

Draft Speech

HE Ieng Mouly Senior Minister, Chair of the National AIDS Authority

For the Opening of Workshop on

Official Launching on the Procedure of integrating PLHIV

in the ID Poor system in Cambodia

Cambodiana, 6 Dec 2022

- *HE Chhay Than, Senior Minister and Minister of Planning*
- *H.E Tia Phalla, vice chair of the National AIDS Authority,*
- *HE Lo Vesna Kiri, Secretary General, Ministry of Health,*
- *Ms. Patricia Ongpin, Country Director of UNAIDS*
- *Ms. Alissar Chake Resident Representative of UNDP*
- *Ms. Hannah Marqusee, USAID's Senior Health Financing and HIV Advisor*
- *Dr.Sok Bunna, HIV/AIDS Program Specialist , USAID.*
- *Excellency National Social Protection Council of Ministry of Economy and Finance*
- *Excellencies and Lok Chumteav, Director of Provincial Health Departments*
- *Dr Ouk Vichea, Director of NCHADS.*
- *Mr. Seum Sophal, Deputy Director of the HIV network in Cambodia.*
- *.Representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Key People and People Living with HIV*

Today, on behalf of the National AIDS Authority and on my own behalf, I am very pleased and thankful to Your Excellencies, Lok Chumteav, Ladies and Gentlemen, Representatives of Ministries, Government Institutions, Civil Society Organizations, Representatives of Key Populations and PLHIV for your participation in the workshop on ***Launching on Procedure of integration of PLHIV in the ID Poor system in Cambodia*** today at Cambodiana Hotel.

First, I would like to express my special thanks to HE Chhay Than, Senior Minister and Minister of Planning for political support to integrate all PLHIV in the ID Poor system in Cambodia. My gratitude to HE Keo Ouly, Director General of the ID Poor Department of Ministry of Planning and to GIZ, USAID , UNDP and UNAIDS for technical and financial support to set up the Procedure for integrating all PLHIV individuals at all ART sites throughout the country.

Today, Senior Officials of concerned Ministries, Director of health departments of all provinces and cities, Development Partners and Representatives from the civil society organizations and especially the representatives of PLHIV and Key Populations have been invited to witness the RGC Commitment in leaving No People Living with HIV Behind while accessing health services in all public health facilities in Cambodia.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen

Before moving to the topic of the social protection, let me update the progress of the achievement and the response to AIDS in Cambodia.

- Against the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets, Cambodia has made significant progress against those targets with 1) Eighty-four percent of PLHIV know their status 2) Among those who know their status, 99% are on treatment, and 3) among those on treatment, 97% are virally suppressed.
- Among the countries in the Asia and the Pacific we are the second country on the first 95 and the first country on the second 95.
- As Cambodia is moving to sustaining the response to HIV and AIDS, I am pleased to inform you that Royal Government of Cambodia has earmarked USD 15 million for the next Global Fund funding cycle as co-financing for HIV/AIDS programs from 2024 to 2026.

On social protection and HIV response

- a. At global level we have been applying the three Zero Principle zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS-related deaths. In 2021, the United Nations through UNGASS has been calling all the country to the end the inequalities that are preventing people from benefitting from HIV services and ensure that we get on-track to ending AIDS by 2030.
- b. At the country level
 - On HIV response, ***Samdach Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister calls*** on all compatriots at national and sub-national level to join the Royal Government of Cambodia in a national movement (from head to toes) to the end AIDS by 2025.
 - The National AIDS Authority has been engaging stakeholders from health and non-health sector to contribute in ending AIDS. The strategy 3 of the National Strategic Plan for comprehensive and multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS 2019-2023 is to Improve access to social protection mechanisms and social services for people living with HIV (PLHIV).
 - From the vision of the National Social Protection Policy Framework 2016-2025 which include inclusiveness, effectiveness, and financial sustainability as a tool to reduce and prevent poverty, vulnerability and inequality, the representative of the National Social Protection has been appointed to be a member for the National AIDS Authority since 2021.
 - In 2021, 2500 of PLHIV households have been benefitted from emergency cash transfer program of COVID-19.
 - In February 2019 the Council of Ministers issued a sub-decree 213 with 6 points policy measures. And the Policy Measure #2 calls Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning to prepare to determine and consider HIV carriers as a group of vulnerable

people who should receive equity fund care to secure health insure and social protection.

- With the support of LHSS/USAID the national AIDS Authority developed a tool for monitoring the implementation of the 5 Policy Measures (Including Social Protection) of the Council of Ministers. Social protection has been included in the Community Led Monitoring of the Key Populations and PLHIV networks. More importantly in the recent Mid-Term Review of Cambodia's Strategic Plan for HIV and STI Prevention and Care in the Health Sector 2021 – 2025 of NCHADS all stakeholders agree to integrate social protection as a non-health indicator of the national HIV M&E framework.

Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. So far, responding to the call of ***Samdach Aka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister's call***, the National AIDS Authority has been using inequalities lens to reduce inequalities and confront disparities by applying 3 pillars, Leadership, Partnership and Investment.
2. In this regard, I would like to inform you that the Royal Government is setting up an Inter-ministerial Technical Working Group and Core Groups to draft a National Policy to end AIDS in 2025 and a Sustainable HIV/AIDS Multi-sectoral Response program for 2024-2028. This platform will allow stakeholders including civil society organizations and KP/PLHIV networks to jointly develop a common, long-term vision for a sustainable HIV and AIDS response.
3. Today the ***Launch on the Procedure for integration of PLHIV in the ID Poor system in Cambodia*** will allow PLHIV and Health Care workers working at all the 72 ART sites throughout the country to apply the people-centered approach, so that individuals' holistic health needs are met. Health Care workers who benefit from health equity support of 74,000 PLHIV throughout the country could then improve the quality of health services to meet not only the three 95-95-95 targets but also on combination prevention, elimination of vertical transmission, Reproductive health, preventive treatment for TB and other integrated health services.
4. In closing this remark, I would like to call on all participants attending the ***Launching on Procedure of integration of PLHIV in the ID Poor system in Cambodia*** today to focus on the poorest and most marginalized by supporting their networks to benefit from Universal Health Coverage and Social Protection. In your own provinces and cities try your best to strengthen the functionality of these KP/ PLHIV networks within the national and sub-national country system to close the inequalities gaps and enhance strategic collaboration to fully leverage and synergize the contributions to ending AIDS by 2025.

Thank You