Regional Field Perspectives:

Community Support to Asian Children
- What are the best models of care
  & what's new
Some models from Thailand
Wiang Ping Children’s Home

- uses three-pronged approach
- provides shelter and education for abandoned infected/affected children and other orphans
- promotes foster home & adoption
- works with NGOs and communities to support caring for infected/affected children in the family & community, and prevent child abandonment
Community Health Project

• Established by PLHIV
• Co-ordinates with community leaders, government, schools
• Income-generating activity for female PLHIV and housewives; savings groups and community revolving fund

Benefits from revolving fund provide scholarships, health care and emergency fund for infected/affected children & other needy children
Community Care Project

- Established by pastor at local church to fight stigma & discrimination
- Organizes day care centre for young children inc. the infected/affected, and regular day camps for older affected children: life skills, self-esteem, community action
- Works with schools, local government, community leaders
- Mobilizes community resources to meet children’s basic needs
- Trains and involves affected youth as peer educators, facilitators, and organizers
Home & Community Care Project

- Works with daycare centres, schools, local government, community leaders, faith leaders
- Mobilizes scholarships and provides food allowance
- Provides vocational training for affected children & family
- Organizes day trips for affected children and allows 1 HIV-negative guest per child to promote self-esteem
- Involves affected children in community research and action
We Understand Group

• Conducts art class, art therapy for affected children
• Organizes exhibitions of the children’s art
• Promotes affected children’s self-expression, life skills, and self-esteem
• Policy advocacy, capacity building, networking, materials development, and public education on issues related to children affected by HIV/AIDS
Help Age Asia

- Works with local NGOs, older persons groups, community and faith leaders, academics, local government
- Promotes/supports roles of grandparents as care-providers + communications between generations
- Emotional, networking, capacity-building, and income-generating support for care-providers
- Similar initiatives in other Asian countries
A model from the Philippines: KGPP (ILOILO)

- collaborates with LGUs, NGOs, academics, youth groups, communities
- emotional & social support to at-risk children/youth
- provides education, life skills, behavioural change communications,
RH & HIV/AIDS education, leadership, camps & exposure trips

• uses dream-building, self-assessment of risk behaviours, self-measurement of progress

• promotes peer education, peer mentoring and self-appreciation
Some models from Vietnam

The Mothers and Wives Clubs (Haiphong)

- reduce stigma and discrimination against PLWA in their community
- volunteers provide home-based care
- mobilize community to understand children’s emotional health and needs, and to act on them
- provide “study corners” for children, motivated by respect and the will to protect the children’s future.
Comprehensive Care and Service Centre (HoChiMinh City)

- Collaborates with the local chapter of the Women’s union, Friends Help Friends Club, and PLHIV volunteers/peer educators
- Conducts home visits to affected children and family
- Support and referrals
A model from Myanmar

The Trishaw Project (Yangon + Mytkyeena)

- supports infected and affected children through supporting the family
- focuses on women whose husbands died of AIDS and who have to take care of their children alone
- combines income-generation with women’s empowerment, stigma reduction, HIV/AIDS education, and sustainable support for affected children
Challenges

• Stigma against PLHIV and family
• Inadequate understanding of children’s needs for psychological, emotional and spiritual support
• Compartmentalizing way of working among agencies and funders
• Creating genuine local ownership and long-term sustainability
• Going to scale & linking local response with policy advocacy/development
  Knowledge management
Lessons learned: Key elements of effective models

• Focus on inclusion, not exclusion; empowerment, not welfare
• Link prevention, care and support
• Involve family and community, those who matter in the children’s life
• Engage multi-sectoral contributions and participation
• Reduce stigma & discrimination
• Promote self-esteem, create hope, and provide psychological support in addition to basic needs and scholarships
• Include life skills, reproductive health, leadership and other skills necessary for preparing the children for the future
Most importantly:

recognize, mobilize, and nurture the potentials of the children, family, and community 😊