



Dissemination Workshop

The research report titled “the Acceptability and Feasibility Study for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR) amongst Cisgender Women at Substantial HIV Risk in Cambodia”

March 13, 2024 at Phnom Penh Hotel

NCHADS in partnership with UNAIDS conducted the Dissemination Workshop of the research report titled “the Acceptability and Feasibility Study for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR) amongst Cisgender Women at Substantial HIV Risk in Cambodia”.

The Dissemination workshop was held at Phnom Penh Hotel on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 physically attended by 40 participants from NCHADS leadership, BCC Unit of NCHADS, AIDS Care Unit of NCHADS, Municipal Health Department (MHD), UNAIDS Multi-Country Office for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia, KHANA, FHI360, CWPD, WNU, NEWN, CPN+, USAID, AUA, EWNNet and FEWs representatives, and virtually participated by representatives of Provincial health departments of Battambang and Siem Reap provinces, and UNAIDS Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The workshop is funded by Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) through UNAIDS Office for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia. The objectives of the half-day Dissemination Workshop are to:

1. Disseminate the key findings and recommendations to key partners.
2. Discuss way forward to DVR introduction in Cambodia.

The event was started from the remarks of honorable guests included Ms. Ouk Somalay, EWNNet Representative, Ms. Patricia Ongpin, Country Director for UNAIDS Multi-Country Office for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia, and followed by informative speech and opening remark of Dr. Ngauv Bora, Deputy Director of NCHADS. Dr. Long Lavy, Deputy Director of MHD, and Mr. Seng Por Sroun, Representative of KHANA also joint as our honorable guest for the event.



The Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR) was recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2021 as part of a combination HIV prevention approaches for cis women who are at substantial risk of HIV infection. The DVR is a flexible silicone ring that can be easily inserted into the vagina and gradually releases the Antiretroviral Dapivirine, which helps protect against HIV transmission during vaginal intercourse.

The Acceptability and Feasibility Study for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR) amongst Cisgender Women at Substantial HIV Risk in Cambodia was conducted in August 2023 with a collaborative effort between the



National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology, and STDs (NCHADS), Think Place, UNAIDS Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNAIDS Multi-Country Office for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia, and World Health Organisation (WHO).

This study aims to provide a starting point for stakeholders involved in country-level planning and advocacy regarding whether and how the DVR should be implemented as an additional HIV prevention option in Cambodia.



This report presents the findings of the acceptability of the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring in Cambodia amongst cisgender women at substantial risk of HIV and the feasibility of the existing healthcare system to implement the DVR. The report aims to support country-level planners in understanding if, how, and to whom the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring may be an effective HIV prevention option in Cambodia.

The workshop actively presented the study's background, methodology, key findings, recommendations. In addition, there was an interactive question & answer session from all stakeholders, especially from female entertainment workers community representatives, and CBOs.

In conclusion, the dissemination workshop of The research report titled “the Acceptability and Feasibility Study for the Dapivirine Vaginal Ring (DVR) amongst Cisgender Women at Substantial HIV Risk in Cambodia” showed various key findings and potential recommendations for HIV program and all stakeholders to consider and to be well prepared for next steps to conceptualize ways forward and the pilot study of the DVR to be additional prevention options that will contribute to reducing new HIV infection and to reach the target of HIV elimination by 2025.

