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KHANA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN

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OVC URGE TO STOP STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Standing opposite the President of the Cambodian Red Cross, the President of the National AIDS Authority, the World Health Organisation Representative Office in Cambodia, and other foreign diplomats, at a ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day on 1st December 2007 in Phnom Penh, two children expressed their emotions surrounding the stigma and discrimination in society attached to orphaned and vulnerable people (OVC).

Reading his one-page remark at the ceremony, which was attended by thousands of civil servants, health and NGO workers, students, including police and military police; Men Vibol, an 11-year-old HIV-positive boy spoke of his experiences as a young person living with HIV, "Nowadays, I have no siblings. After my parents died of AIDS I lived with my relatives but when they knew I am HIV positive, they did not take care of me because they discriminated me," Vibol said on behalf Cambodian orphans and vulnerable children (OVC).

Echoing Vibol's words, Sim Sreylis, a 13-year-old girl, said stigma and discrimination also still exist for her in her community. "In 2001 my parents died....and what I want to say is that people stigmatize and discriminate against me,

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Journalists participate in a Special Journalism Training Course on "Effective Use of Internet to Access HIV/AIDS Information" co-organised by KHANA and Club of Cambodian Journalists with sponsorship from UNESCO. Story on page 2.

SPECIAL JOURNALISM TRAINING: ONLINE HIV/AIDS INFORMATION RESEARCH

With sponsorship from UNESCO, KHANA in cooperation with the 'Club of Cambodian Journalists' (CCJ) co-conducted a Special Journalism Training Course on "Effective Use of Internet to Access HIV/AIDS Information" for nearly 40 journalists and media officials. The participants represented both private and state-run print and broadcast mediums, including media officials from the Ministry of Information.

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STRENGTHENING FEMALE PLHA'S CC CAPACITY IN COMMUNITIES

A new response method to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and health care for People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) in Cambodian communities has been designed and is now being implemented by the People Living with HIV/AIDS Network, also known as 'CPN+'. A one-day workshop was held in Sihanoukville on 28 December 2007 for the members of the self-help groups, to increase their knowledge of and to strengthen coordination and

communication (CC) between people affected by HIV/AIDS. Twenty female participants from different communities gathered for the first time to discuss the topic.

Speaking in her opening remark, Ms. Sou Sinat, Sihanoukville CPN+ Coordinator, explained how the workshop has been designed, to strengthen the skills to improve CC, for female participants from different communities. "This workshop is providing us with the opportunity to understand the role of coordination and communication and to share our views - what we need and what we challenge. During the one-day meeting, we can exchange ideas and share experiences and knowledge with each other so that we can improve our CC to help our People Living with HIV/AIDS in the communities."

implementing partners. Twenty-six of these are self-help groups, which outreach to 400 PLHA in the communities in the international sea port city, southwest of Phnom Penh capital, by providing educational information surrounding health care.

25-year-old Im Chinda, one of the self-help group members of the Sihanoukville CPN+, said she is quite happy to join the discussion. "This is my first time to participate in the meeting and I hope I can learn from some of the experiences shared. I hope that I can also share the knowledge I gain today with my people in my village and commune, so that they can take care their health properly" said Chida, who is also living with HIV.

The workshop was conducted after a similar discussion had been held on 27-28 November 2007 with a different group of 20 female participants from different communities.



Ms. Sou Sinat (standing), Sihanoukville CPN+ Coordinator, explains to participants about the tasks of coordination and communication.

The 2004-founded, Sihanoukville based CPN+ is one of KHANA's 66 nationwide

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The training aimed at assisting and guiding the Cambodian media professionals to enhance their capacity to access and make use of global/regional web-based knowledge, to search HIV/AIDS information on reputable websites, and to build momentum in response to HIV in the Cambodian media sector.

Speaking in his opening remark, Mr. Teruo Jinnai, UNESCO Representative in Cambodia, included that KHANA has actively engaged with the media and has provided worthwhile training for print journalists. He also included the importance of media and how it can potentially play a key role in outreaching to more isolated population groups with current educational information about HIV/AIDS. UNESCO was a proud sponsor of the training course and stated that the primary purpose of the course is to "increase the skills of journalists to access and make effective use of accurate information on HIV on the internet." He mentioned how the media can also assist to shift the view of PLHA in society, to a more positive one, "the rights of people living with HIV through accurate, non-discriminatory reporting on HIV and AIDS."

Sharing his idea in his welcoming remark, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA Executive Director, said media are good partners to help reduce the HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country.

"Actually, the media actively joined the civil



Mr. Teruo Jinnai (second from left), UNESCO Representative in Cambodia, shows a UNESCO-funded book on how to use appropriate HIV/AIDS language to the journalist trainees. Dr. Oum Sopheap (his right hand), KHANA Executive Director, and Mr. Prach Sim (his left hand), CCJ Secretary General while the trainees are looking on.

society and the government to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS aiming to reduce the epidemic, stigma and discrimination for PLHA, in the country. That's why KHANA cooperates with Club of Cambodian Journalists to deliver such an important training course."

During the three-day course, several professional resource people from government institutions, NGO's, and media organisations, including a UNESCO-Bangkok specialist, lectured to the participants -- 15 from provinces and 23 others from Phnom Penh.

The participants were educated on how to gain reliable information from reliable websites on HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse related to HIV/AIDS from useful webpages such as UNESCO, UNAIDS, USAID, and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. Internet 'links' were also explained and the usefulness of them. The conference also included information on how to create individual and group emails.

By providing this information it is hoped that networking and communications will increase between the journalists, after the course.

Prach Sim, CCJ Secretary General, said the cooperation between CCJ and KHANA is very unique. "It's really important that we join together to organise this training course and this is the second time that we have co-organised such a useful course since July this year. We hope that after the course, our journalists will be aware of more useful websites and they can search accurate information to contribute to their news articles on HIV/AIDS."

"I am so happy that I can join this crucial course. This is the first time for me, as a provincial journalist, to learn how to create my own email and group email. Moreover, I know how to search for information on reliable websites," said Kheng Ra, a reporter of Rasmei Kampuchea (Light of Cambodia) newspaper.

HELP PARTNERS TO HAVE GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION PRACTICE FREE

In order to strengthen the culture of good governance and to promote a free corruption practice, KHANA organised a series of training courses for its nationwide implementing partners during December 2007. The course is titled "Good Governance and NGO Management for the Leaders". The course comprises of a curriculum on Governance and Management Skills for NGOs; that is appropriate and based on needs. By implementing this course KHANA aims to support the strengthening of morale and overall performance of their partners.

Chim Chaney, one of the KHANA's regional team leaders said the main objective of the training "aims at building and sharing knowledge, skills and experiences on good governance and NGO management among the leaders of KHANA's implementing partners that enable them to improve the organisational management and promote good government in their organisations."

KHANA's 66 implementing partners are located in three different regions -- South and the Eastern Region (Kampong Cham, Kampong Thom, Kratie, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kampot, and also parts of Phnom Penh, Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Chang); West and the Central Region (Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampong Speu, Sihanouk Vill); and North and the Western Region (Battambang, Siem Reap, Pailin, Pursat, and Kampong Chang).

The workshops were carried out in Sihanoukville between 3-7 December 2007 for the South and Eastern Regions; 10-14 December 2007 for the West and Central Regions; and 17-19 December 2007 for the North and Western regions. The workshops were designed after KHANA conducted an intensive five-day training seminar, involving senior staff and volunteers in Phnom Penh on 20-24 August 2007.



Participants discuss in groups during the workshop "Good Governance and NGO Management for the Leaders" in Sihanoukville on 3-7 December for South and the Eastern Region.

In a separate event, KHANA also conducted an internal anti-corruption workshop for KHANA staff, late November. The workshop provided KHANA staff with the knowledge to assess and address all types of corruption; in order to maintain a corruption free practice and to promote a culture of good governance within KHANA and the broader

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saying that I am a child of AIDS people. So I would like to appeal to all of you to stop stigmatizing and discriminating against me because I know nothing," Sreylis read out her short remark at ceremony.

Dr. Tith Khimuy, KHANA Programme Management Director, agrees with the children's expressions saying that stigma and discrimination really does still exist in the Cambodian society. "We cannot erase stigma and discrimination completely in our society. This is because people's understanding of HIV transmission is still limited.

For many years, KHANA; its implementing partners, the government, and other stakeholders have worked together to reduce such stigma and discrimination." He said more awareness needs to be raised within the public in order to increase compassion and understanding within our society towards OVC and other People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).

According to the Cambodian Demographic Health Survey, released in 2007, 3870 children are living with HIV in Cambodia and "of those, less than 2000 are receiving ARV treatment. The survey highlighted that 30% of new infections are among children each year.

The end of October 2007, through KHANA's implementing partner's Home-based Care Teams, 17,344 OVC receive care and support; 646 OVC receive ART; 7,515 OVC attended school; 3,243 were fostered; and 8,528 OVC received food from the World Food Programme.

Speaking in her opening remark at the ceremony of the World AIDS Day, Her Excellency Bun Ranny -- President of the Cambodian Red Cross and Cambodia's first lady -- said the Cambodian Red Cross

has also worked together with other working groups of national figures and other stakeholders to raise awareness among youth in order to reduce the rates of HIV transmission, to stop discrimination, and to provide compassion to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Dr Michael O'Leary, World Health Organisation Representative Office in Cambodia, congratulated the Royal Government and all partners for their successful work as well as the hard work contributed by the government institutions, the groups of PLHA and all partners has been recognized internationally. "The UN agencies are fully committed, to continue supporting these efforts towards the achievement of Universal Access to quality prevention care and treatment for HIV and AIDS."

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U.S. Navy ship, to Cambodia in 2007 (the USS Gary visited in February 2007). The news release added, "The Sihanoukville port visit was a part of the Essex's annual fall patrol to East and Southeast Asia, during which the crew and its Marine unit will conduct training events focusing on sea and land-based capabilities and interact with local communities."



Men Vibol (right), an 11-year-old HIV-positive boy, read out his appeal in front of the President of the Cambodian Red Cross Bun Rany Hun Sen and other delegates during the ceremony to mark the World AIDS Day in Phnom Penh on 1 December, 2007. His left, Sim Sreylis, a 13-year-old girl, who also claims that stigma and discrimination are also still prevalent in her community.

KHANA HELPS FACILITATE US MARINE TO REACH REMOTE CAMBODIANS



One of the doctors from the US Marine expeditionary unit with the help from his Cambodian counterpart checks a Cambodian boy's mouth while other villagers are waiting for their turn in Peam Korsna commune of Kampong Cham province's Steung Trong district.

KHANA staff members have recently joined with the government institutions and other NGOs to facilitate a group of US Marine personnel, from the expeditionary unit, to travel and meet thousands of Cambodians from the more remote and less privileged areas of Cambodia.

According to a news release from the Bureau of International Information Programs (US Department of State) the US Marine expeditionary unit was attached to the USS Essex ship during a Sihanouville port visit, between 26 November and 1 December 2007. During the weeklong visit the "U.S. military personnel worked with Cambodian teams to provide medical services -- including cataract surgery -- and dental care to communities in Cambodia's Kampong Cham and Preah Vihear

provinces. They also constructed two bridges and a culvert to connect the villages of Sre Sa and Oloy in Kampong Chhnang province." the news release said. It said that during the trip the USS Essex crew members and the Marine personnel assisted with: medical and dental care, English language lessons, fixing damaged buildings, and the strengthening of military ties between the United States and Cambodia.

Some KHANA staff members accompanied the doctors of the Marine unit to Peam Korsna commune of Kampong Cham province's Steung Trong district. The three day visit from 27-29 November 2007 to the commune provided medical care and dental treatment; including the raising of awareness of some HIV/AIDS and drug abuse topics, to hundreds of villagers. According to KHANA staff members, the most common illnesses found during the visit were colds and chronic arthritis.

The US Essex marked the second visit by a

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FIRST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT MEETING WITH PARTNERS

The Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance (KHANA) organised a two-day workshop on 12-13 December 2007, on financial management for its nationwide implementing partners to strengthen financial accountability and transparency.

Speaking in his opening remark at the two-day seminar, Dr. Oum Sopheap, KHANA Executive Director, said the first meeting aims at guiding KHANA's partners to understand the working system and procedure of both donors and KHANA. "This meeting is a good occasion for our partners to be made aware of some guidelines, policies, and regulations regarding the financial management of the donors. During the two-day discussions, we can identify the challenges and obstacles that KHANA and its partners have met thus far. We also hope to discuss what technical assistance we may need, to prepare our finance and human resource departments for our future responses to HIV/AIDS in Cambodia."

During the workshop entitled "Strengthening Financial Management for Implementing Partners", KHANA's financial officials and foreign technical support officer, and its implementing partners, shared each others donors' requirements, the International Alliance experience, corruption prevention, and lessons learned regarding financial management.

KHANA'S STAFF CORNER

KHANA welcomes a new a volunteer who joined the KHANA family in December 2007.



Kheng Chamroeun

Started : 10th December, 2007

Position: Voluntary assistant for IT in the Department of Policy, Advocacy, and Resource Mobilisation.

We also wish all the best to three volunteers who left KHANA in December for new jobs.



Va Sokchantra

left KHANA in December. She worked for KHANA from July 16, 2007 as a voluntary financial assistant in the grant management unit. Best wishes.

Pech Pisith

Was a voluntary assistant with the grant management unit. He left KHANA on December 26 for a new job. We wish him all the best.



Eng Makara

Was a Volunteer with the Technical Support Team since the 22 October 2007. He left KHANA for his new job on December 27. Good luck!

Sharing Condolences

We are deeply shocked that one of KHANA's staff members has lost her beloved mother in December. Let us offer our condolences to Pysal and her family. May Pysal and the family have all the strength and energy to cope with this difficult time.



Dr. Oum Sopheap (middle) gives his opening remark at the workshop. Ms. Pen Monorom (left), KHANA Financial Director, and Mr. Andrew Vickery (right), KHANA Technical Support Officer to Finance.



Representatives of KHANA's implementing partners in a nationwide workshop on financial management



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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