



Asia Pacific Leadership Forum
on HIV / AIDS and Development

Unofficial translation

MESSAGE

of Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany HUNSEN
President of the Cambodian Red Cross
and The National Champion of the United Nations Secretary General's
Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health

On The Occasion of the Nation Day for Maternal Newborn and Child Health,
21st February 2025

Under theme:

***" Enhancement of Public and Private Partnership
to Improve Quality of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health "***

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- *Respected Samdechs, Excellencies, Lok Chumteavs, Neak Okhnas, Okhnas!*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen, Beloved Compatriots!*

On the auspicious occasion of the National Day for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, February 21st, 2025, in the name of the Cambodian Red Cross and in my name as the National Champion of the United Nations Secretary General's Joint Plan of Action for Women's and Children's Health, I have great pleasure in joining with the Royal Government of Cambodia and all beloved compatriots in celebrating the National Day for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, which takes place on Friday, February 21st, 2025, under theme: "*Enhancement of Public and Private Partnership to Improve the Quality of Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health*". This theme reflects the strong commitment of the Ministry of Health in implementing key measures of the Pentagonal Strategy of the Royal Government at its 7th Legislature of the National Assembly.

Undeniably, in 2024, the Kingdom of Cambodia achieved many major achievements thanks to complete peace, political stability, security, public order and

safety, and macro-economic stability, enabling citizens to engage in business and promote better family and social life.

With wise leadership and effective implementation of the Pentagonal Strategy, Phase I, the Royal Government has put into practice social protection policies, especially to support the vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the Royal Government of Cambodia has expanded the scope of universal health coverage in Cambodia.

Continuing public administration reform, strengthening and further developing the health system, and continuing investment in human resources and modern medical technology are essential keys to ensure that all people have access to qualified and cost effective health care and treatment. With the strengthening and improving public health services at health centers, district referral hospitals, provincial hospitals, and national hospitals, and by partnering with private health services in the health system, we have provided access to better quality medical services, especially in maternal, newborn, child, and adolescents health care in Cambodia.

Although we have achieved tremendous successes, we must continue to work harder to enhance our healthcare services and serve more people under motto "Healthy Life, Healthy Cambodia ". Healthy society is very important for sustainable growth. It is necessary to invest in healthy society so that Cambodia could realize its goal of becoming a high-income country by 2050. It is therefore, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health, on February 21st, 2025, I would like to appeal to all beloved compatriots, and relevant stakeholders to work closely with the Ministry of Health in carrying out the following activities:

1. We need to raise more awareness:

- Pregnant women should have at least 4 health check-ups at regular intervals for care checks, preventative immunizations, and voluntary testing to avoid mother-to-child transmission of HIV/STI. They should also give birth in a health center or hospital with skilled staff.
- After giving birth, moms and children should receive all 11 immunizations to monitor their health and growth. Breastfeed your newborn entirely from

birth until 6 months old, then supplement with meals and continue nursing for at least 2 years.

- Be in a rush, if you see any warning symptoms of respiratory disease, diarrhea, or other illnesses, send your baby or young kid to the hospital right away. If your baby or young child is thin or not gaining weight, visit a professional and have an evaluation and treatment.
 - All young men and women at reproductive age should consult, receive advice, examination or treatment at health centers or hospitals or clinics with qualified medical staff. Please participate in the prevention and elimination of the transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B from parents to children and participate in the prevention of cervical cancer by bringing all 9-year-old girls to receive the cervical cancer vaccines.
2. Private health service providers, including nursing homes, rest homes, maternity wards, polyclinics, and pharmacies, should collaborate with the Ministry of Health to provide quality services to women, mothers, newborns, and children. They should take high responsibility in providing healthcare services to mothers, newborns, children in partnership with the Ministry of Health for further progress in healthcare services. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is very important for achieving more results.
 3. Local authorities at all levels should encourage and transfer women of reproductive age, pregnant women, and mothers with children under 2 to receive healthcare services at the nearest health centers or referral hospitals; simultaneously, should urge women to receive continued services as appointed by their respective midwife or doctor; and please should assist in searching for those who have missed or abandoned services. This means, we should work together to support the implementation of the government's key priorities with high responsibility.
 4. Leaders, civil servants, health workers, physicians, midwives, and other health care providers bear obligations to execute the Royal Government's main

priorities with effectiveness in order to achieve its goals. Health care practitioners play an important role in promoting public awareness, providing quality healthcare services, and assisting those in need.

5. The Cambodian Red Cross officials, staff, and volunteers should collaborate closely with health officials and staff in health education and awareness; and should help monitor and encourage women or young women to receive services at health centers or hospitals on time or by appointment, without fail.
6. Let all relevant national and international institutions and partner organizations support partnerships between public and private services and continue to invest, technically and financially, in maternal, newborn, children, and adolescents' health care to achieve universal health coverage in Cambodia.

I do hope and strongly confident that the Royal Government of Cambodia will accomplish more achievements in 2025 under the energetic, wise and visionary leadership of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. It is very important for the Royal Government to invest more in improving public health services. We cannot develop our country without healthy people.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Ministry of Health, relevant institutions, experts, national and international organizations, the Cambodian Red Cross, the civil society, the private sector, the authorities, competent forces, and all philanthropists who have and continue to support maternal, newborn, and child health work. Together, we can do more. Together, we can build a healthy society. Together, we can realize our 2050 vision.

I would like to dedicate the substances and meaning of the National Day of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to always be with us so that the implementation of all activities to achieve our set goals will be enhanced.

Made in Phnom Penh, on February, 18th 2025

Signed and sealed

Samdech Kittipritthbindit Bun Rany HUNSEN