



Training on HIV Self-Testing Implementation SoP for Health Providers in PNTT Service at ART Sites

First batch: January 3-4, 2023 | Second batch: January 5-6, 2023 | Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh.

Two batches of training on HIV Self-Testing Implementation SoP for Health Providers in PNTT Service at ART sites which conducted by NCHADS and EpiC-FHI360 funded by PEPFAR-USAID, took place on January 03-04, 2023 for the first batch and from January 05-06, 2023 for the second batch at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh. The objective of the training was to (1) refresh of PNTT steps including the progress of HIV testing among partners, key challenges, and recommendations, (2) improve HIV testing including HIVST testing option and follow-up, and (3) enhance counseling skill to build trust, relationship with patients for partner elicitation.



For first batch the training started with following remarks from Mr Nhim Dalen, Deputy Director of EpiC project of FHI 360, Dr Long Lavy, Deputy Director of Phnom Penh Municipal Health Department and opening remark by Dr. Ouk Vichea, Director of National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI (NCHADS) and for second batch of training started with following remarks from Dr. Steve Wignall, Technical Director of EpiC, Dr Long Lavy, Deputy Director of Phnom Penh Municipal Health Department, and opening remark by Dr. Samreth Sovannarith, Deputy director of National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STI (NCHADS) presided over the opening training session.



A total of 50 participants (26 are females) consist of the Social Health Clinic of NCHADS, Phnom Penh Municipal Health Department (MHD), Phnom Penh HIV and STI program, ARV Users Association (AUA), Chhouk Sor Association (CSA), four Operational Districts from Basac, Mekong, Dangkor and Porsenchey, Health Providers from Dangkor, Samdach Ov, Meanchey, and Pochentong referral hospitals in Phnom Penh, including EpiC project of the FHI360.



There were six main presentations presented at the training, 1) refresh the eight steps of Partner Notification, tracing, and Testing by Mr. Chea Chamnan, Senior data management officer of NCHADS, 2) an overview of HIVST-PNTT guidance note by Dr. Khiev Channiphall, Manager of Social Health Clinic, and Mrs. Nith Sopha, EpiC-FHI360, 3) updating the HIVST, testing procedure and testing flow by Dr. Chea Chankosalmony, VCCT unit of NCHADS 4) Motional Counselling and group practice by Mrs. Yorn Theoun and So Kimhai, EpiC-FHI360 5) Record and reporting forms by Miss. Keo Phally, EpiC-FHI360, 6) Small group discussion by Mrs. Nith Sopha and Mr. So Kimhai.

In conclusion: The two batches of training on HIV Self-Testing Implementation SoP for Health Providers in PNTT service at ART sites are highly productive for updating the progress of HIV testing as well as testing options for both physically assisted and virtually assisted mechanisms, sharing lessons learned, and group discussion on the gaps and ways forward to improve case finding. It also discussed how to improve counseling skills to support patients for partner elicitation among ART-VCCT counselors. The data collection form, report, and data utilization are important for the ART-VCC management team and health providers. Another positive outcome of the training was the good interaction between the facilitators and participants, including the sharing of good practices of counseling among the CAA team on the current PNTT-HIVST implementation with more emphasis on partner elicitation for recently diagnosed patients, and collaboration with CBO who are working with KPs for further counseling and follow up.

