

**Memorandum of Understanding
for Joint Action to Reduce HIV Vulnerability Related to Population Movement
between
The Kingdom of Cambodia
The People's Republic of China
The Lao People's Democratic Republic
The Union of Myanmar
The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

Preamble

Regional cooperation has stimulated dynamic economic growth. Poverty and gaps in economic growth between neighbouring countries are factors contributing, directly and indirectly, to population mobility and HIV vulnerability in the region. To ensure continued prosperity of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, it is critical that countries collaborate to protect their economic resources and mitigate the socio-economic and human impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Background

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to facilitate the Joint Action Programme for Mobility and HIV Vulnerability Reduction between countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region was signed on 5th September 2001 in Cambodia – the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) designated coordinator for ASEAN Work Programme II Population Movement Component. This MOU expired in December 2003. In view of the relevance of this MOU in building regional HIV resilience, as well as acknowledging the achievements in the implementation of the Joint Action Programme to date by the regional, inter-country and in-country efforts, at the 11th ATFOA meeting in 2003, representatives from the Signatory Countries of the MOU decided to update and extend the MOU for strengthened collaboration in building regional HIV resilience. UNDP South East Asia HIV and Development Programme, the World Health Organization and the ASEAN Secretariat are jointly supporting this effort.

Specific efforts

It was agreed at the Yangon consultation, 16-17 February 2004, that the governments would facilitate and support further collaboration between and among the countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region Joint Action Programme (2004-2009) in building regional HIV resilience among mobile populations as well as individuals and communities affected by population movement.

In particular, the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding agreed to the following:

Create enabling policies and systems: To create enabling policy environment to reduce HIV/AIDS vulnerabilities by improving system of governance on development related mobility, to

- Strengthen Government support for international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society, multiple development sectors and local authorities, to collaborate with those of neighboring countries who are signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding;
- Apply the Early Warning Rapid Response System at the local, national and regional levels through intra- and inter-country multi-sectoral collaboration.

Promote development strategies that reduce HIV vulnerabilities: To build resilience and empower communities by improving their choices in reducing HIV/AIDS vulnerability caused by development related mobility, to

- Strengthen collaboration amongst Ministries responsible for agriculture, construction, finance, health, home affairs, labour, public works, public security and transport sectors to promote the updated Bangkok Recommendations on infrastructure construction along the ASEAN Highway network (Annex A).
- Promote community based development approaches using people-centred methodologies.

Promote HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support: To build community, national and regional HIV/AIDS resilience by strengthening collaborative regional responses to

- Promote leadership at all levels and political commitment to improve access to prevention, treatment, care and support.
- Promote and implement strategies on access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support including 3 x 5 strategies on ART for people living with HIV/AIDS, to ensure inclusion and equitable coverage of mobile populations in this region by building partnership with source, transit and destination communities.

To achieve the above commitments, joint efforts are necessary to support the regional coordination mechanism on reducing mobility related HIV vulnerability in the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries. The existing Programme Coordination Committee (PCC) is responsible to facilitate the planning implementation and monitoring of the Joint Action Programme under this MOU. The PCC is coordinated by Cambodia and composed of the Mobility focal points from the GMS Countries and a representative from the ASEAN Secretariat. The PCC shall report to the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS (ATFOA) and meet one day before the regular ATFOA Meetings.

Terms of the Memorandum of Understanding

The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding is for a period of five years starting from the date of signatures. A mid-term review of the implementation of the Joint Action Programme (Annex B) based on this MOU shall be conducted. With the mutual consent of parties to the MOU, it may be extended to cover other collaborations in building regional HIV resilience 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 changes will be reflected in mutually agreed written revisions to this Memorandum of Understanding.

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

Original signatures