

## Summary Report of

### The Meeting on the Dissemination of the Final Project FA4-DGD-ITM (2017-2021):

*"National Institutions in Cambodia have an increased capacity to generate research result about the approach and the way of dealing with health problems and the strengthening of the Cambodia health system"*

14 December 2021

Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh



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## Summary Report of Meeting on the Dissemination of the Final Project FA4-DGD-ITM (2017-2021)

### Introduction:

With support from Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS) and The National Maternal and Child Health center (NMCHC) organized a one-day **Meeting on the Dissemination of the Final Project FA4-DGD-ITM (2017-2021): “National Institutions in Cambodia have an increased capacity to generate research result about the approach and the way of dealing with health problems and the strengthening of the Cambodia health system”**. The meeting took place in Sunway Hotel of Phnom Penh on 14 December 2021. The meeting was participated by the Provincial Health Directors/Deputy Directors, Provincial HIV/STD Managers, PMTCT/MCH Coordinators from 6 Provinces: Banteay Mean Chey, Battambang, Siem Reap, Oddor Mean Chey, Takeo, Phnom Penh and development partners such as WHO, UNAIDS, US-CDC, KHANA and AHF.

### The objective of the meeting:

- Overview of HIV responses in Cambodia: Summary of HIV Epidemic, achievements by key interventions and next steps
- Overview of Cambodia’s progress, challenges and next steps in eMTCT of HIV and syphilis, presented by NCMCH, and by MCHC coordinators in 2 provinces (Banteay Mean Chey and Phnom Penh)
- Challenges of implementing a follow-up system for pregnant women and their exposed infants towards elimination of congenital Syphilis in Cambodia: a mixed methods study, supported by ITM project;
- Key findings, recommendations and next steps from the EMTCT Mock reviews

**Opening Session:** the meeting presided over by Lok Chom Teav. **Prof. Kruy Leang Sim**, Under Secretary of State of Ministry of Health and Chir of PMTCT TWG, **Dr. Ouk Vichea**, Acting Director of NCHADS, **Dr. Kim Ratana**, Director of NMCHC, **Prof. Therese Delvaux**, Sexual and Reproductive Health Group of the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Belgium, **Dr. Ly Vanthy**, Deputy Country Director of US – CDC, **Mr. Ung Polin**, UNAIDS Representative, **Dr. Deng Serong Kea**, WHO Representative.



## Process of the meeting:

- Overview of the projects: history and key achievements of current project (2017-2021) presented by **Dr. Ouk Vichea**, Acting Director of NCHADS

**Current ITM project: 2017-2021**

**Project goals:**

- Cambodia is committed to reach the global HIV targets 90-90-90 by 2020, and eMTCT of HIV and syphilis by 2025;
- Aim partnership:** Strengthen NCHADS' operational research capacity to support the implementation and evaluation of the 90-90-90 HIV targets, and eMTCT of HIV and syphilis:
  - Joint monitoring/evaluation** of the progress towards the 90-90-90 targets and eMTCT of HIV and syphilis, including training of provincial and district staffs
  - Collaborative operational research** in the domain of eMTCT of HIV and syphilis, the 90-90-90 HIV targets.

**Lessons Learned and best practices – HIV targets 90-90-90 and eMTCT**

1. Early and timely responses to the HIV epidemic with concerted efforts from All partners;
2. Start with small scales with operational research, documented, developing SOPs for scaling nation wide;
3. Strong Leadership and commitment from Government at National and Sub-national levels;
4. Clear National Policies, Strategies, and Standard Operating Procedures to guide for Program Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring;
5. Periodically update HIV Strategic Plan for HIV in the health sectors, Guidelines, SOPs based most update global references from WHO, UNAIDS, and other sources.

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- Overview of HIV responses in Cambodia: Summary of HIV Epidemic, achievements by key interventions and next steps presented by **Dr. Ngaun Bora**, Head of Technical Bureau, NCHADS

**HIV testing and treatment cascade 2020**

**90-81-73 (90-90-90)**

**95-90-86 (95-95-95)**

Source: Cambodia HIV Estimates 2021 based on AEM-spectrum and Global AIDS Monitoring 2021

**Conclusion**

- We were able to maintain the achievement of the 90-90-90 target amid the Covid-19 epidemic. However, further effort is required to close the gap of the first 90.
- Most new HIV cases identified and new infection were among KPs. We will continue to focus our interventions on KPs by scaling up and strengthening the current interventions for KPs.
- Further effort is required to improve retention in treatment, optimizing ARV regimen and VL coverage in moving toward the 95-95-95 target.

- The challenges of implementing a follow-up system for pregnant women and their exposed infants towards the elimination of congenital Syphilis in Cambodia (2019-20): a mixed methods study presented by **Dr. Samreth Sovannarith**, Deputy Director of NCHADS

**Cascade of Syphilis among Pregnant women**

Comparing by 2019 and 2020

Legend: Reactive, Confirmed RPR, RPR Positive, Treatment

**Conclusions**

- Many PW did not get the RPR test and adequate (BNP) treatment which has implications for infant SEI treatment and outcomes
- Some improvement of follow-up of cases of syphilis in pregnant women and children was observed in 2020 after training, onsite technical coaching
- However, there were still problems with data recording and the LTFU of PW and monitoring of SEI
- Low adequate treatment of Syphilis for Syphilis infected PW and SEIs
- Numerous challenges faced by both the supply and demand sides of services.





- Overview of progress, challenges and next steps in eMTCT of HIV and syphilis, in Phnom Penh presented by **Dr. Sieng Sovathevy**, PASP Manager, Phnom Penh.



**Plenary Discussion and Recommendations for the meeting as indicated in the following:**

- Many **PW did not get the RPR test and adequate (BNP)treatment** which has implications for infant SEI treatment and outcomes
- However, there were still problems with **data recording** and the **LTFU** of PW and **monitoring of SEI**
- **Low** adequate treatment of Syphilis for Syphilis infected PW and SEIs .
- Providing sufficient test kits and drugs (BNP)
- Educating PW and their partners on the importance of having their and the baby’s Syphilis and HIV tested.
- Need training for health care providers
  - Syphilis-related training
  - Tracking tool
- Should be has good collaboration from HCs/RHs to OD and OD to PHD/National
- Strengthen registration of data/data collection follow up sheet.

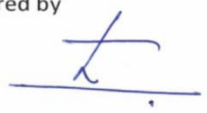
The meeting was closed by by Lok Chom Teav.**Prof. Kruy Leang Sim**, Under Secretary of State of Ministry of Health and Chir of PMTCT TWG, she expressed her wishes to thanks to NCHADS, NMCHC, Prof. Therese Delveaux, from ITM and Development Partners and thanks to everyone who had contributed to the reduction of HIV epidemic, and Elimination of PMTCT of HIV and Syphilis. He wished everyone has good health, stay safe from CoVid19 and safe trip back home.

Seen and Approved by



Dr. Ouk Vichea,  
Acting Driector of NCHADS

Phnom Penh 17 December 2021  
Prepared by



Dr. Kaoeun Chetra  
Deputy Head of Technical Bureau,

## Activities Photos:

