



Official Launching Ceremony “Implementing Long Acting Injectable Cabotegravir as HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)” in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

June 27, 2025 | NCHADS meeting room, Phnom Penh

On June 27, 2025, the Ministry of Health, and the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), officially launched the implementation of long-acting injectable Cabotegravir for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (CAB-PrEP) in Phnom Penh. The event marked a significant milestone in Cambodia’s ongoing efforts to reduce new HIV infections and achieve the national targets aligned of 95-95-95 goals.



The launch ceremony was presided over by Lok Chomteav Dr. **Youk Sambath**, the Secretary of State of Ministry of Health and other seniore officials from Ministry of Health, National AIDS Authority, Cambodian Red Cross with participation from development partners, civil society organizations, healthcare providers from MHD, MASP, RH, HC, NGO clinics, NGO/CBOs-WHO, UNAIDS, EpiC/FHI360, US-CDC, KHANA, MHC, MHSS, CWP, FI, AHF, CRS, DFoNPAM, CSC and representatives from key populations in total of 80 participants.

Assistant Professor **Ouk Vichea** (Director of National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD), Mr. **Va Darong** (Key Population representative), Ms. **Patricia Ongpin** (UNAIDS director to Cambodia, Lao and Malasia), H.E Dr. **Ros Seilavath** (Vice chair of National AIDS Authority) and opening remarks by Lok Chomteav Dr. **Youk Sambath**, the Secretary of State of Ministry of Health. All speakers noted that Cambodia has made remarkable strides in its HIV response, positioning itself as a regional leader in the fight against the HIV epidemic and is on the right path to achieve 95-95-95 in 2025. This success is attributed to strong political commitment, innovative community-based programs, and partnerships with NGOs and international donors. To close the 1st 95 gap and reduce the new HIV infections from three persons daily to less than one, the speakers emphasized the importance of innovation in HIV prevention. CAB-PrEP adds another prevention

option for PrEP clients to choose from based on their preference and lifestyle. The CAB-PrEP service is being introduced initially at the National Clinic for AIDS, Dermatology and STD (1&3), Chhouk Sar Clinic and Toul Kork Health Center. The next phase will expand to other PrEP sites at health facilities in Phnom Penh. the last phase will expand to



Battambang, Banteay Mean Chey, Siem Reap, Kandal and Preah Sihanouk provinces, all priority provinces for HIV prevention expansion. NCHADS encourages all key population communities to join and promote correct PrEP messages to their friends and communities and that healthcare providers offer friendly and stigma-free services, and make the PrEP available at more locations. All speakers called for a broad mutisectoral response that includes civil society and donors to contribute to HIV elimination in Cambodia by 2025. The launch of CAB-PrEP implementation marks Cambodia not only as the first country in Southeast Asia to roll-out CAB-PrEP programmatically but also its continued strong commitment towards ending AIDS as a public health threat.