



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Message

of

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On the occasion of World AIDS Day 1 December 2022

Venerable monks,

Beloved compatriots

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2022, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and myself, I am pleased to join the whole world in celebrating World AIDS Day, which will take place on Thursday, 1st December, 2022 under the theme "Equality". This day is held with the universal purpose of showing the strong commitment of the people around the world, sharing new knowledge, skills and experiences in preventing the spread of HIV more effectively and demonstrating support and care for people living with HIV and AIDS in accessing more comprehensive medical care and social services. Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the Kingdom of Cambodia on its achievements in preventing the spread of HIV / AIDS, as follows:

- 1) In 2021, Cambodia was recently recognized as having a 99% coverage rate for HIV /AIDS care, the highest rate in the Asia-Pacific region, higher than major countries such as China, India, Thailand, Vietnam and so on.
- 2) People living with HIV in Cambodia are integrated among the poorest people who are receiving greater social protection. In addition, the National AIDS Authority has partnered with the Ministry of Planning to streamline procedures to allow all people living with HIV who have not yet received social protection access to

equity or poor identity cards. As of the second quarter of 2022, 63,610 people living with HIV are receiving free antiretroviral treatment from government hospitals, of which 6,617 were receiving equity fund as well.

- 3) The Kingdom of Cambodia is a leading country that is changing the face of the AIDS program from relying only on external assistance to a resilient and sustainable AIDS program.
- 4) The Kingdom of Cambodia has started to strengthen the national system to create a sharp national mechanism in the fight against HIV / AIDS, making it possible for all ministries, institutions, capitals, provinces, municipalities, districts, communes, sangkats to operate the AIDS Committee at all levels and cooperate closely with development partners, international organizations, including NGOs, national and international civil society.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Ministries, national and sub-National administrative institutions, and all partners who have been actively involved in the national mechanism of the fight against HIV / AIDS under the leadership of The Royal Government of Cambodia that has the National AIDS Authority as its national operator.

We must all work harder to find the missing 11,000 people living with HIV who have not yet received treatment and to avoid abandoning the treatment of all people living with HIV. At the same time, ministries, institutions, capitals, provinces, municipalities, districts, khans, communes and sangkats must play a leading role in coordinating the prevention of the spread of HIV among the key population, such as MSM, transgender people, entertainers, etc. To achieve the prevention of this epidemic, all state institutions, both national and sub-national, must work closely with implementers as well as with all communities of such key population in disseminating safe sex messages, such as: using a condom, PrEP or PEP, or self-testing for HIV.

The call for "equality" of the world, as well as for Cambodia, urges us to act more effectively towards the goal of 95-95-95 by 2025 by improving the availability, quality and worth of services for the treatment, testing and prevention of HIV. This call requires all of us to address inequality, which is a major obstacle to progress in ending HIV / AIDS.

In its role as a leader and implementing HIV / AIDS prevention and control work, the National AIDS Authority, which is a responsible organization of the Royal Government, must

continue to lead the fight against HIV / AIDS more effectively and sustainably from national to sub-national level through:

- Encourage the implementation of the six measures stated in the No. 213 Sor Chor Nor. Sor Sor of the Office of the Council of Ministers dated 21 February 2019 to be more effective.
- Lead the preparation and implementation of the National Policy to end AIDS by 2025 and for the sustainability of the AIDS program for 2023-2028.

At the same time, I would like to call on international partners to support the strengthening of the national system by continuing to provide financial and technical assistance in the fight against HIV and AIDS in the country under the coordination of the National AIDS Authority.

I also call on all ministries, institution, capitals, provinces, municipalities, districts, Khans, communes, sangkats to work closely with the Cambodian Red Cross, NGOs, civil society, the private sector, people living with HIV, key people and communities to end HIV transmission and victory over HIV as date set.

I would like to dedicate the content and meaning of the World AIDS Day December 1, 2022 under the theme "Equality" to become a major national mechanism to achieve the three zero targets: zero new infections, zero AIDS related deaths and zero discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS.

I would like to wish venerable monks, Samdech, Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, Youth, Students and all the compatriots all the four Buddhist blessings, namely Longevity, Nobility, Health and Strength.

Phnom Penh, 1st December 2022

Prime Minister

Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN