

Annual Report 2002





What is the HACC?

The HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee of NGOs (HACC), a network consisting of some 70 local and international NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in Cambodia, was established in 1993 for the purpose of sharing information and experiences from the field among its members and as a forum to coordinate the activities of NGOs working on HIV/AIDS in Cambodia.

In the last few years, the HACC has become a strong network of HIV/AIDS organisations, due mainly to the motivation and commitment of its members. The HACC is now recognised as the major NGO coordinating body working on HIV/AIDS in Cambodia. The HACC has grown to become an important instrument to facilitate both HIV/AIDS prevention and care in the rural areas of Cambodia. It has also successfully taken on the role of representing NGOs at governmental and United Nation (UN) forums in order to share information and to advocate for change. The HACC has contributed significantly towards a national response to preventing the spread of HIV, providing care and support for the people already infected and affected by AIDS, and minimising the impact of the disease.

The HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee is managed by a voluntary, elected steering committee of five members which includes: WVC, KHANA, FHI, SCUK, and COERR. In September 2002, The HACC Coordinator has been recruited to fill the position to run the HACC activities. This committee has been structured into four separate working groups: 1) Training; 2) Counselling, Care, and Support; 3) Mass Media/ Advocacy; and 4) a Special Event task force group. Each working group elects its own coordinator and vice coordinator for two-year terms.

Objectives and Achievements for 2002

Our year 2002 objectives included:

- Increasing information exchange and co-ordination between local NGOs, international NGOs, and UN agencies in responding to HIV/AIDS prevention and care needs in Cambodia;
- Strengthen the existing networks between national and provincial service provider and establish links regional and global networks;
- Enhancing media relations and advocacy of HIV/AIDS related issues; and
- Building the capacity of the HACC Secretariat.

The HACC has made a number of major achievements this year: 70 agencies and individuals have participated in the network, 30 presentations have been given to the membership, three special campaigns have been organised, and five types of IEC materials have been developed and distributed.

Meetings

In 2002, the HACC held 12 general membership meetings, one AGM meeting and 30 working group meetings held for the counselling, training and mass media sub-committees. A number of presentations were made by HACC members in order to share lessons learned. Multiple outside speakers also gave ten presentations on a number of topics, including a presentation on "Advocacy and Resource Allocation" conducted by The Policy Project and "HIV Technical Support" presented by KHANA.



Two AIDS orphans speak at ceremony outside Wat Botum as part of Candlelight Memorial Day

Water Festival
16 - 20 November

The second activity organized by the HACC in 2002 was for the National Water Festival. This activity was facilitated collaboratively by the NAA and NCHADS. Together organised a special HIV/AIDS campaign at number of locations, including Phnom Penh's main markets and along the riverside, high-risk areas such as the red light district, and along six national highways in various provinces. The HACC chose a multitude of places in order to reach the maximum number of young adults, men and women in line with its commitment to increase public awareness about HIV/AIDS. The theme of the Water Festival campaign was:

"Live and Let Live"
(~~is the right one~~)

This slogan was chosen on stigma and discrimination because it encompasses a focus on leaders and communities and their role in the HIV epidemic, while being broad enough to incorporate other issues relevant to HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Specifically, the Water Festival campaign aims to involve the communities, and particularly young men, boat racers, countryside people more fully in the HIV/AIDS effort, encouraging them to take care of themselves, their partners and their families, and to increase their involvement in the community.

The Water Festival is traditionally one of the biggest social events of the year in Cambodia, which makes it an ideal platform for HACC's largest HIV/AIDS prevention campaign. Each year, hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country congregate in Phnom Penh to participate and watch the boat races. Large numbers

of younger people are particularly attracted to this event. The festival provides an optimal opportunity to reach out to more than 1 million people, including thousands of young people from Phnom Penh and the provinces who have not yet participated in HIV/AIDS education sessions.

The Water Festival campaign included different activities that were facilitated and participated by approximately 1,700 volunteers from both the public and private sectors. Many of the volunteers came from different NGOs, largely member organisations of the HACC, who are working closely on the HIV/AIDS issue in Cambodia. Under the auspices of the HACC and NAA, all 1,700 volunteers were supplied a per diem, T-shirts, caps and transportation.

During the five days from 16 to 20 November, volunteers hit the streets from 8.00am-12 noon and from 2.00-5.30pm. Sub-committee team leaders were organised to share responsibility for media, IEC collection, transportation, logistics and programming. Volunteers were successful in educating many people from various target areas in Phnom Penh and outlying areas, including brothels and karaoke parlours. Boat crews were also targeted as many of them lived far from Phnom Penh and were away from their wives during the Festival and close to high-risk areas. Volunteers disseminated information in a number of ways, including through role-play, group discussions and a quiz show.

Throughout the Water Festival campaign volunteers handed out free safe sex and HIV/AIDS awareness material, including: 20,000 booklets, 185,000 condoms, 1,100 caps, 2,500 T-shirts, 26,100 leaflets, 1,000 posters, 200 stickers, 5,000 flyers, 100 key chains, 1,000 visors, 30 banners and 5 umbrellas. Material was handed out along the riverside, in front and around the entertainment stages, and in Takmao,



Kandal, Old Market, Chbar Ampove, Kbal Knal, and Oreu Sey markets

Participants in the campaign were found to be mostly attentive, asking questions to the volunteers about the materials that were distributed and other things. Participants included: boat racers, motor taxi drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, port workers, sellers, police, military, direct and indirect sex workers, men and women, NGO staff members of the government and various members of ministries. It was found that many young people coming from the provinces had little or almost no knowledge about HIV/AIDS, while some of the people from Phnom Penh had increased awareness and some of them had the experience of seeing people with AIDS.

A booth and stage was set up with an HACC backdrop opposite the Royal Palace for three days during the festival and featured live music, a quiz show, Ayai, a puppet show, a drama group, dancing, and art all relating to the AIDS issue. There were also presentations by PLHA about their lives. The campaign was opened by H E Nut Sokhum and H E Dr Tia Phalla from NAA, Dr Mean Chivun from NCHADS, Dr Or Vathanak from FHI, Ms Pok Panha Vichetr from KHANA, Seng Sopheap from HACC and some other high-ranking government officials. The ceremony was a great success and was enjoyed by nearly 3,000 HACC volunteers and NAA workers.

The audience at the HACC stage was large and seemed to enjoy watching the artists and their interpretations of the meanings of AIDS. Many audience members walked around the stage to meet the AIDS victims, to listen to their stories, and to receive advice. The comedy of Mr. Cheng was particularly popular. His stories were designed by HACC concerning such topics as the stigmas surrounding HIV/AIDS, how HIV/AIDS is spread, how to use condoms, and how society can get involved and care for people living with AIDS. During his performance, HACC volunteers conducted questionnaires and provided T-shirts and caps to the respondents

WORLD AIDS DAY

1 DECEMBER

HACC's final campaign of 2002 was the campaign for World AIDS Day on December 1, which included a public meeting in Phnom Penh and parades along six national roads spanning 200 kilometres. The parades went through Prey Veng and Kandal (led by SCUK), Takeo (led by COERR), Kompong Speu (led by KHANA), Kompong Chhnang (led by WVC) and Kompong Cham (led by FHI).

1,700 volunteers, including people living with HIV/AIDS and their caregivers, participated in the campaign. The volunteers, who came from different organisations, gathered in front of Samdech Hun Sen Park to participate in the launch of World AIDS Day. Speeches were given by Dr Or Vathanak, Chairman of the HACC, Mr Seng Sopheap, Coordinator, H E Tia Phalla, General Secretary of NAA, Ms Pok Panhnavichetr, Executive Director of KHANA, an NCHADS representative, HACC activists and children affected by AIDS.

During the six parades, many IEC materials, including 100,500 condoms, 2,200 booklets, 10,000 leaflets, 1,000 brochures, 200 key chains, 2,000 T-shirts, 2,000 caps, 100 stickers, 200 visors, 1,200 posters were freely distributed to the public. The buses transporting volunteers were decorated with banners containing HIV/AIDS awareness messages and large AIDS symbols to attract passers by. Loudspeakers were set up to broadcast messages and the buses stopped in crowded places for volunteers to get out and distribute IEC materials and talk with villagers. The Provincial AIDS Authority in each province also joined in the World AIDS Day campaign by conducting awareness parades in their local areas.



Volunteers gather in Phnom Penh for start of Highway 6 parade

HACC membership directory and HACC Service Directory in Khmer and English were also updated this year and disseminated.

HACC has worked with NAA and UNAIDS to develop the government's national strategic five-year plan for HIV/AIDS, and has also co-operated to a HIV/AIDS law regarding people living with AIDS which has approved after the National Assembly and the king.

Plans for 2003

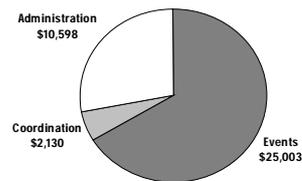
Regarding to major funding from KHANA and UNAIDS to run the activities of HACC from April 2002 to March 2003, the HACC has achieved against its objectives such as established HACC Secretariate, information exchange in form of sharing experiences and lesson learned from its own members through monthly meetings, Coordination of joint efforts/activities through its WGs, HIV/AIDS Campaigns during special events, Advocacy through media, and maintaining good relationship with UN, Govt. agencies and Donors particularly NAA, NCAHDS, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, KHANA and The Policy Project and Pact Cambodia.

In 2002, 60 percent of the 70 HACC members were local NGOs. Thus, the local response to the HIV/AIDS crisis has been considerable. For the year 2003, the HACC plans to mobilise multiple community-based organisations to participate in the coordination process, expanding the current network and its facilities to the remote provinces of Cambodia. The HACC sees great benefits in linking with similar regional and global networks.

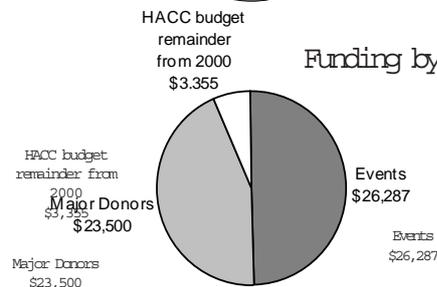
With this planned expansion of activities, the membership feels that the extra demands will create, thus it is necessary to implement day-to-day for full time coordinator. In year 2003, Seven HACC Board of Members has been selected by its members namely, WVC, PACT, CARE, SCUK, CHEC. The HACC already recruited a coordinator in September 2002 to fill the Coordinating position, and the HACC Steering Committee is removing to the vacancy.

HACC Budget , 2002

Expenditure, 2002



Funding by source, 2002



Acknowledgements

The HACC Secretariat would to sincere thank all NGOs and private sector donors who contributed generously to funding and IEC for HACC activities this year such as Film production for HIV/AIDS Leadership, Candle Light Memorial Day, Special HIV/AIDS Campaign Water Festival, and World AIDS Day 2002. This includes: KHANA, USAIDS, The Policy Project, WVC, FHI, CHE, CWC, SHCH, CARE, MSF/HB, ICC, SERVANTS, SCUK, RHAC, CIDSE, MARYKNOLL, PSF, CATHOLIC CHURCH, LWF, 24-HIV, CRC, COERR, HELPAGE, INTHANOU, UNICEF, PSI, HU, NAA, CARAM, LICADO, and HANDICAP for Water Festival and World AIDS Day contribution. In addition, the HACC would also to thank to The Policy Project, KHANA, USAIDS, LWF for Candle Light Day funding and The Policy Project, LWF, WVC, KHANA, USAIDS, CHEC, ICC, PSF for film production. Our success during major campaigns can be attributed to the hard work of donors as well as our HACC volunteers and HACC steering committee members (WVC, KHANA, SCUK, FHI and COERR). The HACC would particularly like to thank KHANA and UNAIDS and for their generous contribution to funding the HACC Secretariat April 2002 - March 2003.

Finally, the HACC hopes that all donors and main HACC activists will continue to support the HACC in the coming year in order to reduce HIV/AIDS in Cambodia through our combined efforts.

Major donors of HACC 2002:

