

## **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ASEAN TASK FORCE ON AIDS (ATFOA) IN OVERCOMING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN INDONESIA**

**Ryantori RYANTORI<sup>1</sup> and Muhammad Raditya SAPUTRA<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1,2</sup>*Universitas Prof. Dr. Moestopo (Beragama)*

*ryantori4@dsn.moestopo.ac.id*

### **ABSTRACT**

HIV/AIDS (Human Immune Deficiency/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is an epidemic that can seriously endanger society. HIV / AIDS virus is a virus that is different from other viruses. This virus has a very bad impact on the sufferer. The spread of this virus is also fast in the process of spreading. Even this virus does not see the age group, gender, or occupation of each sufferer. This makes the issue of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic an issue that is dangerous globally and becomes an international issue. Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN established ATFOA to stop the HIV/AIDS problem. ATFOA proposed and got approval for a number of key initiatives that support the Declaration strategies, including the documentation of good practices, innovations, and other cross-cutting themes in HIV and AIDS that became the basis of this publication. To find out, the author uses several indicators or parameters to see the effectiveness of ATFOA in tackling the spread of HIV and AIDS in Indonesia. The indicator used by the author is data obtained from the minister of health about the number that shows a decrease in the number of newly infected people. The collaboration created by this program is also used as an indicator. Because with the many collaborations or partnerships that have been established, it proves the seriousness of ATFOA in realizing its goals. Not only that, the established partnership can give the impression that ATFOA is recognized by other institutions. So they want to work with ASEAN to fight HIV and AIDS. The author also uses observation indicators, namely by sending letters via email. With sources from the government, namely from the Indonesian health minister through Sukbit Aids. where it is said that the ATFOA program carried out in ASEAN, especially in Indonesia, is considered good by Indonesia.

**Keywords:** HIV/AIDS epidemic, ASEAN task force on AIDS, programme effectiveness

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

During the Cold War, the issues that often emerged were not far from military issues or defense issues, where they competed with each other to increase power or expand territory. However, along with the development of political phenomena in the international arena, especially after the Cold War, many new issues have emerged in the international system or better known as unconventional issues. This issue pays attention to economic issues, environmental issues, terrorism issues, refugee issues, health issues and other issues. International relations studies students study this issue because it is still within the scope of international relations.

Health issue is one of the issues that is developing in the international world, where the danger cannot be ruled out if it is not handled properly. In addition, this issue is also a threat to public safety because it can have a very bad impact on the survival of many. The impact of this health issue is almost the same as the impact of defense issues or military issues because both can endanger people's lives. The difference between health issues and military or defense issues is that health issues are seen to be softer in the process.

Researchers from the CDC (Center For Disease Control) discovered the name AIDS for the first time on July 27, 1982 after seeing strange deaths in previous years in the US. Not long after, the name HIV was discovered in 1983 in the US. Many people say that HIV and AIDS are the same virus because these two viruses are closely related. In mid-1995, research found that HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Asean Secretariat, 2005). Key linkages between these two viruses were discovered by CDC researchers in the US. The AIDS virus is a dangerous virus. Characteristics of people infected with this virus is that they will experience a decrease in body strength, because HIV infects immune cells (especially CD4 positive T-cells and macrophages, which are the main components of the body's immune system cells) and destroys or interferes with immune function. body, resulting in immune deficiency.

The HIV/AIDS virus was first discovered in Indonesia in 1987. Since the virus was first discovered until December 2001, there have been 1016 AIDS cases and 2,552 HIV positive infections, where the data were collected from 30 provinces in Indonesia. However, the government estimates that there were around 90,000-130,000 people infected with HIV in 2002. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health reported that until 2010 there were 21,770 people infected with the virus from 32 provinces in Indonesia. DKI Jakarta ranks first in terms of the number of people with the HIV/AIDS virus from 32 provinces in Indonesia with 3470 cases. The ratio of the ratio based on the infected sex between men and women is 3:1 (Ministry of Health, 2010).

Countries in the Southeast Asian region have realized the effects and dangers of HIV/AIDS, so they held a meeting to discuss this issue in ASEAN, where ASEAN is considered as one of the forums in the Southeast Asian region. Through this forum, several member countries hold meetings to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. At the 4th meeting in Singapore in 1992, ASEAN realized the threat of the HIV/AIDS virus and agreed to stop the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus. The work program to stop the spread of this virus is known as the Asean Task Force On Aids (ATFOA), which was established in 1993. ATFOA is ASEAN's effort to stop the spread of HIV by coordinating regional cooperation and is a long-term work program in collaboration with Unaid. After the creation of the ATFOA, the members made the Asean Work Program I (AWP, 1995-2000) I. The creation of the AWP I was intended to ensure that the ASEAN program was running well, related to issues that were developing in ASEAN member countries, such as the AIDS issue.

ATFOA is a work program to show ASEAN's seriousness in dealing with AIDS issues in the Southeast Asia region. In implementing ATFOA, ASEAN and Unaid held a long-term work program, namely Asean Work Program I (1995-2000). AWP I was created to help resolve or deal with this virus problem.

This AWP program did not immediately stop in 2000 (according to the year specified), but ASEAN held back AWP II for 2002-2005 and AWP III which had a validity period from 2006-2010. This work program is aimed at strengthening regional relations and ensuring the ASEAN program runs smoothly (Asean.org, 2011).

## 2. METHOD

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a global issue that spreads so fast that it requires many actors to be involved in it. The number of actors involved will determine the success or failure of the program to stop the spread of this virus. These actors can be state or state or non-state actors (NGO's or international organizations).

Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN established ATFOA to stop the HIV/AIDS problem. The author uses the theory of International Regimes from Stephen D. Krasner (1983) to analyze this problem. Krasner defines Regimes as institutions that have norms, decision-making powers, and procedures that facilitate various aspirations. In addition, Krasner also defines Regimes as a set of principles, norms, rules, and decision-making procedures in which various aspirations of actors meet in one area of international relations.

Regimes are independent actors in international politics and carry out important functions in relations between countries. The purpose of Regimes is to facilitate agreements. The application of the regimes function in ATFOA, i.e. ATFOA has access to provide information and supervise the programs carried out.

Meanwhile, the theory used by the author to analyze cooperation between countries is the theory of international cooperation proposed by James E. Dougherty & Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr (1996). They define international cooperation as a meeting of various national interests of various countries and nations that cannot be fulfilled by their own countries, cooperation is the other side of international conflict which is also one aspect of IR. Indonesia cooperates with ASEAN because Indonesia sees that the HIV/AIDS problem will be difficult to stop if it is done alone. This makes Indonesia and other ASEAN member countries establish ATFOA to help stop the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus, especially in Indonesia.

The concept used by the author to see the effectiveness of ATFOA's role in the organization is anchovy from Bernard (1982). According to Bernard, effectiveness is an action where the action will be effective if the specified goals have been achieved. So, the effectiveness of an activity can be achieved if the main goals or tasks of an organization can be achieved.

To broaden view about HIV/AIDS especially how to fight against it, literature review is needed. The first book used by the author is a book issued by ASEAN, namely "Asean's Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Success Stories & Future Challenges." This book describes Atfoa and the Asean Work Programme.

Second, the author uses the journal of Ibrahim. K, Songwathana P. In his journal entitled "The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Indonesia: Does primary health care as a prevention and intervention strategy work?," he explained about HIV/AIDS in Indonesia and priority care in HIV/AIDS prevention in Indonesia. . In addition, this journal also explains the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on social life and the strategies that have been taken by the Indonesian government to stop the epidemic.

The third literature used by the author is a literature review of the thesis written by Mark Antonius entitled "The Role of the Asean Taskforce on AIDS (ATFOA) in tackling AIDS in Indonesia." The contents of this thesis explain the role of ATFOA as a motivator and communicator to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### The Spread of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Indonesia

Indonesia is the country with the largest population in Southeast Asia. The first case of HIV and AIDS that occurred in Indonesia was on the island of Bali, in 1987 with the death of a Dutch tourist. Since the first case was discovered, this virus has continued to grow in Indonesia. This is seen from the increase in people infected by this virus from year to year. From one island to another in Indonesia. Indonesia is not only the only country in Southeast Asia infected with the HIV virus, but other countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore are also infected with this virus. However, the rate of development of the HIV virus in Indonesia is one of the fastest in Asia (Ministry of Health, 2010).

When the HIV virus was first discovered in Indonesia, the Indonesian government was not too worried and did not become the focus of serious attention for the Indonesian government. However, with time and the increasing number of people infected and died from this virus, the Indonesian government has to think about ways to stop the spread of the virus.

The increase that occurs can not be seen with the eye. Because the numbers shown are very significant increase. The impact of this virus is also very deadly so that it becomes an issue that must be considered if you do not want this virus to continue to grow in Indonesia.

The development of this virus in Indonesia continues to increase every year. In 1987 found there were 5 new cases of people infected with this virus. In 2000, it increased to 255 new cases. And continues to experience an increase in new cases in the following years as shown in the following table (Ministry of Health, 2010):

Table 1. Number of AIDS Cases in Indonesia by Reporting Year December 2010

NO	TAHUN	JUMLAH	NO	TAHUN	JUMLAH
1	1987	5	14	1999	94
2	1988	2	15	2000	255
3	1989	5	16	2001	219
4	1990	5	17	2002	345
5	1991	15	18	2003	316
6	1992	13	19	2004	1195
7	1993	24	20	2005	2639
8	1994	20	21	2006	2873
9	1995	23	22	2007	2947
10	1996	42	23	2008	4969
11	1997	44	24	2009	3863
12	1998	60	25	2010	4158
	<b>JUMLAH</b>				<b>24131</b>

This virus knows no age or gender in spreading it. So that not only parents but teenagers can also be infected with this virus. Cumulative data received by the government in 2010 said that adolescents are a vulnerable age, namely from the age group of 20-29 years by 47.4%, while for ages 30-39 years by 31.3% and for ages 40-49 years around 9.4% infected.

The government not only obtained the age of newly infected with the HIV virus but also obtained data on groups infected with the virus until December 2010 namely from Heterosexual relations, Injection Drugs Users (IDU), male sex with men, and from Perinatal. Where these groups are believed to be groups that spread the HIV virus. From these groups, the first highest group in spreading the HIV virus was heterosexual intercourse with an increase to 52.7%, the next highest from IDU to 38.3%, and male sex with other men increased to 3.0% while perinatal experienced an increase in decreased to 2.6%.

#### Factors for the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Indonesia

The rapid spread between one another is caused by several main factors (Asean Secretariat, 2006):

- a. lack of knowledge and information,

- b. commercial sex industry,
- c. lack of awareness to check.

The low level of public knowledge often leads to erroneous beliefs such as the HIV virus can only be transmitted by foreigners, homosexuals, prostitutes, and people who have free sex. and many people still think that HIV/AIDS is only experienced by women who sell commercial sex. However, this statement is not entirely true because currently there are many cases where the woman is infected by her husband's permanent partner who likes to play with women.

Information or knowledge is very important because all ages, occupations, genders need valid and correct information. like women or medical personnel they also need knowledge or information about the HIV virus so that they can minimize the spread of the virus.

Medical workers also need information about the spread of this virus. This is due to cases that occur due to inappropriate treatment methods, so that the medical staff is infected with this virus. Therefore, to be able to carry out their duties properly they need good and correct information and knowledge. Information is the most valuable treasure in the world so if it is not distributed properly it will have a bad impact. With the information obtained is expected to reduce the spread of the HIV virus.

The second factor that causes the rapid spread of the HIV virus is the commercial sex industry. The commercial sex industry is the cause of the rapid spread of the HIV virus. With so many islands owned by Indonesia, about 13,000 islands spread from Sabang to Merauke. Making it difficult for the government to cover all the islands. So that these places in the means to make money quickly. Business The sex industry is a profitable business, because it can earn a lot of money in a short time. Like the drug business. Research has been limited to many rehabilitation sites that have been misused, such as Teluk Pandan or Sintai, Nagoya and mate. there are at least about 40 bars that employ more than 1,200 women who double as love vendors in the place. This makes the city vulnerable to the spread of the HIV virus as evidenced by the increase in newly infected people in Batam itself from 50 people in 2009 to 109 in 2010.

The third factor that causes the rapid spread of this virus is their low level of awareness to check the situation. Their low awareness is due to the lack of public knowledge about how dangerous this virus is. With their low awareness to check whether they are infected with this virus or not can be the cause of the rapid spread that occurs. Because when they think they are not infected at the same time they spread the virus to those who don't know it. Be it by doing their daily work or interacting with other people. So that the rate of infected people will increase.

The low level of consciousness is just one of the reasons they don't do the checks. However, some did not carry out inspections due to their inability to pay the exorbitant fees. And also they are not mentally prepared to accept the results of the examination. There are even those who are confident that they are not infected with the virus, so there is no need for an examination. Sometimes rulers who are not worried about the impact of this virus they hide the data of their citizens who are infected with this virus. In fact, if they are newly infected, their immune system is still not known to decrease. They will look the same as any other healthy person. And when people realize there is a difference, it has a lot of impact on other people.

**The Role of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) in Indonesia**

On the 30th anniversary of ASEAN, ASEAN agreed to a shared vision of ASEAN which wants peace, stability and prosperity. To achieve this, ASEAN established 3 communities, namely the ASEAN political-security community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN socio-cultural community. in the ASEAN socio-cultural community, one of which is creating a healthy environment. ASEAN makes the slogan Healthy ASEAN 2020 with the Vision of "Healthy ASEAN 2020": "We envision by 2020 that health shall be at the center of development and ASEAN cooperation in health shall be strengthened to ensure that our peoples are healthy in mind and body and living in harmony in safe environments".



Figure 1. The Position of ATFOA in ASEAN

In 1992 member countries and ASEAN itself realized the threat of the HIV virus and established a long-term work program to stop the spread of the HIV virus. Namely ATFOA "to implement regional activities on health assistance and HIV/AIDS in limiting and controlling the spread of HIV by exchanging information about HIV, in particular the formula and implementation of political cooperation and programs against deadly disasters".

ATFOA itself was only established in 1993 as a form of ASEAN's commitment to action to stop the spread of the HIV virus. ATFOA has implemented two work programs, namely the 7th Asean Summit Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the 7th Asean Summit, Leaders gave their support for the second Asean Work Program on HIV/AIDS (AWPII) which was continued by AWP III for 2006-2010 (Press Release, 2002).

ATFOA requires ASEAN members to jointly engage in regional programs to address the problem of HIV/AIDS by planning, implementing and monitoring the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Southeast Asia.

The establishment of the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) in 1993 has provided the mechanism to operationalise the initial commitment made by the ASEAN Leaders during the 4th ASEAN Summit in 1992. To further foster the political commitments on HIV and AIDS, ATFOA spearheaded the development of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment. To operationalise the Declaration, ATFOA proposed and got approval for a number of key initiatives that support the Declaration strategies, including the documentation of good practices, innovations, and other cross-cutting themes in HIV and AIDS that became the basis of this publication.

In accordance with the target to be achieved by ATFOA through AWP, there are 5 factors that ATFOA wants to emphasize in responding to the problems of the HIV and AIDS epidemic within the framework of AWP III. Namely (1) Leadership development; (2) Identification of distances, strengths, and emerging issues; (3) Integration in HIV and AIDS with development priorities; (4) non-programme strategies such as enhancing cooperation; and lastly, (5) Supervise, and evaluate under the ASEAN Secretariat (Asean Secretariat, 2014).

Leadership is an important key in doing something, as well as to support ASEAN in realizing its goals. This leadership is also discussed in the 7th Asean Declaration, the contents of which include assisting the nation in responding to AIDS and planning national development and poverty eradication plans. Leaders must also be able to create a positive environment and others. To increase political commitment and strengthen leadership among ASEAN member states for a supportive, politically effective environment, measure programs and place in resources for HIV prevention and mitigating impacts.

ASEAN assumes that if there are frequent meetings to discuss problems together, it will have a good impact. And can support ASEAN programs. So that ASEAN provides an opportunity for its member countries to analyze together, do together, and share lessons together. This is done to get effective results for cooperation. and can bring HIV issues to senior levels of government.

One of the most recent concrete steps in addressing HIV/AIDS is the "Round Table Forum on ASEAN Cities/Area Experiences Towards Zero: Side Meeting during the UN High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS" to be held on 8 June during the United Nations High Level Meeting on Ending AIDS in New York.

This event provided a platform for stakeholders to share and discuss good practices, experiences and innovations related to the implementation and launch of the ASEAN Cities Getting to Zeros Project. The project localizes regional efforts into concrete community initiatives that align with the targets of the ASEAN Declaration of Commitment: Achieving Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, Zero AIDS-Related Deaths adopted in 2011 by the ASEAN Summit Leaders.

"In our ASEAN 'Cities To Zero' initiative, the listed cities are very active and enthusiastic. Learning about the similarities and differences between cities on the issue of HIV is very important," said H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary General of ASEAN, during an official visit of the Deputy Executive Director of UNAIDS in Indonesia in 2014.

This activity will be carried out by the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) through the leadership of ATFOA Indonesia with the support of ASEAN Health Ministers through Senior Health Officers, and assistance from the ASEAN Secretariat and UNAIDS. Speakers and participants were the Minister of Health, UNAIDS, the ASEAN Secretariat and community representatives involved in the ASEAN Cities/Areas Getting to Zeros Project (Asean Secretariat, 2014).

In determining whether the ATFOA program is effective or not, the author uses the theory of Bernard which says that effectiveness is an action where the action will be effective if the specified goal has been achieved. To find out, the author uses several indicators or parameters to see the effectiveness of ATFOA in tackling the spread of HIV and AIDS in Indonesia.

The indicator used by the author is data obtained from the minister of health about the number that shows a decrease in the number of newly infected people.

The collaboration created by this program is also used as an indicator. Because with the many collaborations or partnerships that have been established, it proves the seriousness of ATFOA in realizing its goals. Not only that, the established partnership can give the impression that ATFOA is recognized by other institutions. So they want to work with ASEAN to fight HIV and AIDS.

The author also uses observation indicators, namely by sending letters via email. With sources from the government, namely from the Indonesian health minister through Sukbit Aids where it is said that the ATFOA program carried out in ASEAN, especially in Indonesia, is considered good by Indonesia. So, according to the Indonesian government, the program is effective. This can be seen from Indonesia being able to share experiences with other ASEAN countries in controlling HIV/AIDS, and Indonesia is also quite effective in the ATFOA annual routine meetings. To assist ATFOA in carrying out its duties, ASEAN has also established the Asean Work Programme.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The impact caused by this virus can affect the government system. Because this virus has an impact on all parts, be it economic or social or political. Where each impact is felt directly, there is also an indirect effect. the most dangerous there are impacts that are not directly accepted. because when the time comes it will be more difficult to stop it. The impact that is most felt is the change of people around to discriminate against the sufferers.

The issue of HIV and AIDS makes the international community worried about this issue because the issue is not only in one country. And the scale of the spread and transmission is also fast so that fast action is needed in responding to this virus. This virus also does not see the age of the sufferers, whether they are teenagers or adults or even small children.

The spread of the HIV virus that occurred in the Southeast Asian region, especially ASEAN members, made ASEAN establish a work program as a way to tackle the rapid spread of HIV. The program, namely ATFOA, has the main task of stopping the spread of the HIV virus. After the member countries established ATFOA, ASEAN also established the AWP, namely the ASEAN work plan in controlling the spread of HIV and AIDS in ASEAN countries. Which is where Awp was compiled and developed by ATFOA. So the ATFOA strategy is implemented into AWP.

ATFOA in tackling the spread of the HIV virus in ASEAN countries can be said to be quite effective in what it has done. Namely by helping member countries, through the exchange of information, or even by establishing cooperation with third parties or other international organizations. whether in the health sector or not in the health sector. Not only that, ATFOA also holds regular meetings to discuss the spread of HIV and exchange information that each member country gets. Whether it's a formula or implementation into society. Because the community is the most important actor in the spread of this virus.

In dealing with the HIV epidemic, Indonesia does not do it alone because it will be difficult for Indonesia to do so given the very fast spread of the virus. So that Indonesia cooperates with ASEAN through ATFOA. The work program carried out by ATFOA in Indonesia is considered quite good. Because the program is running well in Indonesia. And Indonesia can also cooperate with other member countries to be able to solve the problem of HIV in Indonesia.

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