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ASIA REGIONAL HIV & AIDS STRATEGY WORKSHOP IN PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA – 17-21 September, 2007

Almost one in 100 Cambodians aged 15 to 49 years living with HIV infection
HIV prevalence of 0.9% among adults, a decline from 1.2% in 2003
Approximately 65,000 Cambodian adults living with HIV
An estimated 51,000 HIV orphans are under the age of 15

Save the Children is hosting this workshop to share successes and experiences from across the Southeast Asia and Pacific region. More than fifty participants from Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal; Philippines, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States will provide technical updates on issues impacting people and their surroundings and determine future objectives.

Local program/site visits will be available for interested parties.

Sessions will cover the needs of orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), high risk youth, prevention of mother to child transmission, care and support, the role of gender and violence, protection and migration.

Save the Children supports local partners in HIV & AIDS prevention education for behaviour change among street children in Phnom Penh. This includes HIV & AIDS curriculum and materials development and training, establishment of support structures within peer groups, development of selected NGO and government staff to provide quality STD's and HIV & AIDS prevention and education.

Many HIV & AIDS projects implemented by Save the Children are done so in partnership with Buddhist pagodas. The monks ensure the children are able to realise their right to nutrition, health and education. They strengthen and support families and their communities as the monks are influential and respected members of communities and through their teachings can reduce discrimination and stigma.

Bopha's Story:

Bopha is HIV positive. She has two children, of whom the youngest is also HIV positive. Her husband disappeared shortly after he discovered he had HIV. Kampong Cham was their homeland before they moved to Prey Veng. In Prey Veng, she lived with her younger sister who contributes to her meager income by working in the rice field or construction industry. Her sister's house was very small, forcing Bopha to find somewhere else to live. At the same time she and her youngest child had health problems but no access to health care.

Save the Children works with the Buddhist pagoda to support families in this situation. They now receive essential medical care and money from a self support group. Monthly contributions from families was used to build a small house for her.

Bopha and her children now have a house and good health. The monks visit regularly and she has started a small grocery business through an income generating program. The business is going well with the expectation the family will be sustainable in the near future.

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