

Scientific and management excellence

IHRG is committed to high quality social research, and is based in a leading Australian university which demands and delivers scientific excellence and best practice project management and financial accountability.

Country experience and partnerships

Through a commitment to social research in South Asia, South East Asia, China, and the Pacific, IHRG has built effective relationships with research institutions, communities and policy makers across the region.

Targeted social research solutions

Drawing on a lively intellectual environment, the latest science, broad experience in-country, and by working with AusAID consortium partners who live and work in countries in the region.

Committed to capacity development

IHRG builds organisational capacity in national universities and research institutions and develops the individual capacity of local researchers.



A commitment to research excellence

The International HIV Research Group has an appreciation of HIV and AIDS social, behavioural, economic, and political issues and is expert in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies.

The team has designed and managed research, and published widely in the thematic areas essential to understanding and reversing the epidemics of Asia and the Pacific: sex work, injecting drug use, men who have sex with men, youth, community responses to HIV, mental health; peer education, STI control, counselling and testing and ART.

With the institutional support of the University of New South Wales, the International HIV Research Group is committed to:

- scientific and research excellence
- capacity development of our partners
- effective project design and management, and
- rigorous financial accountability.

Contact us

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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Providing the evidence base to respond effectively to HIV

“HIV professionals must continuously build on the evidence base to ensure sound and effective policies and practices in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care”

4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Sydney, 2007





Rigorous social research

The International HIV Research Group conducts outstanding HIV social research in Asia and the Pacific region in partnership with local researchers and institutions.

We believe that good social research relies on local understandings of social settings and cultures – the contexts in which HIV infection occurs and in which the impact of HIV is felt.

Like all other aspects of the response to HIV there must be a **country-led, country-owned social research response.**

Our projects demonstrate that social science evidence can be used in every part of a country's response to HIV. IHRG work has provided:

1. Baseline behavioural data before setting up HIV prevention programs
2. Long-term behavioural monitoring of progress
3. In-depth social data to enhance understandings of why people are at risk
4. Evidence of stigma and discrimination
5. Assessment of the social impacts of the roll-out of new treatment and support programs
6. Social assessments of policies and laws related to HIV.

Case study: collaborative research and capacity development

Data collection and analysis: In partnership with the Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, we trained 10 early career researchers to design and implement research and to analyse research data. These early career researchers conducted the first multi-site study of the social impacts of ART in PNG, a mixed method study of PLWHA on ART. **Policy design based on strategic evidence:** In collaboration with *Igat Hope*, the PNG PLWHA national body, findings from this study have been developed into recommendations to improve the treatment, care and support of people on ART in PNG.

Committed to building local research capacity

Central to the work of International HIV Research Group is a commitment to building local research capacity.

Strengthening institutional capacity

In order to deliver excellent results we work with local universities and research institutes whose local knowledge ensures the consideration of essential but sometimes shrouded sociocultural and political issues. In establishing partnerships with local institutions we build research, managerial and fund-raising capacity, representing an important contribution to indigenous, long-term, sustainable social research response to the HIV epidemic in the region.

Developing individual research capacity

Working on International HIV Research Group projects, researchers from China to Papua New Guinea have increased their personal professional capacity and prospects. In doing so the national pool of skills researchers has been enhanced.



Snapshot of recent research projects

Women and men's experiences of PMTCT in Papua New Guinea: A gendered socio-cultural analysis of barriers and facilitators for program engagement 2009 – 2011 (AusAID)

In the Holy Spirit we trust: Health, healing and HIV in the Revival Church 2009 – 2011 (NACS, PNG)

HIV Aid Financing and Harmonisation in the Pacific 2009 (UNAIDS)

The art of living: the social experiences of treatment for PLWH in Papua New Guinea 2008 – 2009 (NACS, PNG)

Targeted HIV Social Research Program 2008 - 2009 (AusAID)

HIV Consortium for Capacity Development for Asia and the Pacific 2008 – 2011 (AusAID)

Strengthening HIV Social Research amongst Chinese Social Researchers 2008 – 2009 (AusAID)

Access to condoms and their use in Vanuatu and Tonga 2008 (Global Fund and the South Pacific Commission)

HIV/AIDS Behavioural Surveillance in Timor Leste 2007 – 2009 (Timor Leste MoH and Global Fund)

Strengthening HIV-related Social Research Capacity in PNG Project 2005 - 2008 (AusAID)

Sri Lanka Behavioural Surveillance 2005 - 2008 (World Bank)

HIV Epidemiology Modeling and Impact Study 2005 (AusAID)

Young people's attitudes towards sex, HIV and condoms in the Eastern Highlands Province, PNG (AusAID)

For details of these and other projects please see:
<http://ihrg.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au>