

# PURPLE BRICKS

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KHANA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

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## MANGO TRAINING FOR PROGRAMME MANAGERS

On April 2, KHANA Programme Managers and Coordinators attended a three-day training course on capacity building of financial management. The course was conducted on April 2-4 at KHANA office in Phnom Penh.

The training, conducted by MANGO and entitled "Practical Financial Management for Programme Managers: Working with Local Partners" aimed at building the confidence and financial skills of programme managers and coordinators to support local partners NGOs in providing cost effective, controlled and accountable project implementation.

Debbie Pitt, a Financial Trainer from the British-based MANGO, said the course is very crucial for the participants to improve their financial management. "It is especially suitable for managers who need to identify local partners, assess their financial management capacity or monitor their partners' performance," she said.

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## DISCRIMINATION CAN INCREASE THE NUMBER OF DRUG USERS AND HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC



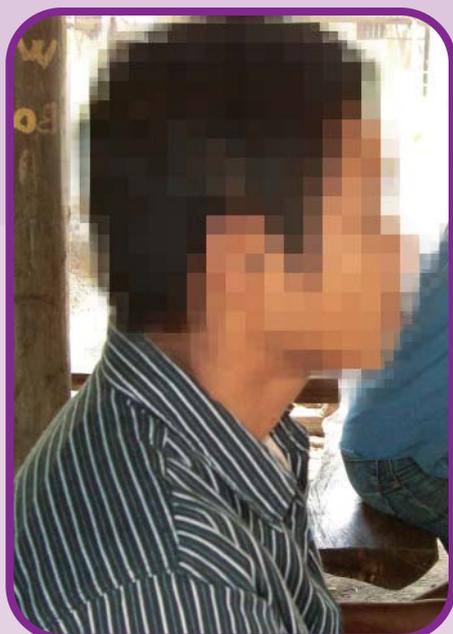
OEC peer educators explain about the risk of drug use to kids and youth in a village of Banan district.

After getting direct advice and consultation from peer educators, Sum Thy tries to quit his drug addiction gradually. From yama and ice smoking for a few times a day, he tries to cut off -- once for a few days. "I used to smoke between twice and three times a day with my friends but now once in two or three days," he said

Due to discrimination and ignorance from his village and without accessing to information on the risk of drug use, he and his friends are always together to find a safe place to smoke the drug and the result, as Sum Thy says, was that they

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Sum Thy wants to quit yama smoking and he seeks for nondiscrimination from community.

were usually eager to have sex. "No one in the village wanted to talk to me before. They discriminated me and considered me as a gangster. So, I felt isolated and without choice, I decided to travel from one village to another with my 10 friends from different villages in order to find yama and ice to smoke. After smoking, I felt happier, stronger and braver and we also felt a much stronger desire to have sex," Sum Thy said. He added that he and his friends often started violence with different groups of drug users and even with his villagers after smoking.

At 23 years of age, he has already been addicted to yama smoking for 6 years, starting at the time when he was just 17. Now, it is time for a change. After getting information on the harm of drug use and health damage, including HIV/AIDS and STI transmission, from a peer educator of a local NGO -- Opération Enfants du Cambodge (OEC) -- Sum Thy has become more aware and tries to tackle his addiction. "I now understand about the risk of yama and other drug smoking and HIV/AIDS epidemic. I got the information from one of my friends who completely stopped smoking. Because of the information, I know that drug really harms my health and my future. Drugs can disgrace me in the society, especially in my village," he said.

Ms. Tith Davy, OEC Executive Director, said that without "consultation from the society

and education from communities", the number of drug users and HIV and STI transmission could increase. "First we were very worried that drug users are dangerous to get involved with but when we start working with them we realize that they are in danger. Many drug users want to quit but they do not know by how. They could not access information on the risk of drug use and safe sex. They know nothing about the health risks and HIV/AIDS related to drug use. They really need clear and soft explanation about the risk," she said. Yama users face HIV transmission risk through increased sexual activity and the decrease in use of condoms.

With support from KHANA since March 2006, the 1996-founded OEC has reached 200 drug users and 100 non-drug users in Banan district's 24 villages of Battambang province. In April this year, OEC also focuses on other 11 villages in another district. Hak Sam Phon, OEC coordinator of HIV/AIDS related to drug programme, estimated that approximately 10 drug users are seen in each village. OEC through its 10 peer educators -- 5 former drug users and 5 non-drug users -- has raised awareness of the harm of drug use and HIV/AIDS and STI related to drug use among youth and villagers. He said "In close cooperation with the local authorities and police, OEC strongly urges villagers not to classify drug users into different category of people leading them to be isolated," he said.

Yama and ice are widely available in Cambodia, found in some public areas like parks, streets, pubs, night clubs, karaoke parlors, guesthouses, and brothels. Up to the first quarter of 2007, KHANA has reached up to 2,247 drug users through its programme, mostly yama and ice users but also some injecting drug users in Phnom Penh. Injecting drug users face direct risk of HIV transmission through the sharing of needles in addition to the risk of sexual transmission. KHANA also reached 4,157 vulnerable non-drug users through its outreach activities to try to help prevent some young people from taking up drug use. According to a result of "Participatory Assessment and Response on Drugs & Substance Use and HIV/AIDS" in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville conducted by KHANA

partners in 2005 - 2006, people use drugs for various reasons: curiosity, peer pressure, family problems, domestic violence, boredom, unemployment, wanting to forget problems, desire to stay awake to do more work, prolonging sexual encounter and loneliness. The result also indicated that high levels of drug use are "within certain populations, including youth out of school and sex workers, groups whose HIV risk is already high and therefore compounded by the use of behavioral change drug such as amphetamines". According to the Interior Ministry, there were some 6,500 drug users in 2006.

With USAID fund, KHANA on October 11 last year signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to fight against HIV/AIDS and drug use with the National Authority Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Interior. The MoU aimed at setting up the approach of HIV education programs, peer outreach and support, and referral services for drug users as well as education programs for general public and supporting drug and HIV prevention work.

Hak Sam Phon said drug addicted persons must not be abandoned but they have to be specially taken care otherwise they will be at risk. "They are not criminals but the real victims. If we ignore and discriminate them, they will be isolated and they use more drugs and number of users will also increase," he said by adding that the way to reduce the rates of drug use and increasing rates of safe sex is to increase awareness and do more consulting with drug users. "Our peer educators spend nine days a month to go to the fields from one village to another to collect information on drug situation from the heads of the villages. After that the peers, ex-drug users who also know some drug users, can directly meet and consult with drug users by providing them information on the risk of drug use, and HIV/AIDS and STIs related to drug," he said.

Sum Thy also appeals his villagers and other people to stop discriminating against him and other drug users. "I would like to appeal people not to look down on drug users otherwise we feel isolated and still use drug. We need consulting and advice to quit the drug. I hope I will be able to completely stop in the soon future," he said.

# PEACEFUL LIFE WITH NGO SUPPORT



*Ven Sreyvan sits next to her mother, Chep Navy, weaving.*

Sitting next to her mother weaving, a three-year-old girl really knows nothing about what is happening to her and her family. The child, Ven Sreyvan who was born in a monk's truck, hasn't seen her HIV-positive father since she was 3 months old.

Chep Navy, Sreyvan's mother, is also living with HIV/AIDS. Her husband died of HIV/AIDS related illness in 2002 and her 5-year-old daughter, her first child, died of Acute Respiratory Infection two years later. Navy remarried and the couple had a child, Sreyvan, but the new couple divorced soon after the birth in 2003. Sreyvan's father, like her mother, was also HIV positive.

Sreyvan was not meant to be born in a truck. While her mother was about to deliver her, the chief of monks of a pagoda in Takeo province's Sramorch Hé village took her mother to a referral hospital but they never reached the hospital and the baby was born in the monk's truck on the way.

"I have already taken her to have blood tested three times and the results indicated that she is negative and I am so

happy with that," Navy said. "I have nothing remaining in my life except my daughter, Sreyvan. Though I am HIV-positive, I have to struggle in life for my daughter," the 32-year-old mother said.

With support from a local NGO - Partners in Compassion (PC) -- one of KHANA's NGO partners in Takeo province, both Navy and Sreyvan have a free shelter located in a pagoda. Navy also gets ARV regularly from the provincial health center through the organization. Mr. San Vandin, PC Director, also confirms that Sreyvan is HIV-negative after three-time blood tests. "It is good for her," he said.

With a plot of land borrowed from the pagoda in the village, PC has a few buildings for 13 HIV-positive children and 15 adults living with HIV. PC looks after them by providing education, vocational training, and food. According to Vandin, there are about 700 PLHA and more than 1,000 OVC under his organisation's care through KHANA's support.

Dr. Kong Sopheap, KHANA's Integrated Care and Prevention Team Leader, said

an unofficial estimation suggests that about 15,000 children -- under the age of 15 -- are living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 77,000 children affected by HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. "There is still much to be done in supporting OVC, especially in terms of access to paediatric ART and socio-economic support," he added.

After getting vocational training from PC, Navy can make some money to additionally support her herself and Sreyvan. "I learn how to weave from PC. With the weaving products, I can earn \$20 per month to, enough for me and my daughter to survive. Without PC, I don't know what would happen to me and Sreyvan," Navy said by adding that she wants to see other people to live without HIV/AIDS. "In order to avoid AIDS, I just call on people to be careful for having sex. They have to use condom. I also appeal other people to have blood test so that they can get ARV to live longer to support themselves and their families," she said.

## ***Continued from p. 1: Mango Training...***

The training was specially designed for KHANA's needs and represented the first time that programme managers had received finance related training. KHANA is in the process of decentralizing certain financial management responsibilities and expects that this training will play an important role in making its support to 60 NGO partners even more effective.



*Financial trainer Debbie Pitt looks on participant's group discussion.*

# NEW DEPARTMENT'S MEETING FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING



PARM Acting Director Joanna Dorricott listens to PARM staff members' discussion during a meeting on a moving boat along the Mekong River on April 11.

In order to develop its strategic plan and to start functioning well in accordance with the organisation's mission and vision after new restructuring, KHANA's newest department --

Policy, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization (PARM) -- held one and half day meeting on April 10-11. The meeting was done half day at KHANA office and a whole day on a moving boat along the Mekong River.

As the department is completely new, its staff needed to discuss their individual positions and work plans, common objectives and key areas of responsibility so that they can develop a departmental strategy that makes effective contributions to the success of the whole organisation.

PARM Department, established in January 2007, is one of KHANA's four departments. It comprises six coordinators: Communications, Human Resource, Information Technology, Organisational and Institutional Development, Policy and Advocacy, and Training. The three

other departments are Finance and Administration, Programme Management, and Strategic Information.

The PARM department is responsible for the development of new programmes and the mobilization of resources as well as being the external voice of KHANA through its communications and advocacy work. The department also functions to support the internal workings of the organization (HR, IT and institutional strengthening) and will provide some support to KHANA's partner NGOs.

This PARM meeting was a follow-up to the KHANA staff retreat in Siem Reap in March when the staff discussed the organization's strategic plan for the period 2008-2010 and the organisational restructuring. The strategic plan is designed to operate within the framework of the "National Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive and Multisectoral Response to HIV/AIDS" of the Royal Government of Cambodia whilst also clearly articulating KHANA's role as an NGO working specifically on prevention, care and impact mitigation in relation to HIV/AIDS.

## KHANA'S STAFF CORNER

*Congratulations to the following new staff who joined KHANA in April and early May. Welcome!*



Name: **Mr. Hean Sam Ath**  
Position: Human Resource Coordinator  
Started: 9th April.

Sam Ath has experience in working in the field of HRM for various NGOs. Sam Ath has a wide array of experience in recruitment, benefit administration, case & change management, human resource consulting, conducting workshops and facilitating training programs.



Name: **Miss Eart Pysal**  
Position: Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Development Specialist.  
Started: 1st May

Before KHANA, Pysal was an IEC senior project officer of CARE Cambodia. She has experience in providing capacity to local NGOs and producing IEC health promotion on HIV/AIDS, sexuality, RH, care and support.



Name: **Miss Eng Muguek**  
Position: Procurement Assistant  
Started: 1st May.

Before working for KHANA, Muguek worked as an Education Program officer for Children at High Risk Prevention Project of World Vision-Cambodia, Battambang Operation. She also used to be a finance/ administration assistant, receptionist, and English teacher.



Name: **Mr. Buth Rithy**  
Position: Corporate Finance Officer.  
Started: 2nd May.

Before working for KHANA, Rithy worked for World Vision Cambodia in Kampong Speu province as a Finance Officer. He has also worked for various organizations as an Account Assistant, Finance Assistant, Admin./Finance Supervisor.

*At the same time we also congratulate to three other staff who arrived in KHANA in early 2007.*



Name: **Miss Hul Sivantha**  
Position: Planning and Reporting Officer  
Started: 19th Feb.

Before working for KHANA, she was a Sponsorship Coordinator and Field Coordinator for the Development Program in Kompong Speu for Operation World Vision-Cambodia. Sivantha also has experience in teaching English.



Name: **Mr. Ney Chantry**  
Position: Planning and Reporting Officer  
Started: 1st March

Before coming to KHANA, Chantry was a data base management assistant of Lutheran World Federation. He has experience in creating database and monitoring system.



Name: **Mr. Phon Yut Sakara**  
Position: Organizational and Institutional Development Coordinator  
Started: 5th March

Sakara has had lots of experience related to organizational development. Before coming to Khana, Sakara worked for Pact Cambodia as HIV/AIDS Program Director. His position in KHANA is focusing on organizational development to increase the capacity of Khana NGO partners to effectively response to the needs of vulnerable groups.

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