

Australian International Health Institute

The Australian International Health Institute (AIHI) strives for a world where developing nations are able to meet the health needs of their populations.

AIHI is increasing the capacity of health workers and planners across the Asia Pacific region through education, research, leadership development and health specialist services.

- ❖ **International health education**, training and workforce development;
- ❖ **Capacity building** for the conduct and dissemination of international public health research;
- ❖ **Leadership** in health policy development and health program planning and evaluation to ensure sustainability in responses to critical health issues; and
- ❖ Engagement in **project design, implementation and technical assistance** consultancies which strengthen the health systems of developing nations.



Photo: Kyi Minn

As a not-for-profit company of the University of Melbourne, AIHI brings together the full capacity and resources of the University, linking biomedical with social research to the practice of international public health.

Recognising that sectors other than health make a major contribution to the health of societies, AIHI brings a multidisciplinary approach to international health. This includes engagement with the faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Law, Education, Arts, Engineering and Economics and the many research units and Centres of Excellence at the University, in addition to a range of national and international alliances.

AIHI's focus areas of primary health care and disease burden acknowledge the critical and emergent health issues facing countries of the region.



Photo: Beth Fuller

burden evidence-base advocacy evaluation health planning policy alliances
vietnam health promotion population mekong needs assessment reproductive
settings malaria water conflict impact prevention papua new guinea poverty



FOCUS AREAS

Primary Health Care

AIHI advocates for and develops effective responses to neglected and emerging health needs. This includes responses to disability, mental health promotion, water and health, adolescent health, women's and children's health, indigenous health, security and health, mobile populations, tobacco control and non-communicable diseases.



Burden of Disease

AIHI is focussed on strengthening programs of prevention, care and treatment. This is both for communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and vaccine preventable diseases, and non-communicable disease in relation to tobacco use, nutrition and mental health.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Education & Training

AIHI is building the capacity of health workers and planners to respond to priority health needs. This is through strengthening skills of practitioners and planners in development settings as well as Australian international health professionals. AIHI delivers a growing program of undergraduate and postgraduate education and research in international health. We are working with partners in the Asia Pacific region to strengthen public health education and to deliver innovative education and training in areas such as adolescent health, safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS, disability and tobacco control.

Research

AIHI is building capacity in the Asia Pacific region to conduct and disseminate public health research. We provide technical assistance to strengthen the evidence base essential for effective health planning. This includes rapid assessments, situation analyses, planning community interventions, impact assessments, evaluation of effectiveness, and qualitative or quantitative surveys. We provide training in research methods and evaluation of public health interventions. AIHI supports research degree students and visiting fellows through supervision and mentoring.

Leadership & Advocacy

AIHI provides leadership in response to critical health issues. We raise awareness through public forums and seminars and contribute to public debate on health. The Institute initiates dialogue with government and industry policy-makers. Internationally, we are working towards sustainable health outcomes through involvement in policy revision and development and health program planning and evaluation. Our facilitation of Special Interest Groups strengthens networks and fosters a growing commitment to neglected health issues such as disability and development.

Health Specialist Services

AIHI implements projects and provides quality health specialists to strengthen the health systems of developing nations. The activities encompass education, training, research and leadership, using the skills from within the University of Melbourne and our Australian and international partners. With funding from donors, we provide technical assistance to strengthen immunisation programs and combat diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB.

Striving for a world where developing nations are able to meet the health needs of their populations



ACROSS THE REGION

- ✧ Accredited education and training program that addresses critical and emergent issues in international health. These include child health, adolescent health, disability, harm reduction, health promotion and the global health impacts of drug use.
- ✧ Regional training of senior immunisation staff.
- ✧ Development of appropriate vaccine and immunisation technology.

NORTH ASIA

- ✧ Building capacity of local NGOs to implement innovative community-based responses to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- ✧ Technical advisory role to NGOs for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS/STIs.
- ✧ Strengthening health services management and delivery in the areas of primary health care and HIV/AIDS.

SOUTH ASIA

- ✧ Technical assistance for the design, planning and evaluation of projects to prevent HIV/AIDS transmission among drugs users in South Asia.
- ✧ Regional forum to foster increased political leadership and an affirmative policy environment for responding to HIV/AIDS.
- ✧ Residential program for Australian health and development students to participate in community-based primary health care in India.
- ✧ Reduction of HIV prevalence in tribal populations of NE India through the scaling-up of local NGO activities.
- ✧ Program in response to regional burden of communicable disease including TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- ✧ Regional training of key ministry of health staff in HIV Program design and development.
- ✧ Human resource development and institutional strengthening of health sector staff, particularly nurses and midwives.
- ✧ Capacity building in developing gender-specific tobacco control.
- ✧ Evaluation of bilateral Country Health Sector Strategies.
- ✧ Strengthening capacity for research and control of malaria and parasitic diseases.

PACIFIC

- ✧ Training in adolescent health strategic planning.
- ✧ Production of health promotion resources for schools in the Western Pacific region.
- ✧ Technical advisory role on women's and children's health projects.



Photo: Beth Fuller

AIHI brings a partnership approach to international health, linking with non-government organisations, Australian and regional institutes and universities, funding agencies and international donors.

Our approach embraces cross-cultural learning and exchange for the design, management, implementation and evaluation of health programs. AIHI forges alliances across education, research, capacity building and leadership development and for the scaling-up of long-term regional responses to communicable and non-communicable disease.

Working with our partners and communities in Australia and the Asia Pacific region, we promote alliances that strengthen responses to the needs of low income countries.

REGIONAL PARTNERS

Based on our commitment to building capacity and generating sustainable project outcomes, AIHI prioritises engagement with local partners, populations and the health workforce.

In recent years, AIHI has established a partnership network which includes local and indigenous non-government organisations, regional ministries of health, and the public health departments of universities in more than twelve countries in the region.

AIHI also has a long-standing partnership and learning exchange program with the Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, Central India.

AIHI leads training, research and evaluations and technical advisory services on international public health issues in the Asia Pacific. The delivery of these health specialist services has been in collaboration with the regional and country offices of multilateral agencies including the development banks, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNODC and UNFPA; donor agencies such as AusAID and DFID; and philanthropic agencies such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

UNIVERSITY of MELBOURNE PARTNERS

AIHI's location within the University of Melbourne is instrumental in forging multidisciplinary partnerships that maximise the contribution to international health.

AIHI is allied with many of the University's teaching and research centres and units. AIHI works with centres within the School of Population Health including the Program Evaluation Unit, the Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, and the Centre for International Mental Health. AIHI actively collaborates with departments and units within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, including the Centre for International Child Health, the Centre for Adolescent Health and the Schools of Nursing, Rural Health and Physiotherapy, respectively.

AIHI also partners with schools and departments within the Faculties of Law, Education and Arts, and

AUSTRALIAN PARTNERS

Through the scope of our program work, AIHI has fostered alliances with institutes and schools associated with other universities, federal and state government departments and commercial project management companies. AIHI has teamed with like-minded organisations to collectively address key issues in international health including HIV/AIDS, water, vaccine development, health promotion, disability, security and health.

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Photo: Jocanna Hayler

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