

Preventing HIV/AIDS in The Middle East and North Africa

A Window of Opportunity To Act

The World Bank Regional HIV/AIDS Strategy

December 4-6, 2006



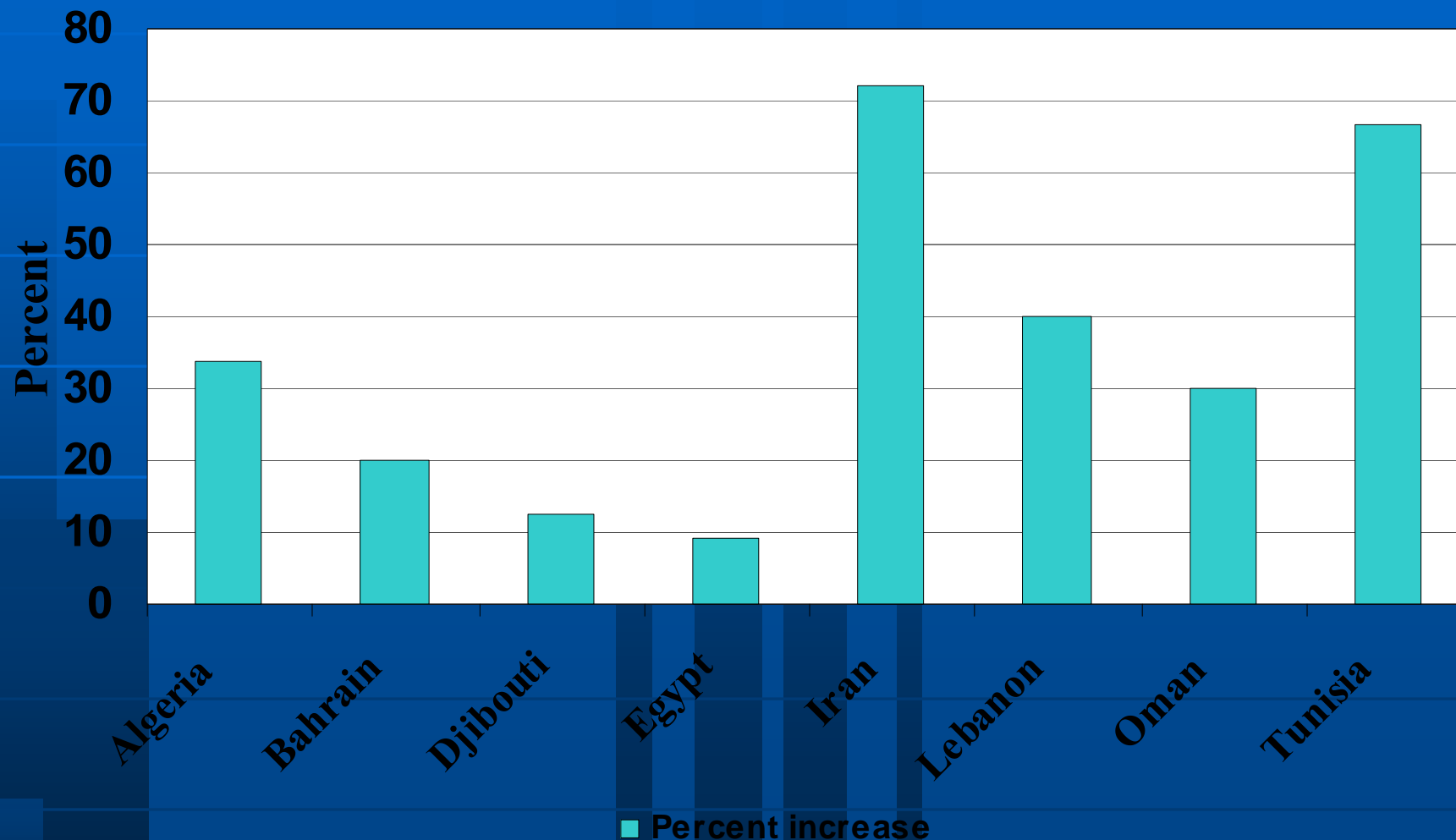
MENA HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Context

While prevalence rate is low, the rising trends are worrisome

Year	No. living with HIV/AIDS	New Infections	Deaths	Prevalence Rate	% of HIV+ who are women
2003	500,000 (200,000 – 1.4 million)	62,000 (31,000 – 200,000)	55,000 (22,000 – 140,000)	0.2% (0.1-0.7)	50% (230,000)
2005	510,000 (230,000 – 1.4 million)	67,000 (35,000 – 200,000)	58,000 (25,000 – 145,000)	0.2% (0.1-0.7)	47% (220,000)

Source: UNAIDS, Dec. 2005

Percentage Increase in the Numbers of Adults and Children Living with HIV/AIDS 2001 to 2003



Source: UNAIDS/WHO, Dec. 2003

Low Prevalence Does Not Mean Low Risk: Some Risk Factors in MENA

- **Behavioral Factors:** IDU, CSW, MSM, Persons with multiple sex partners, Unprotected sexual activities
- **Rising Youth Population:** higher vulnerability to engage in risky behaviors and higher unemployment rates
- **Sexually Transmitted Infections and Low Condom Use:** Increasing prevalence and inadequate knowledge of STIs and prevention methods
- **Structural Factors** (poverty, unemployment, migration, etc.), **Conflict Situations and Refugees** (including internally displaced persons)

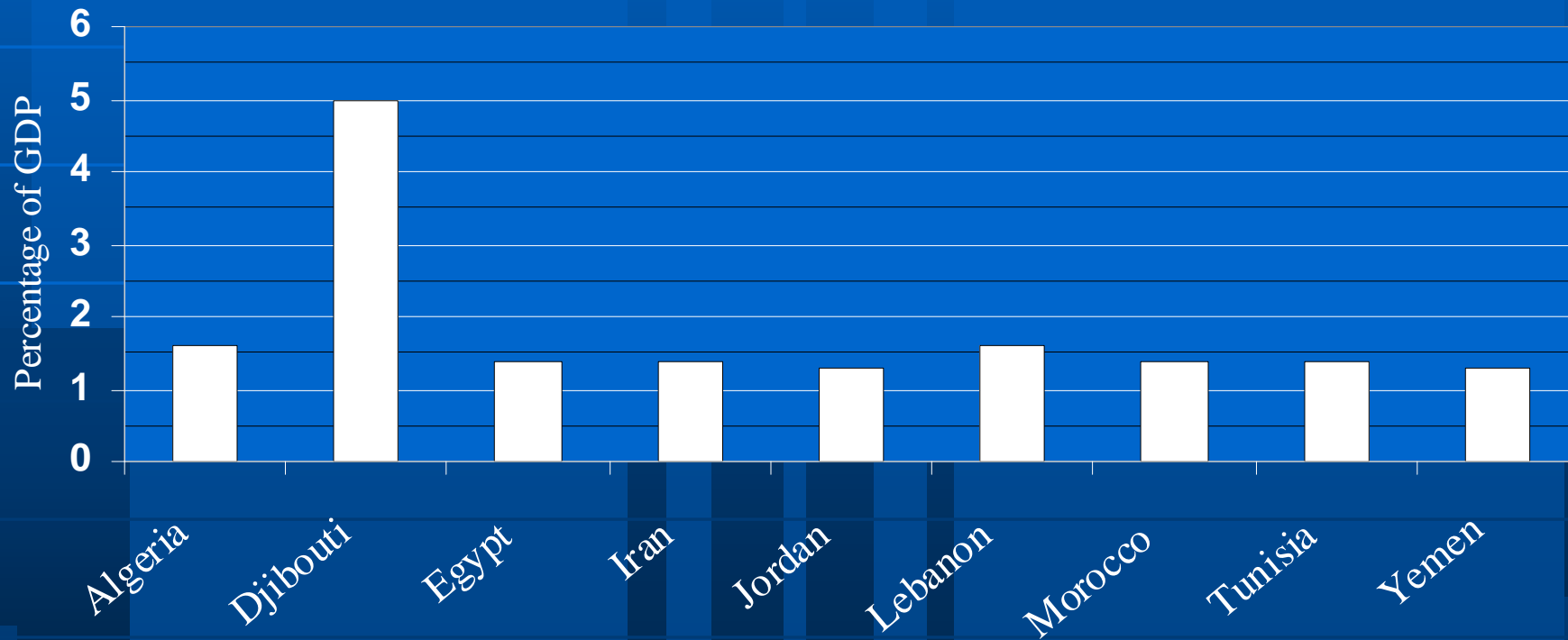
Key Challenges

- ◆ **Weak HIV/AIDS Surveillance Systems**
- ◆ **Stigma and fear** associated with the HIV/AIDS disease
- ◆ **Perception of HIV/AIDS** as a primarily health issue rather than an integrated development issue that requires **multi-actor partnership** and **coordinated cross-sectoral actions**
- ◆ **General lack of HIV/AIDS awareness** in MENA countries
- ◆ **Limited Interventions for High Risk Groups**
- ◆ **Limited local capacity** for HIV/AIDS programming

Why Should MENA Countries Act Now?

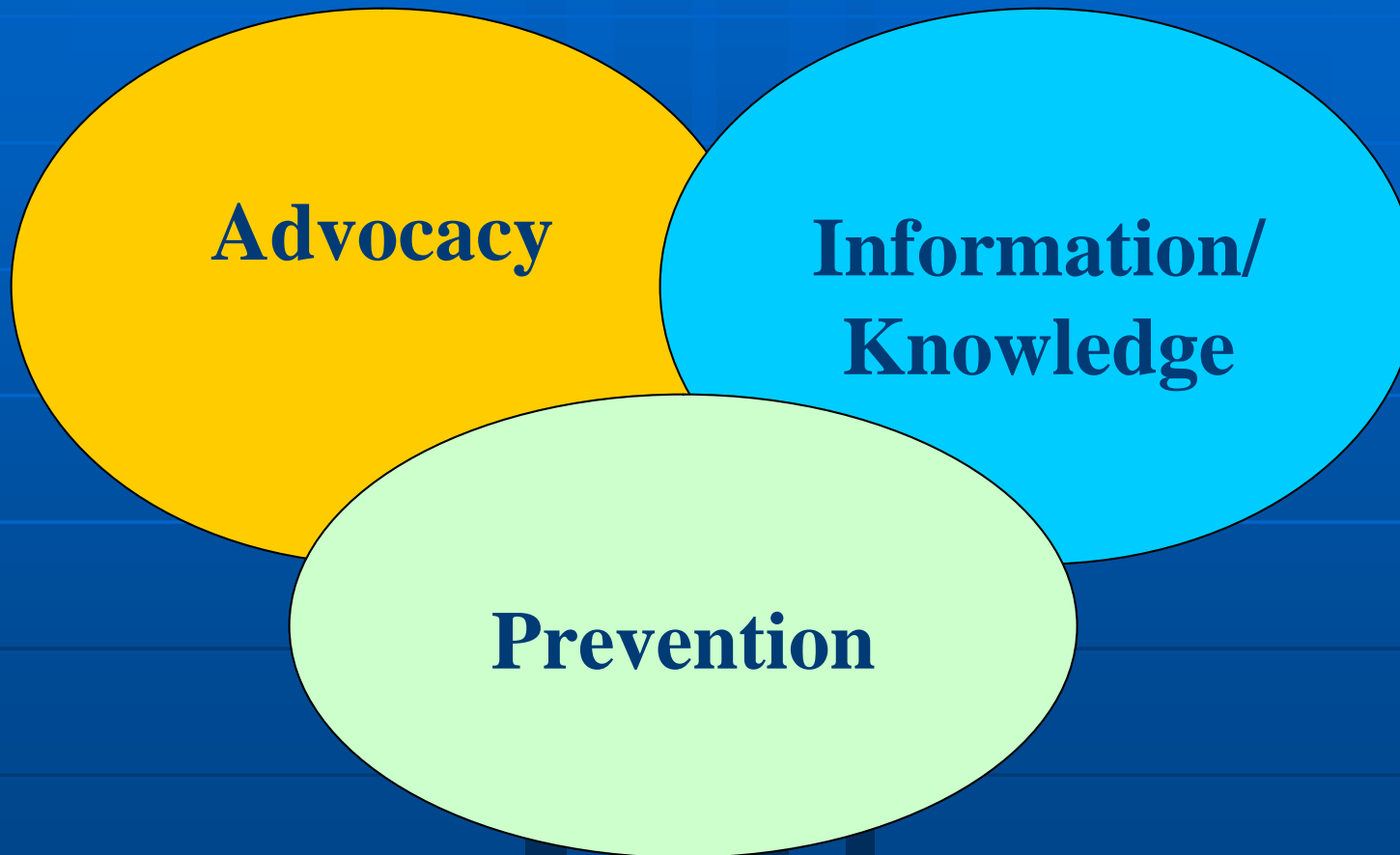
Potential economic and social impact of HIV/AIDS could be substantial if not averted

HIV/AIDS-Related Health Expenditures in 2015



Source: Jenkins, C., and Robalino David A., "HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa: The Costs of Inaction". World Bank, 2003.

Framework of Strategic Interventions



World Bank Key Strategic Directions for HIV/AIDS

- Advocacy: Engage political leaders, policy makers and key stakeholders**
- Support the upgrading of the HIV/AIDS surveillance systems and strengthen research**
- Support the development of National HIV/AIDS strategies and programs**
- Support capacity building and knowledge sharing for comprehensive management of HIV/AIDS programs**

Way Forward

- **Advocacy:** Break the silence and get HIV/AIDS on development agenda and assist governments to become more engaged on the issue of youth vulnerability to HIV/AIDS
- **Knowledge:** Strengthen the HIV/AIDS surveillance systems to improve the knowledge base on the different dimensions of youth vulnerability to the epidemic
- **Focus:** Promote HIV/AIDS initiatives that focus on youth, especially the most vulnerable (girls, illiterate, poor, etc)
- **Multi-sectorality:** Support an integrated cross-sectoral approach that involves all the relevant ministries and agencies
- **Partnerships:** Engage and empower all stakeholders including NGOs, youth organizations, religious leaders,

WB HIV/AIDS Activities in the Region

■ Analytical

- PH Conference in 2002 and Analytic Report on “HIV/AIDS in the Middle East & North Africa: The Costs of Inaction” in 2003
- HIV Strategy development and dissemination: Lebanon, DC and S. Arabia 2005

■ Capacity Building

- TA to Morocco and Lebanon to develop National HIV Strategy
- Workshop on “Managing Procurement and Logistics of HIV/AIDS Drugs and Related Supplies”, Beirut 2005

■ Operational

- **Djibouti HIV/AIDS Project (US\$12million)**
- **Lebanon IDF for strengthening HIV M&E System (US\$350,000)**

WB HIV/AIDS

- **Iran: Inter-regional consultation on HIV/AIDS and Injecting Drug Use April 2006. Participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan**
- **Saudi Arabia RTA : Following the presentation of the WB Strategy at a GCC Conf. on HIV/AIDS in Nov. 2005, Government is requesting the Bank's assistance in developing a National HIV/AIDS Strategy**

MENA has a unique window of opportunity to stem the tide of HIV/AIDS, while the prevalence rates are still low

Other regions of the world wish they had acted proactively while the rates were low

Youth in MENA are key agents of social change

Available HIV/AIDS Data for MENA Countries

Country	Prevalence Rate (%)	Adults (15-49) living with HIV/AIDS
Algeria	0.1	9,000 (3,000-18,000)
Bahrain	0.2	600 (200- 1,100)
Djibouti	2.9	8,400 (2,100- 21,000)
Egypt	< 0.1	12,000 (5,000-30,000)
Iran	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	14,000 (6,800-22,000)
Iraq	0.1	< 500
Jordan	< 0.1	< 500
Lebanon	0.1	2,800 (700 – 4,000)
Libya	0.3	10,000 (3,300-20,000)
Morocco	0.1	15,000 (5,000- 30,000)
Tunisia	< 0.1	1000 (400-2300)
Yemen	0.1	12,000 (4000-24 000)