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STRATEGIC VISIT TO SEE PARTNERS' ACTION

In order to see the real action directly implemented by partners, KHANA's Executive Director Dr. Oum Sopheap and his program officers paid a one-day visit to three NGO partners in Kandal province, neighboring Phnom Penh capital. The visit aimed at strengthening partnership communication and listening to the partners' voices whether the project agreements have been implemented on the right track to improve quality of life of People Living with HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children. The 19 June trip also sought to get feedback from the partners what they need and what challenges they face so that KHANA provide the appropriate support in response to HIV/AIDS epidemic in cooperation with other stake holders and the government institutions.

See pictures on page 5

NEWSPAPER EDITORS JOIN KHANA TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED AND BETTER HIV/AIDS REPORTING IN THE PRESS



Journalists' field trip to see former drug users with help of KHANA's NGO partner.

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The media is one of the foremost tools to send powerful messages about the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the public nationwide. In order to harness the power of the media, Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA) worked in cooperation with the Cambodian Club of Journalists (CCJ), the country's leading media organization, to conduct a special Journalism Training Course on HIV/AIDS reporting for Cambodian journalists. The two-day course was held on 2-3 July, 2007 at KHANA office

This new course targeted print journalists selected from different areas such as the capital and provinces bordering Thailand and Vietnam where HIV/AIDS is still a big challenge. The course aimed at increasing awareness of HIV/AIDS, promoting understanding,

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Miss Chheang Bopha (left), Journalism lecture, along with Mr. Pen Bunna, an Editor-in-Chief of a local newspaper, gives lecture to participants at the journalism training course.

encouraging more and better research, challenging misconceptions, guiding how to find the right news sources, and promoting reduction of stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV among the participants.

Speaking at the first session on "The Role of Newsroom to Encourage Reporters to Write News on HIV/AIDS", Mr. Pen Samitthy, Editor-in-Chief of Rasmei Kampuchea Daily, said reporters, especially those who are working in the provinces where citizens cannot get more clear information on HIV/AIDS, must file more stories in the issue besides hot news on politics and crimes. "Health issues, particularly HIV/AIDS, is really helpful news for our readers so that they can protect themselves from HIV. Most of the stories on the current papers I have seen focus on politics and crimes," he said. Samitthy who is also CCJ president, also appealed both editors and field journalists to play their important role to promote the health sector. "Journalists must file health stories rather than stories on minor crime like a thief steals a bicycle or a battery or even a chicken," he added.

Twenty-eight journalists -- 15 of them from nine provinces and 13 others from Phnom Penh -- participated in the course. The workshop focused on the role of newsroom to encourage reporters to write news on HIV/AIDS, the

importance of media in responding to HIV/AIDS, experiences in reporting on HIV/AIDS, appropriate language use regarding HIV/AIDS to avoid stigma and discrimination and included a session on what PLHA communities need from the media. Resource persons included editor-in-chiefs, senior journalists, and HIV/AIDS specialists and one PLHA.

During the course, journalists also had a chance to visit four of KHANA's NGO partners in Phnom Penh to see community HIV activities in action -- Income Generation for PLHA, Prevention and Vocational Training Center for OVC, Home-Based Care Activities, and Drug Community Awareness and Outreach Activities. The trips provided journalists an opportunity to meet and talk to PLHA, OVC, and former Drug Users.

In his session on "The Government Policy and Strategy in response to HIV/AIDS", His Excellency Dr. Teng Kunthy, Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority (NAA), said journalists are the key people who can actively help send powerful messages on the issue nationwide. Without media, it is really difficult for us to achieve our goal. Though HIV/AIDS prevalence across the country has decreased to 0.9 percent among people between 15 and 49 years of age, we still need to achieve more

and through the media. We hope that the prevalence might go to zero percent in the future," he said. He called on journalists to work together with the NAA to achieve the goals outlined in the National Strategic Plan for 2006-2010.

In his closing remark, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA executive director, said the journalists' attendance in the course was really important. "Media are informative machines producing news and information. The machines can outreach the products very fast," he said. Cambodia used to be notorious due to the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields in the world, he said, and reports often say AIDS is the second killer after the killing fields. "I hope that through their information machines, media can bring Cambodia's reputation regarding to the success of HIV/AIDS prevention to the world. Through their informative and educational reports with clear solutions, journalists could change people's behaviours and habits regarding HIV/AIDS," he added.

KHANA plans to conduct another training course in 2008 for both radio and TV reporters so that they can build up their skills and knowledge in reporting HIV/AIDS.



Journalists' group discussion on the results of their field visit



Journalists' field trip to see KHANA's NGO partner's activity of informal education for OVC.



Journalists' group presentation to share what they learn during the field visit.



Dr. Oum Sopheap gives his closing remark at the course.



Dr. Teng Kunthy delivers certificate to a journalist trainee.

KHANA'S REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH PARTNERS

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2007

In July 2007, KHANA organized a series of regional meetings to review its NGO partners' work for the past six months and to present KHANA's new structure and management to its partners and networks. The first meeting was held on 4-5 July in Siem Reap provincial town for the Northwestern Region, the second meeting was held in Sihanoukville on 11-12 July for the Western and Central Region, and the third gathering was organized in Kampot provincial town on 18-19 July for the Southeastern Region.

KHANA works in 17 provinces and municipalities nationwide. Since January, KHANA has adopted a 'regional' approach to supporting its partners by segmenting its work into three geographical regions -- Western and Central Region (Phnom Penh, Kandal, Sihanoukville, and Kampong Speu) with 21 NGO partners, 10 Operational Districts and 67 Health Centers; the Northwestern Region (Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Pursat, Kampong Chhnang, and Siem Reap) with 22 NGO partners, 18 Operational Districts and 152 Health Centers; the Southeastern Region (Kampong Thom, Kratie, Kampong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kampot, and Takeo) with 20 NGO partners, 18 Operational Districts and 101 Health Centers. Each region is supported by one team with a team leader and three or four Programme Officers at KHANA. The aim of establishing these regional teams is to build better partnerships between NGOs in a geographical region, and to provide more responsive support to each NGO. The meetings aim at strengthening partnership between KHANA



Group discussion during a meeting for Western and Central Region in Sihanoukville on July 11.

and its NGO partners and networks and identifying their successes, challenges, and lesson learnt in programme management. "The meetings reflected our partners' work in the past six months so that we can improve our workplan and implementation in the future in order to reach our common goal in response to HIV/AIDS. We believe that the meetings can make our management more effective from KHANA to partners and from partners to beneficiaries," said Dr. Tith Khimuy, KHANA's Director of Program Management. He also briefed the participants about KHANA's new structure and management, lines of communications, procedures for proposals, M&E reporting, and different donors' requirements. The gathering also provided opportunity to partners to brainstorm in group discussion so that they can effectively work on prevention with Garment Factory Workers (GFWs), Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC), Sex Workers (SWs), Youth, Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM), and Drug Users (DUs). The work also focuses on Home-Based Care and Income Generation Activities for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).

Achievements of the first semester of 2007

In response to the issues of HIV/AIDS, The Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA) currently works to provide technical and financial support to 63 NGO partners in 17 target provinces. With direct leadership of

an executive director under support from nine national and international board members, KHANA has four departments -- Program



Awareness raising activity on the risk of drug use to OVC.

Management; Policy, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization; Strategic Information; Finance and Administration.

During the period from January to June, KHANA with 57 full time staff supported by 15 volunteers and a few international technical support officers, including a number of short term consultants, has achieved fruitful results. With 112 projects -- 54 supported by Global Fund, 40 by USAID, 14 by EC, and 4 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, KHANA has strengthened community-based responses to HIV/AIDS.

Its partners have formed Home Care Teams and expanded their number to 112 groups that provide care and support to PLHA and including with adherence to ART. The partners are also implementing a wide range of HIV prevention activities for vulner-



Dr. Tith Khimuy, KHANA's Director of Program Management, gave his welcome remark at a meeting for the Western and Central Region in Sihanoukville on July 11.

able groups -- SWs, MSM, PLHA and their families, young people, and GFWs. 349 Peer Educators (PE) and 116 Peer Facilitators (PF) are working in their communities. Their main role is to provide HIV/AIDS education to most vulnerable and high risk groups.

For the Integrated Care & Prevention projects, Care and Support for PLHA, OVC, advocacy activities to reduce stigma and discrimination, and support PLHA rights are the main tasks. Small scale income generation schemes have been established in order to improve PLHA living conditions and improve their health conditions and quality of life. In partnership with the World Food Program, monthly food support has been distributed to PLHA and OVC.



Awareness raising activity on the risk of drug use to OVC.

At the national level, KHANA has continued to contribute to policy and coordination initiatives such as support to the national MSM network, the development of the OVC Framework and organizing a unique stakeholders' conference on HIV/AIDS which gave an opportunity for government and NGOs to share and learn from each other's experiences.



Happy, happy programme for youth conducted in a school to raise awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS epidemic

With a total annual budget of US\$ 4,352,790 in 2007, from USAID, the Alliance, Global Fund, and the European Committee, including other donors KHANA has spent US\$ 2,088,845 from January to June and the remaining balance -- US\$ 2,263,945 will be operated from July to December. This year, KHANA also distributes food from WFP in the value of US\$1,535,834.

CHARTS OF KHANA'S ACHIEVEMENTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2007

	Last six months of 2006	First six months of 2007
# of people reached through prevention activities, life skills, drug prevention activities and stigma related contents	124,226 (F: 62,199)	145,672 (F: 81,141)

# of people reached through HIV prevention activities	Last six months of 2006	First six months of 2007
OVC and/or youth aged from 11-24	17,044 (F:7,362)	24,663 (F: 12,786)
PLHA	8,275 (F:4,909)	9,101 (F: 5,306)
MSM	4,815	2267
Direct Sex Workers, Indirect Sex Worker/ Entertainment	3,403	2655
Factory Workers	0	625 (F: 590)
ATS Users	1,967 (F:185)	2,754 (F: 403)
IDU 260 (F:88)	260 (F:88)	1,201 (F: 322)
Married Couples	24.2543 (F:13.214)	36.264 (F: 21370)

	Last six months of 2006	First six months of 2007
# of people reached through Drug Prevention	14,732 (F:6,512)	20,780 (F: 10,707)

	Last six months of 2006	First six months of 2007
# of People reached through Stigma related Contents	23,935 (F:14,201)	46,046 (F: 27,365)
# of service providers trained to work out prevention activities within the NGOs' coverage with the focus target individuals	3,146 (F:1,662)	6,081(F: 2,905)
# of PLHA received comprehensive care and support services through HCT	9,404 (F: 5,369)	10,109 (F: 5,867)
# of OVC received comprehensive care and support services through HCT	13,031 (F:6,590)	15,728 (F: 7,880)
# of service providers trained to provide Home Based Care for PLHA	10,841 (F:5,308)	11,448 (F: 6504)
# of caregivers trained to provide Care to OVC	2,747 (F: 1,519)	3,601 (F:1920)
# of PLHA receiving ARV service with support from HBC	3,658 (F:2,064)	5075 (F: 2899)
# of PLHA received DOTS with support from HBC	764 (F: 391)	963 (F: 504)
# of PLHA and OVC households were support small grants for IGA	1,735	2,224
# of HIV infected OVC receiving ART with support from HBC	453 (F:252)	589 (F:314)
# of OVC attending school with support from HBC	5,497 (F:2619)	6,295 (F: 3,027)
# of Training workshops	20	16
# of PLHA &OVC Self-help group	300	475

CHANGE OF BUSINESS WITH IGA FUND

US \$30 is the really small amount of money Kim Kea received from a local NGO a few years ago but it is priceless for her and her family because it helped her to start a small new business in her village.

After her husband died of sickness related to HIV/AIDS in 2004, Kea, who is also HIV positive, has been responsible for the whole family. "After my husband's death, I have had a big burden to look after my three kids. First, I sold rice porridge with pork but business was bad. I wanted to start a new business, but I did not have enough capital," said the 41-year-old mother. "With funds from an organization, I changed my business from selling porridge to noodle soup," she added.

Saving from her small profit day by day, Ms. Kea has bought poultry. Now she has hundreds of ducks and chickens. "I tried to keep some money from part of my small income to buy hens and ducks. Then I got their eggs and later the number of hens and ducks increased up to two hundreds. So, I additionally earn some money from selling the poultry and their eggs," she said by adding that she tried to learn to raise poultry through a veterinary.

Kim Kea's family is one of 197 People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) and Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) who received funds in Battambang from KHANA 1993-founded Battambang Women's AIDS Project (BWAP), in the north-west, near the border with Thailand. The fund is a part of KHANA's Income Generation Activity (IGA). BWAP started activities with KHANA in November 2003.

With funds from USAID and the Global Fund, KHANA has started providing IGA funds to 2,261 PLHA and OVC since 2003 nationwide. Though they are loans, KHANA never expects to get funds back from the clients but it depends on its partners to decide whether the grant needs to be repaid or not. If a person wants to become an IGA client, s/he is provided a two-day training on how to manage the activity and the fund.

According to the director of BWAP, Ms. Ing Siv Heng, the clients who gets the funds are PLHA and OVC and the funds are distributed when they need to start a small business or start with



Kim Kea calls her poultries for food. She has 70 hens and ducks after selling over one hundred of them.

a new one. However, Kim Kea's case is not representative of all IGA beneficiaries, she said. "Only about 30 percent of beneficiaries are successful in their businesses," Siv Heng said.

According to KHANA's observations, IGA grants fail due to client migrations, illness, and death, while stigma and discrimination also meant HIV-positive clients have difficulty selling their products, especially food.

For Kim Kea, she said, her villagers know that she is HIV positive from her husband but they never discriminate against her. "My villagers eat my noodle soup because they know that HIV/AIDS is not carried through food," she said.

PICTURES OF STRATEGIC VISIT TO SEE PARTNERS' ACTION



Mr. Chhun Tipheap, Coordinator of Kandal provincial PLHA networks, (right) briefs KHANA officials about his work in supporting PLHA in Kandal province.



Dr. Oum Sopheap (left) listens to Ms Dy Ratha, President of Indradevi Association, in her office in Kandal province.



Field visit to see a group of OVC supported by Indradevi Association in Kandal province.



KHANA officials pay a field visit to see a PLHA family supported by Indradevi Association in Kandal province



Field visit to see PLHA supported by Indradevi Association in Kandal province.



KHANA officials pay a field visit to see a PLHA family supported by Indradevi Association in Kandal province.



Ms. Soreach Sereithida, Executive Director of Women Development Association, (right) briefs KHANA officials about her organization activities in supporting women, especially HIV-positive women, and OVC.

CONDUCTING BASELINE SURVEY ON SEX WORKERS AND MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN



Dr. Hor Bun Leng, Deputy Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority, (standing right) gave his open remark at the workshop on "Baseline Survey".

Given the relative lack of accurate information about certain key target groups, KHANA is conducting a baseline survey in seven provinces in order to get a more accurate size estimate and case definition of sex workers (SWs) and men who have sex with men (MSM). The survey is being conducted from July 2 to July 31 and was preceded by a two-day work-

shop for officials from NGO partners, police officers and provincial AIDS secretariats on 27-28 June at KHANA office. In addition to the size estimation, small focus group discussions will be held to add some important qualitative information to the size estimates.

Speaking in his open remark at the workshop, Dr. Hor Bun Leng, Deputy Secretary General of the National AIDS Authority, said that the survey is really important to find the real figure of those target groups and that KHANA plays an important role in leading this kind of survey in Cambodia. "The survey needs to find out the real number of both direct and indirect SWs

and MSM in their entertainment places, and all types of entertainment places," he said.

According to Tuot Sovannary, Research Coordinator of KHANA's Strategic Information Department, the will also help to develop the appropriate definition of these groups of population. "After the end of the survey, the report will produce more accurate denominator and clear definition of those groups and the results of the data collection could be officially used to help improve our programme planning and to share with other organizations who are interested," he said.

This is the first official survey to find out the number of both direct and indirect SWs and MSM, in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Chhnang, Prey Veng, Kampong Speu, and Sihanoukville so that intervention can be planned and implemented effectively.

KHANA'S STAFF CORNER

Joanna Dorricott

has recently worked as an Acting Director of Policy, Advocacy and Resource Mobilization Department, and Technical Support Officer at KHANA. She ended her work with KHANA on July 20 after two and a half years. "I am very privileged to have working with KHANA for these past two and a half years and am sorry to be leaving many good friends and colleagues. I have constantly been amazed by the scale of KHANA's operations and the great number of people that are being reached through a network of committed and hard-working NGOs. Even though KHANA has grown during this time, and it's programmes have also grown, there is still a very friendly and supportive atmosphere which I really enjoy. I have learnt an enormous amount about care and support for PLHA and I truly believe that Cambodia, and KHANA, has developed a model of support that can be held up as best practice around the world. Thank you KHANA, for this wonderful experience and good luck for the future."



KHANA wishes three people who left KHANA in July for their new jobs in both Cambodia and abroad.

Andrew Vickery

has been with KHANA for 6 months, from mid-January to mid-July. He worked as a Technical Advisor at the Department of Finance and Administration, helping Khana to strengthen its finance systems and improve financial management.



"The experience of working here has been extremely rewarding for me. I have really appreciated the way that staff work together with so much warmth and friendliness, and the way that people try to discuss issues and problems and reach agreement. It has been a great privilege for me to be here, to have an opportunity to live in Cambodia, and to try to make a small contribution to the amazing work that Khana and its partners do in responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the impact this has made."



Chea Serey Vuth,

Voluntary Assistant of Communication Coordinator. Vuth worked for KHANA as a volunteer for nearly 9 months until July 13, 2007. "I really enjoyed working with all staff members in KHANA, especially with my team. During the period of volunteer, I have gained a lot of experience regard to my subject. I also have gained more knowledge related to vulnerable people, particularly PLHA, OVC and drug users. I am so happy that I could help those people through KHANA's activity in order to improve their quality of lives. With this regards, I would like to express my gratefulness for KHANA guidance during my employment and I will always remember my time here."

KHANA also welcomes a new volunteer Miss Va Sokchantra



Sokchantra works for KHANA on July 16, 2007. She works as a voluntary financial assistant in the grant management unit of the Financial and Administration Department. Before coming to KHANA, she freshly ended a degree of Bachelor of Business and Administration in Phnom Penh. "I like to work for KHANA because I want to update my skill and knowledge in the field. I hope that will get a good experience from the voluntary work with KHANA and if I wish I want to become one of the KHANA staff members in the future."



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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