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National AIDS Authority

Brief Report on HIV/ AIDS Response in CAMBODIA in 2025

by

His Excellency Mr. Ieng Mouly, Senior Minister in Charge of Special Mission,
Chair of the National AIDS Authority

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, December 1, 2025

"Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response"

Chatomukh Conference Hall, Phnom Penh, December 1, 2025

- *His Excellency Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister, High Representative of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,*
- *Excellencies, Members of the Royal Government,*
- *Ms. Patricia Ongpin, Director of UNAIDS for Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia.*
- *Excellencies, Ambassadors, Diplomatic Corps,*
- *Distinguished Representatives of Ministries, Institutions, and National and International Organizations,*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

On behalf of the National AIDS Authority (NAA), I am honored to welcome all distinguished guests to this World AIDS Day celebration under the theme "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response."

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to His Excellency Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister, High Representative of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for graciously presiding over today's celebration.

Every year on December 1, the Royal Government and NAA organize World AIDS Day to reaffirm Cambodia's unwavering commitment to combating HIV/ AIDS. We honor people living with HIV, commemorate those who have died from AIDS, and advance public awareness of transmission risk factors as we progress toward ending the epidemic. We continue to emphasize the critical importance of prevention and control. AIDS remains a significant public health challenge that requires sustained attention from the Royal Government, non-governmental organizations, and all relevant stakeholders.

The global theme "Overcoming Disruption, Transforming the AIDS Response" addresses the critical challenges confronting the HIV/ AIDS response today: declining international aid, youth awareness deficits, evolving lifestyles, and technological advances. It underscores the collective commitment of nations to sustain progress,

preserve achievements, and advance toward established objectives. In 2025, diminishing funding threatens decades of hard-won gains. Community-led services working directly with people living with HIV and key populations face constrained capacity, while discriminatory legislation criminalizing same-sex relationships, gender identity, and drug use creates substantial barriers to education, testing, and treatment access.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

Cambodia consistently implements the UNAIDS strategy, pursuing the three zeros established in 2015 (zero new infections, zero discrimination, zero AIDS deaths) alongside the 95-95-95 targets by 2030: 95% of people living with HIV know their status, 95% receive antiretroviral treatment, and 95% achieve viral suppression. The National Policy for Ending AIDS and the Sustainability of HIV Program for 2023-2028 was adopted by the Council of Ministers on March 15, 2024, aligned with the Pentagonal Strategy-Phase I of the Royal Government of Cambodia of the Seventh Legislature of the National Assembly on promoting health and well-being.

Cambodia has achieved remarkable, internationally recognized results in its HIV response.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

I am pleased to present Cambodia's HIV/AIDS epidemic status and response achievements as follows:

Key Achievements in 2024:

- Cambodia achieved 92-100-98 against the 95-95-95 target.
- New HIV infections: 1,200 cases, representing a 91% decline from 14,000 in 1997.
- AIDS-related deaths: 1,000 cases, representing a 79% decline from 4,700 in 2003.
- Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT) coverage increased from 93.2% (2023) to 97.2% (2024).
- Mother-to-child transmission rate decreased from 8.4% (2023) to 6.9% (2024).

Current Status (Q3 2025):

- 71,716 people living with HIV are receiving antiretroviral treatment at 74 treatment sites nationwide.
- Injectable PrEP using cabotegravir (CAB-PrEP) has been successfully launched, providing two months of HIV prevention per injection, alongside the Dapivirine vaginal ring (DVR-PrEP) for high-risk women.
- 52 PrEP service sites are operational: 36 health centers and 16 community drop-in centers across 16 provinces and the capital.
- 43,790 at-risk clients are receiving PrEP services, including 325 individuals on injectable PrEP (CAB-PrEP).
- PrEP enrollment has reached 68.3% of the 64,083 target population.
- AIDS-related mortality declined from approximately 1,300 deaths (2023) to 1,000 deaths (2024).

- 53,821 people living with HIV – representing 75% of those in treatment – are covered by the Health Equity Fund (HEF) at health facilities across all 25 provinces and the capital.
- 15,454 key population members (9.2%) are enrolled in HEF as of October 2025
- The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) disbursed 338,212,000 Riels (US\$84,553) to 4,594 people living with HIV from economically disadvantaged families (Q1 2025).

Stigma and Discrimination:

- 2024: No reports of external stigma or discrimination documented.
- 2019 baseline: External discrimination is approximately 2%, service violations are approximately 2%.
- Self-stigma and internalized shame remain areas of concern at 62.7% (2019 data).

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

To ensure intervention effectiveness and programmatic sustainability, the NAA issued the following strategic directives through its second plenary meeting of 2025:

1. Awareness and Community Outreach

All ministries, institutions, and provincial/municipal administrations must intensify awareness campaigns addressing HIV/AIDS risks, stigma, and discrimination through diverse channels including meetings, media campaigns, training workshops, and forums, while actively encouraging the public, particularly key populations, to access testing and treatment services comprehensively and sustainably.

2. Institutional Capacity Building

Provincial/municipal administrations must establish fully functional AIDS Committees at the provincial, district, khan, and commune/sangkat levels to achieve 100% coverage by December 31, 2025.

3. Financial Resource Optimization

Provincial and municipal governors must ensure the full and effective utilization of allocated budgets (80, 60, or 40 million Riels) from the Ministry of Economy and Finance designated for HIV/AIDS programming.

4. Key Population Engagement and Services

Governors shall facilitate AIDS Committees' strategic collaboration with civil society organizations, provincial departments concerned (Tourism, Health, and Planning), and the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to enhance service accessibility for key populations, including men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender individuals, and female entertainment workers, ensuring comprehensive access to HIV testing, STI screening and treatment, prevention services, and expedited Health Equity Fund enrollment.

5. Programmatic Integration and Resource Allocation

District, khan, commune, and sangkat administrations must systematically integrate HIV response activities into operational plans and allocate resources in accordance with Inter-Ministerial Memorandum No. 007 (April 25, 2025) to ensure efficient, accountable, and sustainable implementation.

6. Service Scale-Up and Innovation

The Ministry of Health must expand coverage of HIV testing services, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), intensify condom promotion among target populations, and advance efforts toward eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission.

7. Treatment Quality Enhancement

The Ministry of Health must strengthen and expand treatment service quality and accessibility for all people living with HIV.

8. Monitoring and Accountability

All implementing entities must submit timely quarterly, semi-annual, and annual progress reports on HIV/AIDS response fund utilization and programmatic outcomes.

I call for continued robust support from the Royal Government, the Cambodian Red Cross, and all development partners through financial, material, and technical assistance to successfully implement the National Policy for Ending AIDS and the Sustainability of HIV Program for 2023-2028. I urge all Cambodian citizens to actively engage with the NAA as follows:

Youth and Adolescents: Exercise responsible decision-making regarding sexual activity and avoid substance use, as both constitute high-risk factors for HIV transmission. Pursue a comprehensive understanding of sexual and reproductive health.

Pregnant Women: Access HIV testing services universally. Those testing positive must immediately engage in PMTCT services available at health facilities nationwide.

At-Risk Populations: Proactively seek HIV testing at health centers, hospitals, or through civil society networks to enable timely treatment initiation.

People Living with HIV: Initiate antiretroviral treatment promptly, maintain strict adherence to medical protocols to prevent disease progression and drug resistance, and practice prevention strategies to protect others.

General Population: Demonstrate dignity and respect toward people living with HIV, actively combat discrimination and stigma, and extend support within all available capacities.

All Stakeholders: Ensure all HIV/AIDS responses uphold fundamental principles of justice, equality, and human rights.

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests

On behalf of the NAA, I express profound gratitude to Samdech Kittipritthbandit Bun Rany Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian Red Cross, for her visionary strategic guidance and unwavering commitment to mobilizing resources and support for vulnerable populations affected by HIV/AIDS as well as the general population.

I extend sincere appreciation to the AIDS committees at all administrative levels, United Nations agencies, development partners, global health initiatives, civil society organizations, private sector entities, the Association of Cambodian Artists, Goodwill Ambassadors, networks of people living with HIV, key population networks, youth advocates, and the general public for their instrumental contributions to Cambodia's achievements.

In conclusion, I wish His Excellency Sok Chenda Sophea, Deputy Prime Minister, excellent health, strength, and wisdom as he takes part in leading Cambodia toward an HIV/ AIDS-free future.

I extend warm wishes to all Excellencies, development partners, the diplomatic corps, and distinguished guests for continued prosperity and success.

My sincere appreciation goes to the organizing committee for orchestrating this exemplary event.

Thank you.