Sexual Health: International Perspective

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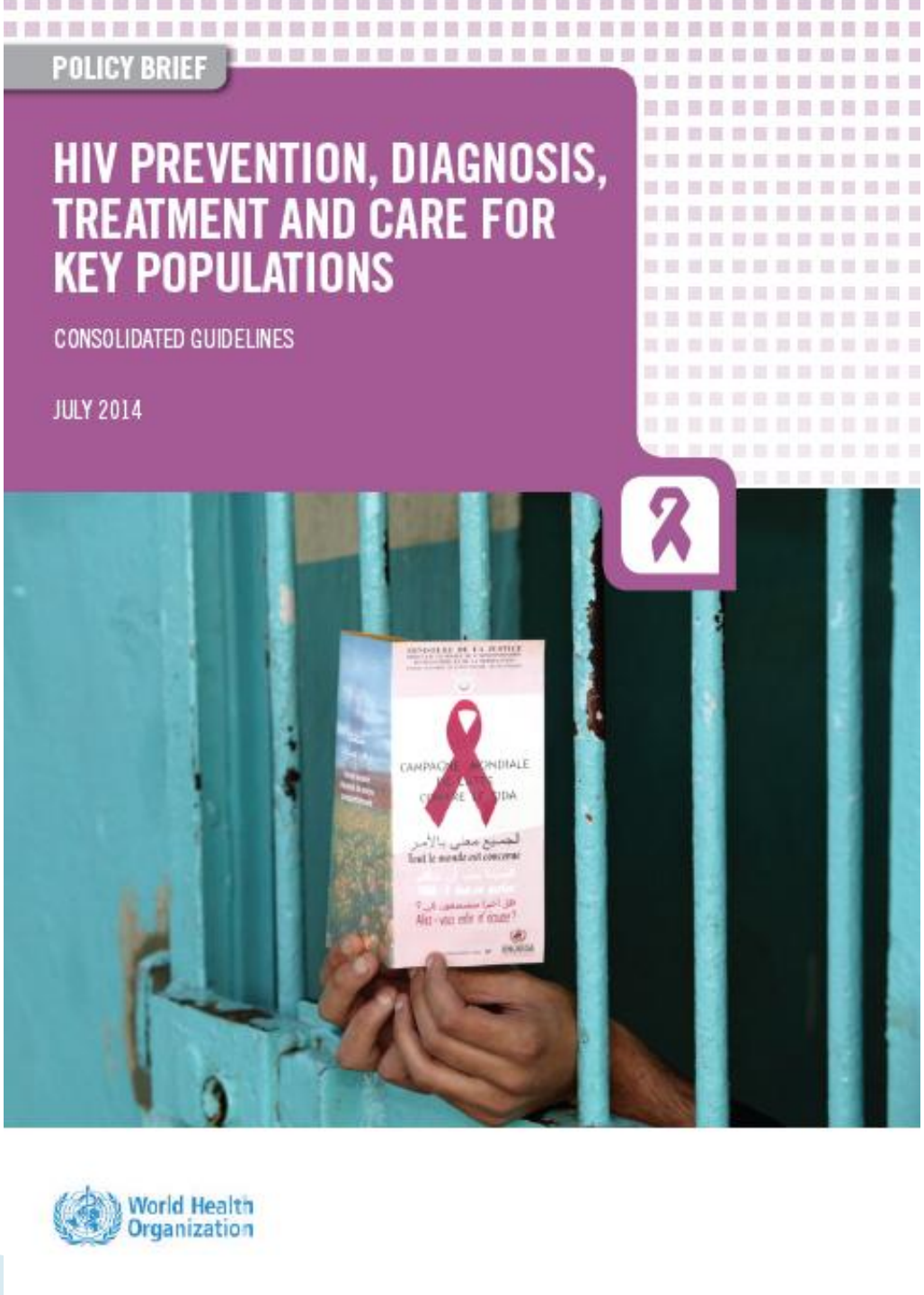
Some Burning Issues

- Stigma and discrimination
- Recognition of needs and importance of marginalised populations
- Governance in an era of authoritarian overreach
- Disinterest in STIs – other than HIV
- Narrowing scope of “Sexual Health” [= STIs]
- Implications of HIV PrEP
- Destruction of public health systems

Lessons from My Travels

- Need for advocacy
  - Marginalised populations
  - Female condoms
  - Family planning
  - Gender-based violence
  - Public health vs. Public security
- Stigma
  - Individual and institutional responses
- Targeted service provision
  - Avahan, Sonagachi, SWING

WHO Guidelines 2014

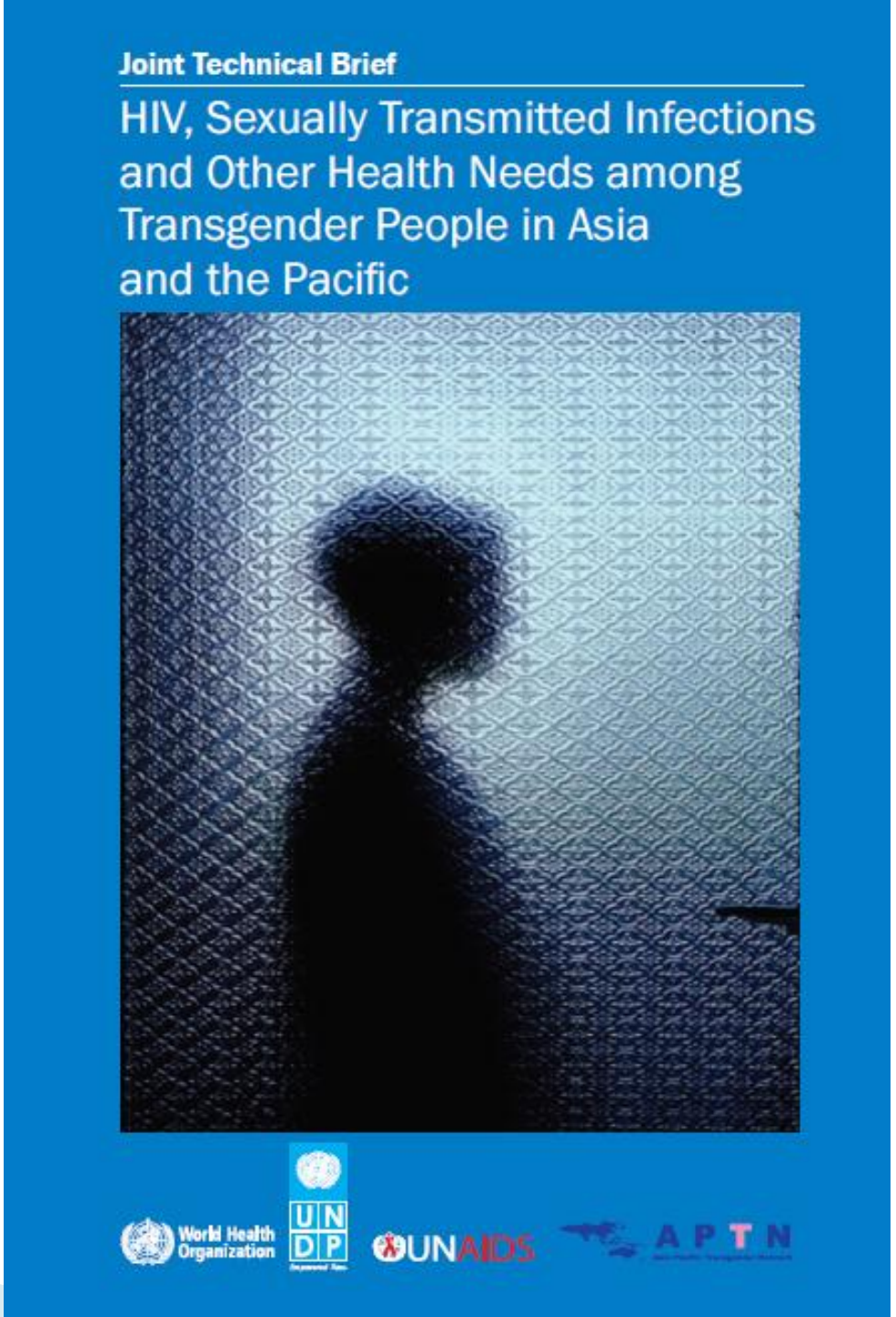


HIV and Sex Work Lancet 2014

Some Achievements

- Access to ARVs
- Profiling of key populations in HIV response – WHO guidance documents
- Sex work as work – decriminalisation when?
- Recognition of sexual health needs of MSM
- Evidence and experience with PPT [periodic presumptive treatment of STIs]
- Disaggregation of transgender people from MSM – WHO Consultation on Transgender Health 2012
- Normalisation of harm reduction – community-based rehabilitation, and provision of naloxone
- Responses to gender-based violence

Transgender Health Consultation Manila 2012



Some Challenges

- Funding
- Rakai and RCTs – global damage to STI programming
- Sex work conflated with trafficking – lack of law reform
- MSM – legal backflips [India, Uganda, Nigeria]
- Criminalisation of HIV transmission
- US War On Drugs
- Dominance of HIV in discourse

Inclusion

- Sex workers – A special issue of The Lancet
- Men who have sex with men
- Transgender people
- Community involvement
  - Cairns, WPATH and ANZPATH
- Community damage – public health and the law
  - Shame parades, brothel evictions, 377
  - QPP vs. QuAC

Silence

- Services for transgender people
- Community and school sexuality education
- Female condoms
- Prisoners
- Justice in detention
- Disabled people
- Sexual dysfunction
- Miners and other mobile men

Sexual Health Programs
WHO Framework

1. Laws, policies and human rights
2. Education
3. Society and culture
4. Economics
5. Health systems

Source: Developing sexual health programmes: a framework for action. WHO 2010.

Role of SHSQ

- Professional education – multi-disciplinary
- Advocacy and policy development
- Community agenda setting
- Collaboration with stakeholders
- Research?

Thank you for your attention