents surveyed stated they had a greater understanding of HIV risk reduction strategies, including condom use, PrEP, PEP and U=U
- 85.71% of respondents stated they were more likely to test for HIV and STIs as part of looking after their sexual health.
- 78.57% stated they intended to use condoms or another form of HIV prevention during their next sexual encounter.