

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Kingdom of Cambodia
The People's Republic of China
The Lao People's Democratic Republic
The Kingdom of Thailand
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
The Union of Myanmar

Preamble

The UNDP-organized ASEAN workshop on Population Movement and HIV Vulnerability was held in Chiang Rai from 10th to the 12th of November 1999. The 7th ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) meeting held in Brunei from 16-18th November 1999 agreed that HIV/AIDS policy and programme should integrate mobile workers as recommended by the Chiang Rai workshop since the population mobility, poverty, illicit drug use and the gap in economic growth among neighboring countries are factors contributing directly or indirectly to the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS in the region.

I. Background

In order to have a more specific response for each of the sub-regions in ASEAN, the 7th ATFOA meeting agreed that Viet Nam would be the coordinator for the group comprised of The Lao People's Democratic Republic and The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. Later at the Hanoi ATFOA Greater Mekong Subregional cluster country joint action programme development workshop, 24-26 April 2000, The Kingdom of Cambodia, The People's of Republic of China, and The Union of Myanmar were added to this cluster. The Kingdom of Thailand, in addition to its bilateral collaboration with Cambodia, continues to serve as the overall mobility theme coordinator for the ATFOA.

The 7th ATFOA requested the cluster coordinators to submit a project brief to the Chairman of ATFOA.

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have already concluded a number of agreements containing commitments for collaborative effort in reducing HIV vulnerability among mobile population.

II. Further Efforts

It was agreed at the Hanoi meeting, April 2000 that the governments facilitate and support further collaboration in the implementation between and among these countries the Greater Mekong Subregional Joint Action Programme on reducing HIV vulnerability among mobile populations.

In particular, it is recommended:

That the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agree to facilitate access and reduce obstacles to information and services for mobile populations;

That governments, where appropriate, will support and facilitate the International and National non-governmental Organizations ((I)NGOs), civil society and local authorities to collaborate with the (I)NGOs and local authorities of neighboring countries who are signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding;

That behavioural change communication, sexually transmitted infections services including counseling and condom promotion be provided to mobile populations including fisher folks, entertainment facilities workers, factory workers, transport operators and construction workers from sending, transit and receiving communities;

That the Chiang Rai recommendation endorsed by the Brunei 7th ATFOA be implemented: "That ASEAN governments adopt a common policy recommending the integration of HIV prevention programmes as a precondition for construction and infrastructure development contracts bidding and approval".

III. Extension of Memorandum of Understanding

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding is for a period of two-years starting from the date of signatures. With the mutual consent of all parties, this Memorandum of Understanding may be extended to cover other types of collaboration to reduce HIV vulnerability for mobile population in South East Asia on terms and conditions to be agreed upon. Other Governments in the region may be invited to become parties to the present Memorandum of Understanding on the said terms and conditions. Any such changes will be reflected in mutually agreed written revisions to this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be revoked by mutual agreement in writing if in the judgment of the Parties, any reasonable circumstance arises which interferes with or threatens to interfere with the successful accomplishment of its purpose.


In witness whereof, the Governments sign the present Memorandum of Understanding on the dates appearing opposite their respective signatures.



The Kingdom of Cambodia Date: 5 September 2001



The People's Republic of China Date: 20 September 2001



The Lao People's Democratic Republic Date: 5 September 2001



The Kingdom of Thailand Date: 3 September 2001



The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Date: 5 September 2001



The Union of Myanmar Date: 12 December 2001