



## Workshop on HIV eMTCT focusing on HIV Exposed Infant Diagnosis and Linkage to Care

The National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), in collaboration with the National Maternal and Child Health Center (NMCHC), organized a provincial workshop on the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV (eMTCT), with a specific focus on HIV-exposed infant diagnosis (EID) and linkage to care. This important event was hosted at the Kampong Chhnang Provincial Health Department and marked the first eMTCT-specific workshop to receive financial support from US-CDC Cambodia.

This workshop was a key step in Cambodia's efforts to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV and improve services for HIV-exposed infants. It aimed to identify challenges in eMTCT implementation, enhance healthcare providers' skills in early infant diagnosis (EID) data management, and find practical solutions to improve eMTCT implementation.

The event was honored by key guests, including **Assist. Prof. Ouk Vichea**, Director of NCHADS; **Ms. Sean Sochetra**, PMTCT Program Manager at NMCHC; **Dr. Lim Leang Nguon**, Deputy Director of Kampong Chhnang PHD; and **Dr. Ly Vanthy**, Deputy Country Representative of US CDC Cambodia, who joined virtually with the gathered participants from 16 provinces, including representatives from the Provincial AIDS and STD Programs, PMTCT Coordinators, and Provincial Data Management and technical partners such as EpiC-FHI360, CRS, AHF, and others involved in HIV/AIDS and maternal-child health.

The workshop began with opening remarks from the invited guests, who shared strategic insights on the national eMTCT agenda and underscored the critical importance of early infant diagnosis and timely linkage to care in reducing the risk of HIV transmission from mother to child.



Overall, the workshop served as an important platform for health officials and implementing partners to collectively review the status of eMTCT implementation, exchange experiences, and align on priority actions. The feedback and recommendations generated during the discussions will guide strategic improvements to strengthen HIV-exposed infant diagnosis and linkage to care efforts nationwide.