

## Research Priority Areas for STI/HIV/AIDS for Sri Lanka 2012 – 2016

Research Area	Research topics
STD care/STIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational research in STD care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STI screening, uptake, continuation and outcomes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Defaulting among STD patients ,effect of practice of new guidelines</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community prevalence of STIs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation of STI syndromes</li> </ul>
HIV care and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for delays in HIV diagnosis</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for delays between HIV diagnosis and pre-ART care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient attrition between pretest counseling and pre ART care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons for lost to follow-up in pre-ART care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics and outcomes of patients lost to follow-up in ART care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Predictors of treatment failure; barriers to adherence</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effectiveness of community (PLHIV +) care in adherence</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Causes of early and late mortality in HIV infected persons</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding factors contributing to successful and prompt linkage to care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barriers that prevent such linkage</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing ART outcomes</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the detection and management of HIV and TB co-infection</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection control practices in TB and ART settings to prevent nosocomial infections</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility of providing ART in TB setting</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation and prevention of HIV drug resistance</li> <li>• Use of early indicators for drug resistance monitoring</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genotyping in treatment naive patients, prospective studies</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging and survival on long term treatment</li> <li>• Effectiveness of treating TB/HIV co-infection</li> </ul>

Research Area	Research topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country capacity to deliver HIV treatment and care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gaps in treatment and care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimation of ART needs</li> </ul>
PMTCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcomes of PMTCT care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of PMTCT in to MCH care , family planning and reproductive health services barriers and challenges</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contraceptive use and Prevention of unintended pregnancies in HIV infected women</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility of Couple counseling</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility of HIV testing in ANC settings and during labour</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predictors of treatment failure; barriers to adherence</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stigma involved in PMTCT care</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children affected by HIV/AIDS, care and follow up , school attendance</li> </ul>
Laboratory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of sub types of HIV prevailing in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparison of molecular assays and the existing methods for the diagnosis of STIs in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparative studies to detect the symptomatic and asymptomatic patients with gonococcal and chlamydial infections with the conventional methods and the NG/CT PCR and cost benefit analysis</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comparative study of accuracy of serological tests for Syphilis with a view to establishing the most suitable protocol for diagnosis</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Point of care tests for HIV and STIs</li> </ul>
Prevention of STI/HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers to reaching vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effectiveness of Community participation in targeted interventions for key population at risk-evaluation study</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of risk factors for HIV in post conflict situation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers to condom promotion among FSW; male and female condoms</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the social problems of families of FSW's</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research on client of sex workers</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barriers to accessing services by MSM</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stigma and discrimination and how it affects the access to services for MSM/TG</li> </ul>

Research Area	Research topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study the legal, social, and judicial impediments to the promotion of sexual health among MSM populations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV/AIDS risks among drug users</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge, attitude, and behavioral survey on drug use and HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Qualitative Studies on Injecting drug users ,behaviours , reasons for injecting , access to services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid assessment of Feasibility of Introducing harm reduction services (Oral Substitution Therapy, Needle Exchange Programme) among health care providers , legal authorities and community )</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual behavior patterns of drug users and their sex partners</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migration and vulnerability</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study to understand the risk behaviours of general population</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barriers for young people to access Reproductive Health, STI services including young high risk population.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of Social marketing of services for HIV prevention</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review study on HIV interventions completed for MARPs in Sri Lanka during last 10 years</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAP study among PHC staff in relation to prevention of HIV including PMTCT</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circumcision and HIV</li> </ul>
Multi-sectoral Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening community engagement</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving linkages to HIV services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals &amp; co-management</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism industry and its impact on HIV/STIs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluating and quantifying the benefits of community involvement/interventions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reproductive and Sexual Health issues in resettled population</li> </ul>

Research Area	Research topics
Epidemiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAP studies among vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring HIV associated mortality</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring HIV incidence</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring HIV prevalence among the low-risk (general) population</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioural research in Female sex workers</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioural research in MSM</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioural research in BB</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioural research in Drug users</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral survey among youth</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on sociological and biological attributes of sexual behaviors of population at risk (MSMs Sex workers, DUs and PLHIV)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on risky behaviors of external migrant outside of the country.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epidemiology and HIV transmission in injecting drug users</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situation assessment and mapping of drug users including IDUs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of hepatitis B and C among drug users /injecting drug users</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of TB among drug users</li> </ul>
Training and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAP of healthcare workers on standard precautions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAP of PHMs on elimination of MTCT of HIV</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAP STD clinic Nurses , Doctors on comprehensive service provision</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training need assessments of NGO sector to provide services to FSW and MSM - what is available and what needs to be done?</li> </ul>
Strategic Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National AIDS spending Assessment</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most cost-effective way to provide targeted HIV prevention services for key population in Sri Lanka</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of targeted interventions for FSW , MSM</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis to compare clinic-based services with community-based services.</li> </ul>

Research Area	Research topics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct and indirect costs per AIDS patient per year</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIDS Indicator survey in general population</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Biological and Behavioural Survey</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving mapping and size estimation of MARPs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and outreach to populations at high risk</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AIDS indicator surveys in youth, high risk groups and vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of effectiveness of HIV prevention interventions</li> </ul>
Counselling and testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility and availability of HIV testing and counseling (VCT, PIT)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and practice of health care givers on Provider Initiated Testing (PIT)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asses feasibility of new models of HCT couple testing , (mobile VCT, ) for high risk populations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner disclosure -issues challenges and solutions</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factors affecting use of VCT services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factors affecting Provider Initiated HIV Testing</li> </ul>
Condom promotions and IEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural approaches to increase condom use</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational research on IEC and condom promotion</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study on effectiveness of IEC/BCC materials on changing risky sexual behaviors of populations at risk</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational research for IEC material and condom promotion for key populations</li> </ul>

**This list of research priorities were finalized by the Strategic Information Management Sub-committee of the National AIDS committee of Sri Lanka.**

**Updated on 8.2.2012**