

**A Project
To
Develop an
Ongoing System of Medical Treatment
And
Care for
People Living with HIV/AIDS**

June 2004 – May 2006

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- 1. Duration:** 2 years (June 2004 - May 2006)
- 2. Project Holder:** The Eastern Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
(undersupervision and support of the Camillian Social
Center in Rayong with the guidance of Fr.Giovanni Contarin)
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- 5. Target Field Areas:** 7 south-eastern provinces of Thailand
- 6. Target Population:** 40 local associations with 1,678 people living with HIV/AIDS

Situation on AIDS in Thailand:

The Ministry of Public Health estimates that 1,200,000 people all across Thailand have been infected with HIV since the first AIDS patient was reported in 1984. Of these, 320,000 have died and 880,000 are currently living with HIV and AIDS. Among those infected, 55,000 will develop serious AIDS related complications requiring medical care this year. Approximately the same number will die of AIDS. Over 90% of the deaths are people in the working ages of 20-44 years old; family breadwinners make up a great majority of these persons.

It is also estimated that 29,000 new infections will occur this year. Half of these are women who will get the virus from their husbands or sex partners. Twenty-five percent will be infected through drug use, 20 percent of the infected will be sex workers and their clients, and five percent will be children. The situation in Thailand and especially in this region is critical because the infection rate is spreading within the student and the young working population. These young people still exhibit behaviour that puts them at risk of being infected by the virus. Lately, the infection rate in people aged between 15 and 24 years has risen 60%.

In the majority of the areas, there is still a stigma attached to HIV/AIDS. The people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) suffer discrimination, rejection by society and even abandonment by family and friends. To own up to being a PLWHA is to leave yourself open to losing your job, being ostracized from your family and being banished from the village.

Situation on AIDS in the Eastern Region

The southeastern region of Thailand has a very high rate of infection. Some of the contributing factors are: (a) the province of Rayong has been chosen for the promotion of industrial estates, and (b) a high number of persons in the area exhibit risk behavior.

There is a large army of migrant workers from other regions that come to work in the factories, the fishing industry and the fruit plantations. Most of the workers are young and do not have clear marital status. They spend their time at work or in the pursuit of pleasure and lack information on other aspects of life. The rapid economic growth of the Region has spawned the establishment of entertainment places to respond to the workers' desires.

The local communities have a negative attitude toward people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The people think that the PLWHA should be separated from their communities and put in a special place designated for them. Therefore, the PLWHA dare not disclose their status to their families and society. The rate of new infections in the southeastern region is extremely high, ranking on the top of the chart of the country.

The CSC in Rayong fully supports that PLWHA get organized for mutual aid and to protect their rights as Thai citizens. As human beings, they deserve to be treated with human dignity. The Eastern Network of PLWHA is completely managed and controlled by PLWHA with an assembly of all the members as the supreme body and a committee as its executive arm. Committee members are representatives of the local associations of PLWHA from each of the seven southeastern provinces. Presently the network has 40 local associations and a total membership of 1,678 members. The network coordinators and local leaders set up the local associations.

In the past, the Thai Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) collaborated with NGOs and medical personnel to encourage the government to develop a policy for PLWHA. This policy would include a system of medical treatment and care with Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy (HAART) following the standard set by the World Health Organization (WHO). The group also wanted the government to make ARV drugs available through the national healthcare welfare system.

The Eastern Network of PLWHA ensures that equitable and effective access to treatment and care is available for PLWHA throughout Thailand. The Network provides up-to-date information on the latest drugs and therapies to the PLWHA. The members provide pre and post counseling on HAART that includes monitoring of the PLWHA's compliance with the medicine. HAART is a lifetime commitment.

The PLWHA associations strive to become equal partners in the treatment and care processes. The associations want to help the local hospitals and continue to provide on-going assistance and support to the representatives that carry out the vital role of offering support to and encouraging good compliance in the people receiving HAART. The PLWHA associations are important mechanisms used to promote efficiency in the hospitals. The associations are organized to be self-sustainable in the many activities including group support, counseling, home visits, training on the identification of opportunistic infections (OI) and HAART. This collaboration with the personnel of the local hospitals proved the potential of PLWHA representatives to respond to and improve potential problem areas.

The Eastern Network of PLWHA provided support to the PLWHA associations in the eastern region and advocated on access to ARV and OI medicine. The capabilities of the association leaders were upgraded to enable them to manage and continue ensuring that PLWHA have better access to information and health services. The PLWHA association joined with government agencies and NGOs to provide the motive to develop a better system for the treatment of PLWHA and their families.

The efforts of the PLWHA Network and NGOs (MSF-Belgium & Access Foundation) resulted in a new format called the "Comprehensive HIV Treatment and Care Centres". The Centres were developed to provide an ongoing system of treatment and care that is accessible to most of the target group. The Centres provide health services for PLWHA and their families. A full staff including a doctor, a nurse, a pharmacist, a lab technician, a social worker and 3 PLWHA members service the Centres. The PLWHA Eastern Network exists to provide knowledge and support to the PLWHA leaders in the associations of the eastern region. The Eastern Network ensures that there is co-operation and co-ordination between associations, with NGOs and national and regional government agencies in Thailand.

Situation of the Eastern Network of People Living With HIV/AIDS

The Eastern Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS is made up of 40 local associations and 1,678 members. [It has 15 committees] Six full-time employees manage the Network: a President, one Coordinator, 3 Field officers and 1 person in accounts and administration. In November 2003, the Network moved into a store front office in the town of Maptaput. The presence of the PLWHA in the community will serve to promote awareness in the province Rayong. This will make it easier for PLWHA and the people in the local community to access the latest information on AIDS, treatment

and care. It also serves as a center to refer PLWHA to other governmental and non-governmental services. The CSC remains in a consultative role.

It was important to show that the capabilities of the organization's leaders were sufficiently upgraded to enable them to manage on their own.

PLWHA Eastern Network Relationship with Partners

1. Government

1.1 State officials provide services and assistance, can give advice, support and recommend the policy to help PLWHA. The Eastern Network of PLWHA and State officials serve together on the committee that directs the equal treatment and care programme.

1.2 The local governmental organisations and hospital cooperate with the Eastern Network to develop plans to help PLWHAs in the eastern region.

2. Non –Government Organisations (NGO)

The Non-Government Organisations that collaborate with the Eastern Network of PLWHA include MSF-Belgium, the Access Foundation, and the Thai Non-Government Coalition on AIDS. They ensure that members of the Network are treated as equal partners when it comes to equitable and effective access to treatment and care. They also join together to advocate for friendlier policies on the treatment and care of PLWHA.

Goals:

1. To provide people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) ongoing access to treatment and care at a standard level.
2. Strengthen and empower the members of the Eastern Network of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Objectives:

1. Provide PLWHA leaders with knowledge on AIDS, healthcare skills and monitor their progress.
2. To explain the “Comprehensive HIV Care Center” concept to the members of the PLWHA associations so that they understand and they are able to efficiently run the activities.
3. To promote and develop the organization and role of the PLWHA associations.
4. To distribute information on the access to HAART and to reach a larger target population.
5. To assess the medical treatment and care of PLWHA and to develop planned support to the AIDS situation in Thailand with a partner.

Activities: 2 Years (June 2004 – May 2006)**1. To provide skills and knowledge of PLWHA leaders 4 sessions/year**

1.1 Training on Opportunistic Infections & use of ARV 1 session/year

1.2 Training on Counseling 1 session/year

1.3 Training on Home Visits 1 session/year

1.4 Training on how to communicate about AIDS 1 session/year

Total: 8 sessions in 2 years**2. Workshop on “Comprehensive HIV Care Center” 1 session/year****Total: 2 sessions in 2 years****Operational Process**

1. Co-ordinate resources with Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF), Barefoot team (Network’s PLWHA training team), and Access Foundation.

2. Contact PLWHA local associations to send their leader to attend the training.

3. Organize three-day training sessions.

3. Visit and provide personal support to PLWHA local associations in the Eastern region 25 visits/years**Total: 50 visits in 2 years**

1. Network’s “Dream Team” meets to formulate plans, activities, roles and functions.

2. Co-ordinate with the leaders of the local associations to set goals for the associations and to mutually analyse and evaluate the work and activities.

3. Motivate potential PLWHA representatives and plan the use of the “Comprehensive HIV Treatment and Care Centers” concept.

4. Disseminate information and exchange information on the situation on AIDS.

BUDGET**1. Skill and knowledge development of PLWHA leaders (8 sessions)**

A. Lodging	200 B. X 30 people X 2 Night X 8 sessions	96,000Baht
B. Food	80 B. X 30 People X 7 meal X 8 sessions	134,400Baht
C. Snacks	30 B. X 30 People X 4 meal X 8 sessions	28,800Baht
D. Travel	300 B. X 30 People X 8 sessions	72,000Baht
E. Meeting Room	3,000 B. X 8 sessions	24,000Baht
F. Resource person	1,500 B. X 3 People X 8 sessions	36,000Baht
G. Equipment / Stationery	1,000 B. X 8 sessions	8,000Baht
H. Co-ordination	500 B. X 8 sessions	4,000Baht.
Total		403,200Baht

2. Workshop on “Comprehensive HIV Care Center” (2 sessions)

A. Lodging	200 B. X 30 people X 2 Night X 2 sessions	24,000Baht
B. Food	80 B. X 30 People X 7 meal X 2 sessions	33,600Baht
C. Snacks	30 B. X 30 People X 4 meal X 2 sessions	7,200Baht
D. Travel	300 B. X 30 People X 2 sessions	18,000Baht
E. Meeting Room	3,000 B. X 2 sessions	6,000Baht
F. Resource person	1,500 B. X 3 People X 2 sessions	9,000Baht
G. Equipment / Stationery	1,000 B. X 2 sessions	2,000Baht
H. Co-ordination	500 B. X 2 sessions	1,000Baht.
Total		100,800Baht

3. Support to PLWHAs local association in the Eastern region (50 visits)

1. Travel	300 B. X 2 People X 50 visits	30,000Baht
2. Food	100 B. X 2 People X 50 visits	10,000Baht
3. Lodging	200 B. X 2 People X 50 visits	20,000Baht
4. Documentation	100 B. X 50 visits	5,000Baht
5. Co-ordination	100 B. X 50 visits	5,000Baht
Total		70,000Baht

4.	Newsletter (8 issues)		
	- Produce Newsletter	7 B. X 600 copies X 8 issues	33,600Baht
	- Postage	3 B. X 600 copies X 8 issues	14,400Baht
		Total	48,000Baht
5.	Booklets on Opportunistic Infections and HAART		
	- Produce booklets	70 B. X 500 Booklets	35,000Baht
	- Postage	25 B. X 40 association	1,000Baht
		Total	36,000Baht
6.	Personnel Management		
	- Co-ordinator	10,000 B. X 24 months	240,000Baht
	- Field officer	9,000 B. X 24 months	216,000Baht
		Total	456,000Baht
7.	Project Management		
	- Office Rent	4,000 B. X 24 months	96,000Baht
	- Materials/supplies/stationeries	1,500 B. X 24 months	36,000Baht
	- Utilities	2,000 B. X 24 months	48,000Baht
	- Allowance of a co-ordinate	2,000 B. X 24 month	48,000Baht
		Total	228,000Baht
		<u>Amount of Funds Requested</u>	1,342,000Baht

