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USAID Grants \$13,400,000 to the Five-Year SAHACOM Project Implemented by KHANA



From the left H.E. Ke Kim Yan, H.E. Carol A. Rodley and Dr. Oum Sopheap

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KHANA prepared a launching ceremony of the Sustainable Action against HIV and AIDS in Communities (SAHACOM) in the morning on 23 February 2010 in the premise of Partners in Compassion (PC) which is located in Wat Opot, Chambak Commune, Bali District, and Takeo Province.

The launching was opened with high presidency of H.E. Ke Kim Yan, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairman of National Authority for Combating Drug (NACD). Also, participated as honorary guests and as speakers during the opening were H.E. Prof Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health; H.E. Chhit Sokhom, Provincial Council of Takeo; H.E. Carol A. Rodley, United States Ambassador to Cambodia; H.E. Dr. Teng Kunthy, Secretary General of NAA, and Dr. Oum Sopheap, Executive Director of KHANA.

SAHACOM is a new project which is designed by KHANA for the period of five years and financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with the total amount of \$13,400,000. The project covers nine different geographical areas in Cambodia such as Phnom Penh, Battambang, Pailin, Pursat, Banteay Mean Chey, Takeo, Kampong Cham, Siem Reap, and Preah Sihanouk. The project is implemented within the period of five years (October 2009-September 2014) in nine provinces and municipality.

The preparation of the launch was found quite essential to introduce the new project to the public, beneficiaries and stakeholders, and especially to express deep gratitude to the American citizens who donate their money for the cause of HIV and AIDS efforts in Cambodia and all over the globe.



The ceremony was remarkably and successfully organized by KHANA and more than 1,000 distinguished guests and participants from development partners, funding supporters, strategic partners, implementing partners, collaboration partners, provincial health departments under the coverage of SAHACOM, local authorities and relevant institutions in Bati district, Takeo province, project beneficiaries in Bati Operational District, patients and staffs in the hospice and in the centre of PC, national and international media, and KHANA staff fully participated in the launching ceremony of SAHACOM.

IP Director's Forum 2010

KHANA which is Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance held its second IP Director's Forum 2010 at Phnom Penh Hotel from 23 to 24 February 2010. This forum mainly focused on 'More Sustainable and Better Integrated Community Based Services for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), Orphan Vulnerable Children (OVC) and most at Risk Population (MARPs).

The aim of the Forum was to strengthen partnership between Khana and Implementing Partners (IPs) and discuss how KHANA and IPs could better adapt to the needs of communities and continue to make the difference in a changing and challenging environment to discuss key components for the new Strategic Plan 2010-2015, an arrangement and coordination for implementation across partnership.

The honorary guests in the IP Director's Forum were H.E. Dr. Teng Kunthy, Secretary General, National AIDS Authority (NAA); Dr Sok Bunna, Donor's Representative from USAID/CAMBODIA and Development Assistant Specialist on HIV/AIDS; and Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA Executive Director. Participated in the forum, there were members of KHANA Senior Management Team and 39 IP Directors.

There were presentations by collaborating partners. Ms. Long Dianna, Sex, Contraception and Reproductive Health Strategic

Information Director from Population Services International (PSI) presented "Tracking Results and Study on EWs"; Dr Var Chivorn, Associate Director, Reproductive Health Alliance Cambodia (RHAC) presented Sexual Health Reproductive Health/Family Planning/Maternal and Child Health; Mr. Hour Sreng, Operations Manager from Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) presented Livelihoods; and General Dr. Thong Sokunthea, Director of Research and Control Department from the National Authority Combating Drug (NACD) presented "Harm Reduction". Finally, Dr. Seng Sopheap, Director of Research from KHANA presented KHANA Baseline and Mid-Term Review, Findings and Recommendations.

On behalf of KHANA Senior Management Team and KHANA as a while, Ms. Pen Monorom, Director of Finance and Administration Department, was invited to the closing of the Forum. She appreciated all efforts made by all IP Directors during the two day meeting and referred to the continuous efforts to reduce of HIV and AIDS epidemic and to combat stigmatization and discrimination against PLHIV, OVC and MARPs required Directors.

By Chheav Aphyra

Improving the quality of life for PLHIV through livelihoods projects

Livelihoods and IGA are part of the Integrated Care and Support for PLHIV (people living with HIV and AIDS) Program. KHANA is working to address the needs of PLHIV and OVC families through specific mechanisms. The first mechanism is to improve coverage, quality and sustainability of comprehensive and integrated services for PLHIV (including MARPs) and OVC which successfully links communities with public health and non-health services. Secondly, KHANA works to improve uptake of innovative and targeted HIV prevention interventions and services by MARPs especially by those from currently neglected groups. The third strategy is to strengthen capacity and leadership of NGOs/CBOs and communities.



Chicken Raising

KHANA is working in synergy with strategic, collaborating and implementing partners to provide livelihood support and IGA to those who lack food security. Together they provide business orien-

tated support for generating income.

Self-help group (SHG) members said "When we first joined the group, we wondered whether we could help the group members improve their livelihood through livestock due to our own limited knowledge. But my previous anxiety disappeared after receiving both physical and technical support from the project. We are inspired by the motivation of the group members who made us trust ourselves."

A beneficiary said, "As our families' standards of living have gradually improved, we have been able to send our children to school for their future and as part of this, we are selling products to buy property as much as we can.



Home Garden

Through poultry raising, we collected manure from animals to make compost which we used to improve the quality of land to receive high crop yields. Poultry is low cost and available in the village, most of villagers like eating our produce-chicken and many types of vegetable."

Previously KHANA collaborated with CEDAC to implement a pilot project "Livelihoods Skill Building" by offering technical support on pig and fish raising and home gardening. This project benefited many IPs' target group by increasing skills and knowledge in agribusiness, improving their health status with nutritious food, reducing need to leave home to generate income.

In the coming months, KHANA will receive technical support from Development Alternative Inc (DAI) for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) including value chain selection and analysis in order to increase technical -

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Improving the quality of life (Continued from page 2)

skills in agri-business, complimenting existing food support. The value chain selection is oriented towards pig rearing because this will reduce importing pork products from neighboring countries like Thailand, Lao and Vietnam which are not of assured quality.

Some KHANA IPs have been successful in pig rearing and home gardening projects, using revolving funds and SHG group savings led by PLHIV and OVC. This new strategy builds KHANA technical capacity to assist PLHIV and OVC households engaged with income generation and possibly link their products to markets, such as trade fair events or

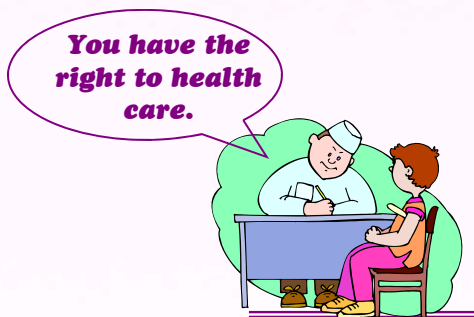


Pig Raising

exhibitions and builds relationships with other NGOs.

KHANA is the first of HIV/AIDS NGOs to initiate the livelihood project with its IPs to assist HIV affected families and communities to combat poverty by providing them business-startup, money, livestock, seeds, agriculture equipments and training as a tool for increasing their food security. This new initiative helps beneficiaries start businesses, learn technical skills and work towards self-sufficiency.

By Pheng Bunchan



Young Volunteer Shows Commitment to Positive Changes in Society

Keo Nika is an example of very inspirational teenager. In many ways Nika lives a very ordinary life, she is 16 years old and is in grade 10 at Chroy Changva High School, she also studies English language and computer skills at Pánnásástra. She comes from a poor family and is classed as an OVC (Orphan and Vulnerable Child). She lives with her mother at Chroy Changva District, Phnom Penh City, which is under the coverage area of Key of Social Health Educational Road (KOSHER) in Home based-Care (HBC) Team.

As well as her studies, Nika is one of 16 OVC peer educators KOSHER has trained since 2007. During her time with KOSHER as a peer educator, she has become a role model teenager, and has shown commitment to educating her group's members, other neighbors and school friends.. She also facilitates group meetings to share experiences, information and knowledge of health care. Because she was trained by KOSHER, she can provide technical support to the OVC group meeting and one to one education about health, especially; HIV/AIDS discrimination and stigma and abstinence.

Nika also works voluntarily as one of the consultative members of the Policy Advocacy and Communication Committee (PolAdCom) as a representative of OVC. PolAdCom was established by KHANA with the objective of raising issues, sharing information between KHANA's Implementing Partners (IP) and advocating with support of associate stakeholders and non-partners, such as media for broadcasting. Nika said "I decided to join PolAdCom because I want to learn more about working for communities and get some experience for my future career, now I can help bring OVC issues to discussion and find appropriate ways to reduce these challenges."

Showing further commitment to positive changes, she is also a member of Youth Advisory Group (YAG), a steering group

for Mstyle, SmartGirl and Friends organisation. She said "I participated in a meeting as a YAG and POLADCOM member on 18th November 2009 to introduce them to each other and discuss questionnaires to interview the target group." The YAG will start conducting its program soon around Phnom Penh City, and plans to implement it in other provinces as soon possible.

Nika said, "I have a strong commitment to involve myself with PolAdCom and YAG" she added "I am a student so I do not have much free time to work with them, but I join with them whenever I am free and it does not interfere with my school work."

In addition, Nika feels enthusiastic about her opportunity to represent OVC and KOSHER as a member of PolAdCom and YAG. It is an opportunity for her to get an understanding about her community and learn about social work.

Nika mother is clearly proud of her daughter and smiles saying, "I encourage her to raise her awareness and learn from new experiences and the people she meets through volunteering."

With her commitment, KOSHER will support her and work closely with her to raise awareness and advocate for changes together. Although she comes from a poor family, Nika is never hopeless about the future. She always takes care of her mother and concentrates on her studies, so that she might have the best opportunity for a future job and reach her full potential.

by Mr. Khun Rathana



Abuse and Discrimination against People Living with HIV (PLHIV)

On the 2nd and 3rd November 2009 at Baitong restaurant in Phnom Penh, Cambodian Community Women living with HIV Cambodia Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (CCW) held a workshop to share experiences and offer group support. The group included staff and members of CCW from Kompong Cham, Preyveing and Takeo; in all there were thirty-two women and one male program officer. One participant shared her experiences as a young woman living with HIV in Takeo Province.

A 17 year old girl called Seav Meymey lives in Prey Mea Village, Takeo Province as a leader of CCW group. When she was a child, she did not know that she had HIV, she found out in August 2006 because she was having very bad headaches, fevers, swollen lymph nodes and itching. At that time, she and her mother both had suspicions and doubts. She decided to follow her mother's advice and have her blood tested in Takeo hospital, the result showed she was HIV positive, her mother and the volunteer of CCW were distressed for her. She was young and did not know about reproductive health and the risks.

Meymey was too afraid to go school because she felt ashamed in front of her friends and neighbors. She hid quietly for three months in her house. Her relatives chased her from their houses because they knew that she, like her parent, had HIV. She left her home to work in Boeng Chhouk restaurant. She earned 70,000 riel

per month but her boss did not know she was HIV positive. He lent her 210,000 riel, three months of her wage in advance for her to study to be a beautician. At that time she worked and studied. Unfortunately, one day the doctor that tested her blood came to eat and drink in her restaurant and then he told the owner of the restaurant that she had HIV. Her boss shouted at her angrily and told her that if she had AIDS, she could no longer work in his restaurant. He demanded his money from her and chased her away.

She has disappointed because her boss knew her background and that she could not afford to pay him back. She left and asked her teacher if she could live with her. The teacher agreed with her, knowing that Meme had HIV. The owners of the restaurant commanded their children to demand money from Meme by using threats. She cried and asked to borrow money from her teacher to pay back the restaurant owner.

After that, her teacher told Meme, she must go and live in Phnom Penh. To avoid discrimination and hatred, she went to Phnom Penh following her teacher's advice. Meanwhile, Meme's mother missed her child who had been gone for two months. She asked Meme's close friend about her child, but they did not know where she was. One day she went to the hospital and she overheard the doctors talking about her daughter working in the restaurant and having HIV. Her mother

asked the doctor directly if he was talking about Meme working at Boeng Chhouk Restaurant. She went to the restaurant and asked after her daughter, the owners insulted and cursed her. They said that they knew her child had HIV, that she couldn't work with them as she would bring bad luck to the restaurant and no people would come to eat or drink there. Her mother was very disappointed and cried with the frustration of not finding her daughter. The day after, Meme's mother went to Takeo market and met a friend who told her that Meme was working as a beautician. The friend told her that Meme was working in Phnom Penh and gave the address to her. With this information, Meme's mother met her daughter and she persuaded her to return to her homeland adding that all her relatives would stop discriminating against her. She decided to go with her mother. When she arrived home, a volunteer asked her to work for RACHANA NGO, teaching children in Takeo province about HIV.

When she told her story, all the participants wept, they felt full of pity for her and also inspired by her determination.

By Oum Vandoeun

Opinion and Outlook

I am happy to work for KHANA because it is a non-profit organization working with implementing partners and other stakeholders in Cambodia to support people living with HIV/AIDS. I will use my skills, knowledge and experience to strengthen and build our partners capacity to achieve their goals. I hope KHANA can continue their activities for a long time and create new ideas to develop a country.



Ms. Kim Sovannary



Ms. Kheang Sokhai

I hope to use my skills in the best possible way to work towards achieving KHANA's goals. My goal is to upgrade comprehensive growth of resources from professional satisfaction and financial aspects.



Khana is a linking organisation of the global partnership
International HIV/AIDS Alliance
Supporting community action on AIDS in developing countries

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