

PURPLE BRICKS

ISSUE 3 - NOVEMBER 2006
KHANA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN



CONFERENCE IN LONDON

At the invitation of the Britain-based International HIV/AIDS Alliance Secretariat (the Alliance), two of KHANA's staff joined a conference on the Frontiers Prevention Program in London on 13-17 November 2006. Conference participants from different countries shared experiences and lessons learnt from their work so that they can improve and strengthen their FPP programming.

INTERNAL MEETING TO MEET DONORS' REQUIREMENTS

On November 14, all KHANA programme officers met to discuss their work plan for the year 2007. Dr. Tith Khimuy, KHANA's Programme Director said that the meeting focused on prevention for high risk groups like sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, drug users, big brothers, and migrants, to meet the requirements of donors such as USAID and the Global Fund.

KHANA JOINS TV LIVE TALK-SHOW

Dr. Kong Sopheap, KHANA Team Leader, joined the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation on November 16 on a CTN live-talk show to discuss "Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Cambodia". Dr. Kong Sopheap explained to the TV host and the audience about KHANA's work and its cooperation with the government and civil society to help orphans and vulnerable children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.



Sek Sovann is giving grass to her two cows.

A SECOND CHANCE THROUGH INFORMATION AND HEALTH CARE

"I really wanted to die when I was seriously sick," said a widow as she struggled to hold back tears. At 45 years of age, Sek Sovann is living with HIV and looking after three kids. She got the virus from her husband, a former government soldier, who died in 2000, two months after his blood test.

"I felt terrible shock when I learnt that my husband had AIDS," she said with a shaking voice. "Since then, I became weaker and weaker and last year I fell seriously sick. I cried days and nights. I didn't know what would happen to my young children after I died."

Continued on page 2

Inside

Papua New Guinea's Parliamentarians Visit KHANA.....	2
KHANA Organises First MSM Forum.....	3
A Helping Hand.....	3
KHANA joins nation to deliver information on drugs and HIV/AIDS during boat-racing festival	4



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



FRONTIERS PREVENTION PROJECT



WFP United Nations World Food Programme

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S PARLIAMENTARIANS VISIT KHANA



KHANA staff brief Papua New Guinean parliamentarians on KHANA's achievements.

A group of Papua New Guinean parliamentarians and civil society officials, including a journalist, visited the KHANA office to discuss experiences and lessons learnt on HIV/AIDS prevention in Cambodia. On their UNAIDS-

organised study tour in South East Asia and Africa from the 2nd to the 25th October, the fourteen delegates met with Cambodian senators, members of the national assembly, and many other officials of both governmental and non-governmental organizations involved with HIV/AIDS. The delegation met with KHANA officials on October 23.

According to UNAIDS, the tour was organized so that the delegates could see, and discuss, how other countries dealt with the HIV/AIDS epidemic, at community and political levels. This information would then be used to inform their own programmes in Papua New Guinea.

During the visit to KHANA, KHANA staff presented KHANA's achievements and lessons learnt to the delegates. Delegate leader, H.E. Dr. Banare Bun, Chairman of the Special Parliamentary Committee on HIV/AIDS in PNG, expressed his high regard for the work KHANA was currently undertaking in HIV/AIDS care and prevention.

Story by Chhay Sophal and picture by Tith Khimuy

Continued from page 1: A Second Chance Through...

But now, with assistance of local NGO, Community Poverty Reduction (CPR), who contacted her in 2003, Sovann has restarted her life with the kids -- 7 and 11 year-old daughters and a son, 17, -- in the village of Kruos, Kampong Chhnang province.

"Through our home-based care work, we found her lying in her home. At that time, Kampong Chhnang did not have any access to ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy). We sent her to a health center in Prey Veng province to get some medicine," said Chhoueng Kimsan, CPR programme officer. With support from CPR, Sovann now gets ART regularly in the provincial health center and she can do her farming and enjoy life with her kids.

"I am happy now because I can carry on living with my kids. Without the information and health care from CPR, I would have died and my children would be orphans now," Sovann said with a smile. "I would like to appeal to other people to have their blood tested so that they can be aware if they are HIV positive. When



Sek Sovann, a 45-year-old HIV/AIDS positive widow, enjoys looking at the KHANA monthly bulletin with her two daughters.

they know in advance about it, they will get ART, and live longer."

Five people in Kruos village currently get home-based care from CPR.

The Kampong Chhnang-based CRP was founded in 2003. It is one of KHANA's partners.

Story and picture by Chhay Sophal

KHANA ORGANISES FIRST MSM FORUM

On October 12, KHANA held its first public forum for men who have sex with men (MSM) in Siem Reap, northwestern Cambodia. The forum, entitled "Male Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS" was attended by more than 100 participants including; MSM, MoH personnel, NGO officials, District Governors, Commune and Village Chiefs, School Directors, police officers, and monks. The aim of the forum was to sensitize the audience to MSM issues and highlight the problem of stigma and discrimination.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, His Excellency Mao Vuthy, Deputy Provincial Governor of Siem Reap, said the royal government, with the help of NGOs, should make a commitment to focus on the health of MSM. "It is important to focus on MSM in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic because they face a high risk of HIV transmission as well as other STIs. Infection rates

among this group are high because we have not paid attention to them before."

During the half-day forum, the participants discussed how to reduce discrimination and stigmatization against MSM. Nou Vannary, KHANA's Program Officer for Focused Prevention said that the forum is extremely important for Cambodian MSM. The forum, she said, also urged the whole society to allow MSM equal access to health services, including VCCT and ART. "We hope that after the forum, the participants can transfer the information to their staff, communities, villagers, neighbours, and families," she added.

Choub Sok Chamreun, KHANA's Focused Prevention Team Leader, said the forum allowed all stakeholders and MSM to build mutual understanding and demonstrate their commitment to improve health. He said KHANA plans to hold similar forums in Battambang province and Sihanoukville in the coming months.

With KHANA's support, a group of Cambodian MSM officially announced the launch of a national network to mobilize all MSM nationwide, inform them of their social rights, and help raise awareness of the danger of HIV/AIDS, and drug use.

Story by Chhay Sophal and picture by Pich Sinat



Public forum for MSM in Siem Reap, 12 October.

A HELPING HAND

When single mother Srey Phal began to feel sick and found she couldn't move her legs, she feared for the welfare of her son Sopheak, then 13. "I felt weak and was paralysed through the thigh area, I couldn't move...", she says. "...I could no longer earn money for my son by selling fish and chicken. I lost all hope". Srey Phal's husband had passed away in 2000, leaving her as the sole income earner for the small family. Living in O'russey Village, Kratie Province, desperate Srey Phal was able to contact a representative from Kratie Women Welfare Association (KWWA), a local NGO that provides home based care, welfare support and referral services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Kratie Province.

"KWWA had already come to our village, so I knew about them", Srey Phal says. "KWWA staff are recognised in the community for being friendly and have worked to educate people on HIV/AIDS prevention and care". The organisation referred Srey Phal to a Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) centre where Srey Phal's results indicated that she was HIV positive.



Sopheak is happiest when caring for his pig Chhing-Chhing.

"Sopheak is a good boy, he cooks for me when I'm unwell...and has taught himself how to raise chickens and pigs". During home visits, KWWA encourages and educates Srey Phal

Continued on page 4

KHANA JOINS NATION TO DELIVER INFORMATION ON DRUGS AND HIV/AIDS DURING BOAT-RACING FESTIVAL



Hundreds of thousands of boat racers, their families, and spectators from across the nation flood into Phnom Penh during the three day festival.

The number of drug users in Cambodia is rising. Since many users are at risk of HIV/AIDS infection, KHANA joined with governmental and non-governmental organizations, including media, to deliver information on the risks during the national three-day boat racing festival in early November.

Speaking at a press conference organized by the National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD) at the Ministry of Interior on November 3, H.E Lt. Gen. Lour Ramin, NACD Secretary General said that it was very important for the information campaign on the "danger of drug use and HIV/AIDS infections, especially infection through drug injection," to be conducted during the festival, when thousands of boat racers and onlookers across the country would be in the capital, Phnom Penh. "We will launch our campaign with support and cooperation from the National AIDS Authority, UNODC,

and other civil society organizations such as KHANA and the Women's Media Center," he told the conference.

Drug use in Cambodia in 2005 is 28 percent higher than in was in 2004, according to NACD, and continues to increase. For the information campaign, KHANA provided 10,000 information materials such as booklets, posters, and leaflets describing the risk of HIV/AIDS infection and drug use. The three-day information campaign also included concerts at Wat Phnom, a central landmark of Phnom Penh. The concerts were followed by questions and answers concerning the dangers of drugs and HIV/AIDS infection. Correct answers were rewarded with t-shirts and caps.

Story and pictures by Chhay Sophal



A young family listens to a public forum on HIV/AIDS awareness on the first day of the boat racing festival.

Continued from page 3: A Helping Hand...

and her son on how to care for themselves and their animals. The organisation supplies rice, soya sauce, soap and medicinal treatment and visits the family at least weekly. "If we run out of rice, we call KWWA", Srey Phal says in a voice of gratitude.

Sopheak has participated in the 'Happy Happy Program' which educates children on general health as well as HIV issues through fun activities. He continues to receive support from KWWA staff to attend school regularly and has shown a flair for mathematics. At his happiest however, Sopheak can be

found feeding his pig and chickens. "He's asking me for a cow next", says his mother proudly, "KWWA has encouraged us to live again". Thanks to medical treatment, Srey Phal now has increased mobility in her legs and feels as if her health has improved. "I no longer feel hopeless" she says.

Story and picture by Zoë Kan and Bou Sreyna

KHMER HIV/AIDS NGO ALLIANCE

33 Street 71, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan Chamkar Mon
Telephone: 023 211 505 - Fax: 023 214 049 - Website: www.khana.org.kh