

The visit of "Americans for UNFPA" to lobby the US Government commits to the UNFPA's mission

Introduction:

UNFPA Cambodia Country Office was contacted by the "Americans for UNFPA" in New York for arranging the visit of Americans delegation to visit Cambodia from 21 to 29 January 2006. The delegation team was consisted of 9 American potential donors for UNFPA.

The visit was organized by the "Americans for UNFPA", an NGO works to gain supports from the US government to again put its political and financial support to UNFPA. The pledge contributions made by the US government of US\$ 34 millions annually had been blocked by the Administration Office of the President, Goege W. Bush in 2002. To learn the detail of Americans for UNFPA, please visit <http://www.americansforunfpa.org>.

The objectives of the visit:

The objective of the visit was to learn and see about UNFPA's supported activities in the field and the important role played by UNFPA in Cambodia in enabling the Royal Government of Cambodia achieves the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, committed during the General Assembly meeting in 2000 in New York.

The visit also aimed at fostering and lobbying the political commitment from the US Government to release the pledge contribution of US\$34 million yearly to UNFPA in order to implement the ICPD programme of action.

Summary of activities:

The delegation paid a courtesy visit to His Excellency Professor Eng Huot, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health to learn about the general overview of the ministry and specific activities supported by UNFPA and other donors. UNFPA supports Ministry to improve accessing to the quality reproductive health information and services since 1994 soon after UNFPA opening its office in Cambodia. The major activities cover the issues associated with reproductive health services, needs and rights of every woman, man and young person.

Likewise, UNFPA provides funding support to the Ministry of Planning in order to promote the integration of population and development for policy development, planning and monitoring since its first country programme introduced in Cambodia, 1994. In 1998 Ministry of Planning successfully conducted its most important historical event after the last census conducted in 1962. Additionally, UNFPA has pledged to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia through provision of technical and financial support for the next census in 2008.

In the meantime, UNFPA supports to the Ministry of Women's Affairs aims at promoting the capacity of the government's ministries in the area of Gender Mainstreaming through political commitment for gender and reproductive health issues since 1996. The project aim at ensuring gender knowledge among 10 line ministries in addition to increasing the

understanding and awareness on reproductive health and gender issues among reproductive age couple and youth through the public forum.

The team was presented by Mr. Him Yon, vice-president of the Khmer Youth Association of the administrative structure, source of funding and activities carried out by staff, volunteers and peers in 7 targeted provinces. KYA focused on promoting and encouraging young Cambodians take part in democratic and development processes including gender awareness, environment protection and policies development. The young peers in the target provinces provide education on human rights, women's rights, reproductive health and rights as well as STDs and HIV/AIDS in community as regularly basis.

Playing safe is a project managed by CARE Cambodia receives funding support from EC through UNFPA. The project works in partnership with disadvantaged communities as they strive to build self-reliance and make sustainable improvements in their livelihoods and environment. The team conducts reproductive health education in the areas where many young adolescents like to hang around during their leisure time through the edutainment.

The activities carried out by Friends/Mith Samlanh focused on reintegration of children into their families, society, public school system and cultures. The project provides outreach services and in the center on reproductive health education to the street children/adolescents in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampong Cham and Kampong Speu. The joint support of EC and UNFPA has been continuously carried.



WOMEN – Women's Organization for Modern Economy and Nursing Project managed by Save the Children receives funding support from EC/UNFPA. The project works closely with marginalized people living in slum areas. The services provided by the project include sexual reproductive health, STDs and HIV/AIDS and home-based care to people living with HIV/AIDS. By doing this, the project provides vocational training to targeted population and facilitates the suffered children to receive proper educational system.

The delegation team visited the activities supported by UNFPA in Siem Reap province including Krolanh Operational District, Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) and Cambodian's women crisis center (CWCC) where enabling them to elaborate and learn more on the activities carried out in the field and perception of Cambodian people in terms of living, history and culture.

Meanwhile, the team visited the field work of Cambodian Demographic Health Survey, conducted by Ministry of Planning with supported from UNFPA and other bilateral agencies. The CDHS conducts every five years and the data will be analyzed and used as nationwide in order to plan and develop activities response to the people's needs.

The major activities at the operational districts include birth delivery, counseling on reproductive health, STDs and HIV/AIDS, contraceptive based distribution, Voluntary and Confidential Counseling and Testing for HIV/AIDS, and safe motherhood.



Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) conducted an outreach activity at the village where the edutainment is the prioritized and popular approaches in the community. The quiz show had been arranged by peer educator in addition to playing creative and friendly game blended on health education. Different generation was attracted by the specific activity where we can see the participation from many age groups of population.

Cambodian Women Crisis Center (CWCC) provides legal protection on domestic violence, raping and trafficking. The women and girls victims have been sent to receive the life skill training at the shelter while their cases have been investigated by the legal system with support from the organization in collaboration with local authority and relevant parties. The training skills include sewing, cooking and weaving. The organization puts efforts to reintegrate victims into their communities/families within 3-6 months; however, the employment opportunities have been suggested if the victims can not return home.



As part of the visit, "Americans for UNFPA" donated US\$ 2500 to WOMEN project and US\$ 2500 to CWCC for immediate requirement. This adhoc donation has been spent on training equipment and urgent needs of their target population.



Dr. Chea Samnang, UNFPA Good Will Ambassador accompanied delegation team to visit the activities in the field, and shared his own experience regarding sexual reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and drug use among school students. He is a model star who can lure and foster youth's attention and participation in the society. His commitment in preventing HIV/AIDS spreading and drug use are highly esteemed among youth and his peers.