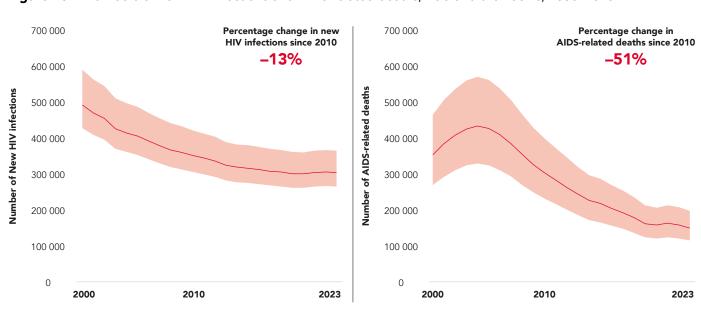
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 2023, 6.7 million [6.1 million–7.5 million] people living with HIV were residing in Asia and the Pacific, making this the world's largest epidemic after eastern and southern Africa. The region accounts for a quarter of annual new HIV infections globally (23%). People from key populations and their sex partners are disproportionately affected. Among countries with available data, HIV epidemics are growing in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Between 2010 and 2022, numbers of new HIV infections increased by 32% among gay men and other men who have sex with men and by 85% among non-client sex partners of people from key populations (1) (Figure 10.2).

Numbers of new HIV infections are declining, but not fast enough

Figure 10.1 Numbers of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, Asia and the Pacific, 2000–2023



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/).

1



2023 DATA

- **13%** decrease in new HIV infections since 2010
- **51%** decrease in AIDS-related deaths since 2010
- People living with HIV: 6.7 million
 [6.1 million–7.5 million]
- New HIV infections:300 000 [270 000–370 000]
- AIDS-related deaths: 150 000 [110 000–200 000]

Testing and treatment cascade (all ages):

- % of people living with HIV who know their HIV status: 78 [62–91]
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment:
 67 [53–78]
- % of people living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load: 65 [58–73]

Financing the HIV response

 Resource availability for HIV: US\$ 3.3 billion [64% gap to meet the 2025 target] Efforts aimed at broadening access to combination HIV prevention services—including harm reduction, self-testing, online services and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—continue across much of the region, but major gaps persist.

Median coverage of prevention services for people who inject drugs was only 21% in 2023 (six reporting countries¹). Coverage of opioid agonist maintenance therapy was even lower, at 9% (nine reporting countries²). Only three countries³ reported distributing more than 200 needles and syringes per person who injects drugs per year. Legal and societal barriers prevent many people who use drugs from accessing necessary services.

PrEP is included in national HIV guidelines in 20 countries and is being provided in 17 of them, with notable progress reported in Australia, Cambodia, New Zealand, Thailand and Viet Nam. Regional PrEP coverage remains below 10%. Only 204 000 people used PrEP at least once in 2023, compared with the target of 8.2 million people by 2025. HIV self-testing is part of the national policy in 23 countries. Virtual interventions to create demand for services and to reach and engage clients in services are expanding, but significant gaps persist in prevention service coverage for people from key populations. Young people from key populations face significant barriers to HIV services and are highly vulnerable, but frequently overlooked; HIV prevention programmess need to better address their needs (2).

Numbers of AIDS-related deaths in the region have declined by 51% since 2010 (Figure 10.1). Progress towards the testing, treatment and viral load suppression targets varies across countries and populations in the region. Antiretroviral coverage for people living with HIV reached over 80% in Cambodia, Nepal, New Zealand and Thailand, but was below 50% in eight⁴ of the 21 countries in the region where data were available. Less than half of estimated people living with HIV were on treatment in Afghanistan (9%), Bangladesh (49%), Fiji (28%), Indonesia (31%), the Islamic Republic of Iran (43%), Mongolia (39%), Pakistan (15%) and the Philippines (43%). The transition to dolutegravir as the first-line HIV treatment regimen across the region is expected to improve treatment outcomes.

¹ Bangladesh, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam.

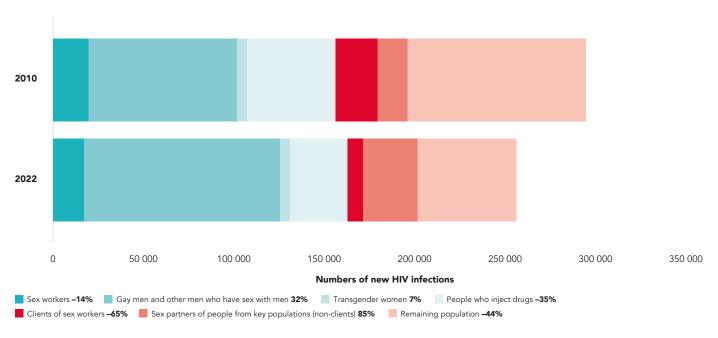
 $^{2\} Bangladesh,\ Cambodia\ Indonesia,\ Islamic\ Republic\ of\ Iran,\ Malaysia,\ Myanmar,\ Nepal,\ Thailand,\ Viet\ Nam.$

³ Bangladesh, China, Myanmar.

⁴ Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines.

The majority of new HIV infections in Asia and the Pacific are among people from key populations

Figure 10.2 Distribution of new HIV infections and percentage change among adults, Asia and the Pacific, 2010 and 2022



Source: Korenromp EL, Sabin K, Stover J, Brown T, Johnson LF, Martin-Hughes R, et al. New HIV infections among key populations and their partners in 2010 and 2022, by world region: a multisources estimation. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2024;95(1S):e34–e45.

In the region, there are 120 000 [100 000–140 000] children aged 0–14 years living with HIV, making up 9% of the total number of children living with HIV globally. Indonesia comprises 26% of the regional total of new HIV infections among children, followed by India (23%) and Papua New Guinea (8%).

To address the continuing disparities in access to HIV services and to improve the overall effectiveness of HIV strategies in the region, countries should scale up HIV investments, focus their HIV programmes on the populations that are most affected, and deploy new technologies and innovations, including HIV self-testing, PrEP and virtual interventions.

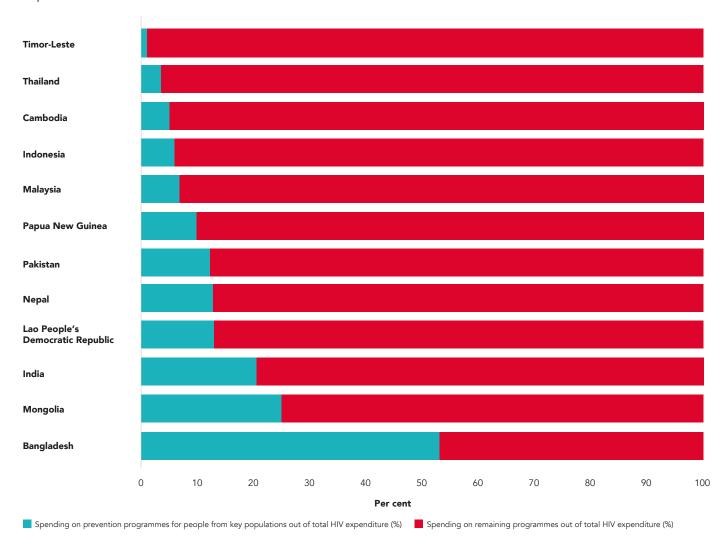
The widespread use of social media offers further avenues for generating knowledge about HIV and facilitating access to services, although it also requires protective policies to create supportive environments. Many countries in the region lack comprehensive legal protections for LGBTQI+ people, which exposes them to stigma, discrimination and violence and leads to poor health outcomes. Polarization and backlashes from conservative groups against LGBTQI+ people, women and girls and other vulnerable populations are growing (3, 4), including in online spaces (5).

A median of 15% of sex workers (10 reporting countries), 4% of gay men and other men who have sex with men (eight reporting countries), 22% of people who inject drugs (six reporting countries) and 19% of transgender people (eight reporting countries) reported avoiding accessing health-care services in the past 12 months due to stigma and discrimination.

- A median of 7% of sex workers (three reporting countries), 9% of gay men and other men who have sex with men (two reporting countries), 36% of people who inject drugs (two reporting countries) and 60% of transgender people (three reporting countries) reported experiencing stigma and discrimination in the past six months.
- A median of 9% of sex workers (five reporting countries), 6% of gay men and other men who have sex with men (four reporting countries), 20% of people who inject drugs (two reporting countries) and 27% of transgender people (five reporting countries) reported experiencing physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months.

HIV prevention programmes for key populations are underfunded

Figure 10.3 Proportion of spending on prevention programmes for people from key populations out of total HIV expenditure, selected countries in Asia and the Pacific where data are available, 2024

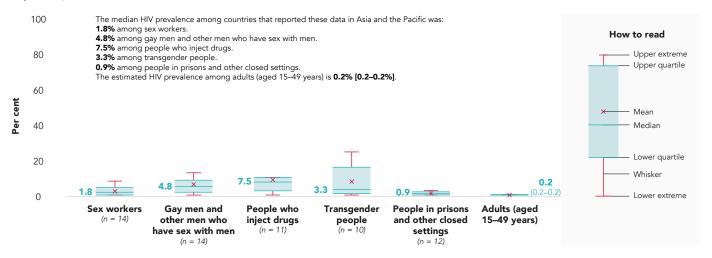


Source: UNAIDS financial estimates, July, 2024 (http://hivfinancial.unaids.org/hivfinancialdashboards.html); Global AIDS Monitoring, 2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/).

Over the past decade, external funding for HIV programmes has decreased by 60%, dropping from its peak of US\$ 1.4 billion in 2011 to US\$ 591 million in 2023. During the same period, the contribution of domestic resources has risen by 47%, increasing the share of domestic resources from 58% of total HIV funding in 2011 to 82% in 2023. HIV prevention is crucial in this region, but recent data reported to Global AIDS Monitoring show that 12 of 17 countries rely on international sources for more than 50% of their prevention financing. There are also inadequate investments in programming for key populations: in 2022 79% of new HIV infections occurred among people from key populations and their sex partners in the region, but recent data reported to Global AIDS Monitoring show that in nine of 13 countries, less than 15% of HIV expenditure was devoted to prevention programmes for key populations (Figure 10.3).

Empowered communities are essential for the region's HIV response, but community-led responses remain underfunded. Social contracting, whereby governments partner with and procure services from community-led organizations, continues to be a potentially powerful but underused option for reaching people from key populations. Continued donor funding will also be critical for the sustainability of community-led responses in the region.

Figure 10.4 HIV prevalence among people from key populations compared with adults (aged 15–49 years), reporting countries in Asia and the Pacific, 2019–2023



Source: Global AIDS Monitoring, 2020–2024; UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/). Note: n = number of countries. Total number of reporting countries = 39.

The adult prevalence uncertainty bounds define the range within which the true value lies (if it can be measured). Narrow bounds indicate that an estimate is precise, while wide bounds indicate greater uncertainty regarding the estimate.

Table 10.1 Reported estimated size of key populations, Asia and the Pacific, 2019–2023

Country	National adult population (aged 15–49 years) for 2023 or relevant year	Sex workers	Sex workers as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	Gay men and other men who have sex with men	Gay men and other men who have sex with men as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	People who inject drugs	People who inject drugs as percentage of adult population (aged 15-49 years)	Transgender people	Transgender people as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	People in prisons and other closed settings	People in prisons and other closed settings as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)
Afghanistan	20 880 000			10 100		25 700					
Bangladesh	96 798 000										
Bhutan	479 000	600	0.13%								
Cambodia	8 650 000	52 300	0.61%	94 000	1.09%			15 700	0.18%		
India	782 743 000									2 255 800	0.29%
Indonesia	146 314 000	271 800	0.19%	847 300	0.58%			43 100	0.03%	268 000	0.19%
Islamic Republic of Iran	48 515 000									244 400	0.50%
Lao People's Democratic Republic	4 205 000										
Malaysia	19 129 000					60 000	0.32%				
Mongolia	1 735 000	7300	0.43%					800			
Myanmar	29 277 000	77 500	0.26%			116 400	0.40%				
Nepal	17 024 000	85 500	0.50%			33 900	0.20%				
New Zealand	2 434 000					2800		10 400	0.43%	8400	0.35%
Papua New Guinea	5 527 000			77 700	1.41%			5100			
Philippines	62 157 000	127 700	0.21%	800 500	1.29%	7700		239 100	0.38%	125 000	0.20%
Singapore	2 871 000									8000	0.28%
Thailand	33 723 000	106 600	0.32%	600 100	1.78%	56 700	0.17%			269 700	0.80%
Timor-Leste	722 000	5600	0.78%	6800	0.93%			3100	0.42%		
Viet Nam	51 838 000			256 000	0.49%			9100			
Estimated regional m proportion as percent population (aged 15–	tage of adult		0.30%		0.79%		0.15%		0.09%		-

National population size estimate Local population size estimate Insufficient data No data

Global AIDS Monitoring, 2020–2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/).; Spectrum DemProj module, 2024.; United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2022 revision (https://population.un.org/dataportal/home?df=b97292bf-b220-4cce-9978-f1820bb65792). Source:

^a Guide for updating Spectrum HIV estimates, UNAIDS 2024 (https://hivtools.unaids.org/hiv-estimates-training-material-en/).
Estimates shown are government-provided estimates reported for 2019–2023. Additional and alternative estimates may be available from different sources, including the Key Notes:

Populations Atlas (https://kpatlas.unaids.org/), academic publications and institutional documents. The regions covered by the local population size estimates are as follows:

Afghanistan: Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Mazar (gay men and other men who have sex with men); Faizabad, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Mazar,

Zaranj (people who inject drugs) Mongolia: Ulaanbaatar

New Zealand: Northern Region Papua New Guinea: Lae, Mount Hagen, Port Moresby

Philippines: Cebu province

Viet Nam: Ha Noi

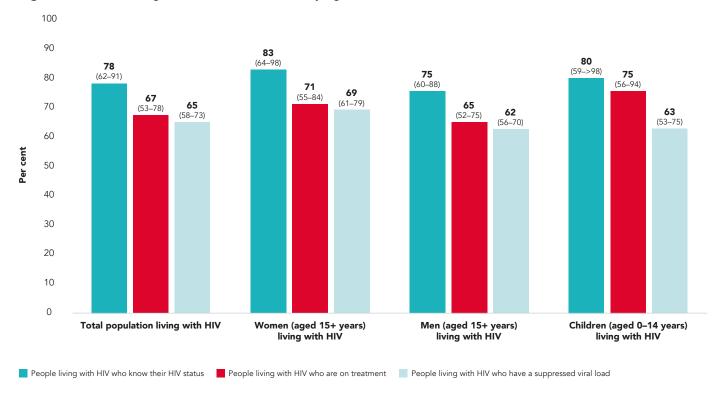
Note on methodology

The estimated size of key populations refers to reported values through Global AIDS Monitoring since 2019 only. A comprehensive review of the data was conducted during these reporting rounds and therefore estimates should not be compared with data presented in previous UNAIDS reports. As a result of this process, the estimates reported can be categorized as follows: "National population size estimate" refers to estimates that are empirically derived using one of the following methods: multiplier, capture-recapture, mapping/enumeration, network scale-up method (NSUM) or population-based survey, or respondent-driven sampling-successive sampling (RDS-SS). Estimates had to be national or a combination of multiple sites with a clear approach

[&]quot;Local population size estimate" refers to estimates that are empirically derived using one of the before mentioned methods but only for a subnational group of sites that are insufficient for

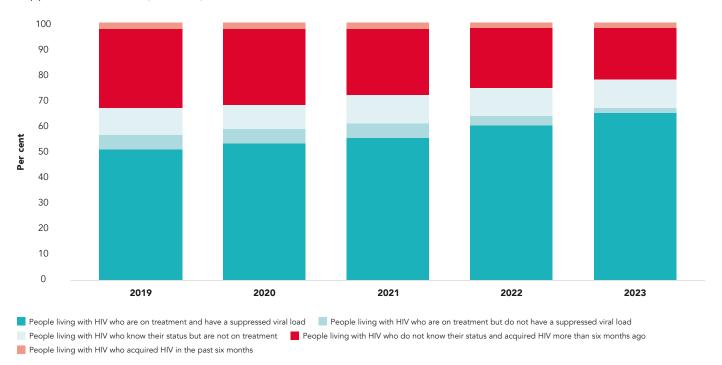
[&]quot;Insufficient data" refers to estimates derived from expert opinions, Delphi, wisdom of the crowds, programmatic results or registry, regional benchmarks or unknown methods. Estimates may or may not be national

Figure 10.5 HIV testing and treatment cascade, by age and sex, Asia and the Pacific, 2023



Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

Figure 10.6 Distribution of people living with HIV by recent infection, knowledge of status, treatment and viral load suppression, adults (aged 15+ years), Asia and the Pacific, 2019–2023



Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

Table 10.2 Laws and policies scorecard, Asia and the Pacific, 2024

Country	Criminalization of transgender people*	Criminalization of sex work ^b	Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private	Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs ^c	Laws criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission ^d	Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV	Parental or guardian consent for adolescents to access HIV testing
Afghanistan	1	1	29	1	1	7	1
Australia	8		29	38	47	7	
Bangladesh	1		1,30	1	1	7	18
Bhutan	3		31	39	48	7	59
Brunei Darussalam			29	40	47		4
Cambodia	1		1			7	
China	1		3		49	7	
Cook Islands		11	32		47	7	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		12	29		47	7	
Fiji	6	13	29	6	50	7	3
India	2		2	41	51	7	4
Indonesia	1,8		33	1	1	7	
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2		1		2	7	
Japan		14	29		47	7	
Kiribati	3		34	4	47	7	3
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2		2	2	2	7	3
Malaysia	2	15	2	2	52	7	1
Maldives	8	16	29	42	47	7	60
Marshall Islands	6	17	29	43	53	7	6
Micronesia (Federated States of)	6	18	29	6	6	7	6
Mongolia	1		1	1	54	7	4
Myanmar	1		1	1	1	7	
Nauru	6	19	29	6	47	7	6
Nepal	1		1		55	7	1
New Zealand	2	2	2		2	7	2
Niue	6	6	6		6	7	6
Pakistan	1		1		56	7	1
Palau	6	20	29	44	47	7	6
Papua New Guinea	3		35	3	2	7	3
Philippines	1	21	1	1	1	7	61
Republic of Korea	4		36		4	7	4
Samoa	6	22	29	45	47	7	5
Singapore	1		1	1	1	7	3
Solomon Islands		23	29		47	7	
Sri Lanka	1		37	3	57	7	1,62
Thailand	1		1	1	1	7	1,63
Timor-Leste		24	29	46	47	7	
Tonga	6	25	29	6	47	7	6
Tuvalu	6	26	29	6	47	7	6
Vanuatu		27	29	6	6	7	6
Viet Nam	4	28	4		58	7	4

Country	Mandatory HIV testing for marriage, work or residence permits or for people from certain groups	Laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of HIV status	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for sex work*	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for sexual orientation*	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for gender identity°	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for people who inject drugs*
Afghanistan	1	1	1	1	1	1
Australia						
Bangladesh	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bhutan	3					
Brunei Darussalam	4					
Cambodia	1	1	1	1	3	1
China	1	1				3
Cook Islands						
Democratic People's Republic of Korea						
Fiji						
India	1	1			2	
Indonesia	1	1				
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Japan	3					
Kiribati	4					4
Lao People's Democratic Republic	1	2				
Malaysia	1		2	2	3	3
Maldives						
Marshall Islands	6					
Micronesia (Federated States of)	6					
Mongolia	1	1	1	1	1	
Myanmar	4	1	1	1	1	
Nauru	4					
Nepal	1	1	1	1	1	
New Zealand	2	2	_	2	2	
Niue	6					
Pakistan	1	1	1	1	1	
Palau	6					
Papua New Guinea	3		3	3		
Philippines	1					1
Republic of Korea Samoa	5					4
	1	1	1	1	1	
Singapore Solomon Islands	4				-	
Sri Lanka	1	1	1	1	1	1
Thailand	1	1	1	1	1	
Timor-Leste						
Tonga	6					6
Tuvalu	6					6
Vanuatu	6					
Viet Nam	4					4

Criminalization of transgender people Criminalization of sex work Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private Yes Any criminalization or punitive regulation of sex work Death penalty Sex work is not subject to punitive regulations Imprisonment (14 years–life, up to 14 years) or is not criminalized or no penalty specified Data not available Data not available No Criminalization of possession of small Laws criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay amounts of drugs exposure or transmission and residence of people living with HIV Deport, prohibit short and/or long stay, and require Yes, HIV is explicitly criminalized Yes HIV testing or disclosure for some permit Yes, HIV is criminalized within a broader disease law or No prosecutions exist based on general criminal laws Prohibit short and/or long stay and require HIV Data not available testing or disclosure for some permits Require HIV testing or disclosure for some permits Data not available No restrictions Parental or quardian consent for adolescents Mandatory HIV testing for marriage, work or residence Laws protecting against discrimination to access HIV testing permits or for people from certain groups on the basis of HIV status Yes, for adolescents aged 17–18 years Yes No Yes Yes, for adolescents aged 15-16 years Yes, for adolescents aged 13-14 years Data not available Data not available Yes, for adolescents aged 12 years or younger Not addressed in laws or policy Data not available Constitutional or other nondiscrimination Constitutional or other nondiscrimination Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for sex work provisions for sexual orientation provisions for gender identity ■ No No No Yes Yes Yes Data not available Data not available Data not available Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for people who inject drugs No Yes Data not available

- Criminalization of transgender people refers to laws that criminalize people based on their gender identity or expresssion, such as laws against cross-dressing or impersonating the
- Criminalization of sex work refers to criminalization of any aspect of sex work, including buying sexual services, selling sexual services, ancillary activities associated with buying or b selling sexual services, and profiting from organizing or managing sex work.

 Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs refers to the criminalization of possession of any quantity of drugs, including possession of a quantity of drugs sufficient
- c only for personal use. A country is considered to criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs even if marijuana has been decriminalized.
- Ч HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission may be explicitly criminalized in an HIV-specific law or within a law that covers a broader range of communicable diseases and mentions HIV. They may also be criminalized under a law that covers a broader range of communicable diseases but does not specifically mention HIV. Laws may limit criminalization to cases of actual and intentional transmission. This refers to cases where a person knows their HIV-positive status, acts with the intention to transmit HIV and does in fact transmit it, in line with the UNDP 2021 Guidance for Prosecutors on HIV-related Criminal Cases. Some countries do not have a law specifically criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission but the general law
- has been used to prosecute cases in the past 10 years. Constitutional or legislative protections against discrimination refer to whether gender identity or sexual orientation is specified as a protected attribute or whether courts or government have legally recognized that gender identity/sexual orientation/involvement in sex work/involvement in drug use or possession are protected under another attribute.

This figure does not capture where key populations may be de facto criminalized through the misuse of other laws, such as vagrancy or public morality laws, or the use of the above laws for different populations, e.g. transgender people may be targeted using laws criminalizing same-sex sexual activity, or gay men and other men who have sex with men may be targeted using HIV criminalization laws.

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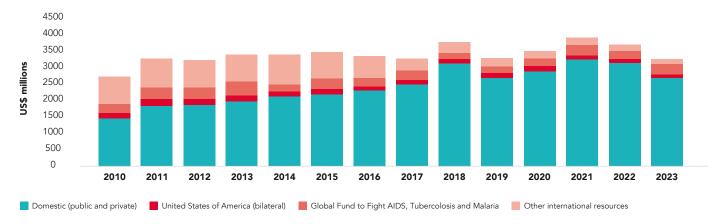
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Figure 10.7 Resource availability for HIV, Asia and the Pacific, 2010–2023



Source: UNAIDS financial estimates, July, 2024 (http://hivfinancial.unaids.org/hivfinancialdashboards.html).

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