

## International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Asian Red Cross and Red Crescent HIV/AIDS Network (ART)

[Progress report / South East Asia](#) /September 2021

### Introduction

The ART Network established in 1994, after the Beijing Declaration, with the purpose working together hand-in-hand among the National Societies in Asia combating the HIV and AIDS pandemic in the region through coordination, facilitation, experience sharing and technical support.

Currently, there are only 10 National Societies Members are actively involving in the Network which include Cambodia, Thailand, Lao PDR, Myanmar, China, Mongolia, South Korea, Philippine, Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been hindering the usual annual physical meeting among the members to share, to learn from each other and to plan together. However, the culture of physical meetings, both the management team of the Network and the annual gathering, have been changed to the virtual ones.

To date, this Network can still exist because of the annual membership fee support from its members, plus other special support from specific members such as Japanese Red Cross, partner such as Italian Red Cross and the Federation.

### Key progress in 2021

- Strengthen the Cross Border Cooperation on migrants accessing to ARV and health services among Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, with funding support from the Italian RC via the Federation;
- Coordinate and encourage ART members to organize HIV/AIDS events such as World AIDS Day, in according with the global theme of the UNAIDS and National MOH every year;
- Integration of the COVID-19 response to the existing HIV/AIDS activities of the National Societies. In particular, dissemination and promotion the new habits of the community people practicing “New Normal Living with COVID-19 and the HIV”. For example, Cambodian Red Cross has been actively implementing the culture of “New Normal Living with COVID-19 and the HIV” through its vast network countrywide and the National Champion Team from National Headquarters to nationwide Red Cross Branches reaching thousand people and at least 425 PLHIV families supported (January-August 2021).

### Key recommendations

- Transforming the physical gathering work to the virtual ones in order to reduce the risk of exposing to the COVID-19 and for more cost effectiveness;
- Selection of the new Network Chairperson and the Management Team.
- COVID-19 will not end soon, therefore, enforcing and promoting the new culture “New Normal Living with COVID-19” is integral;
- Due to the pandemic of the COVID-19, hence solidarity and enhancing cooperation, at National/Regional and International levels is highly needed;

- Inclusiveness and integration of the pandemic response is highly recommended. For example, HIV/AIDS, TB and COVID-19 should be the combined program because of the co-infection and for the purpose of cost effectiveness.

### Summary plans for 2022

- Continue and expand the Cross Border Cooperation on migrants accessing to ARV and health services;
- Explore more practicable programs on HIV/AIDS, TB and COVID-19 combined responses and seeking more supporting partners;
- Continue coordinating and encouraging the Network members to actively involving in the Global HIV/AIDS event such as WAD event, National/Regional and International virtual conferences;
- Enforcing the Greater and Meaningful Involvement of the infected and directly affected people in the Network response;

### Contact information

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