

Progress towards Universal Access Cambodia

Universal access implies that all people should be able to have access to information and services that are:

Equitable – accessible – affordable – comprehensive – sustainable

In 2006, countries worldwide committed to setting ambitious national targets for scaling up towards Universal Access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. The targets represent progress that could be achieved if the following challenges can successfully be addressed:

- **Ensuring predictable and sustainable financing**
- **Strengthening human resources and health systems**
- **Expanding access to affordable services**
- **Reducing stigma and discrimination**
- **Focusing adequate attention on gender and human rights**

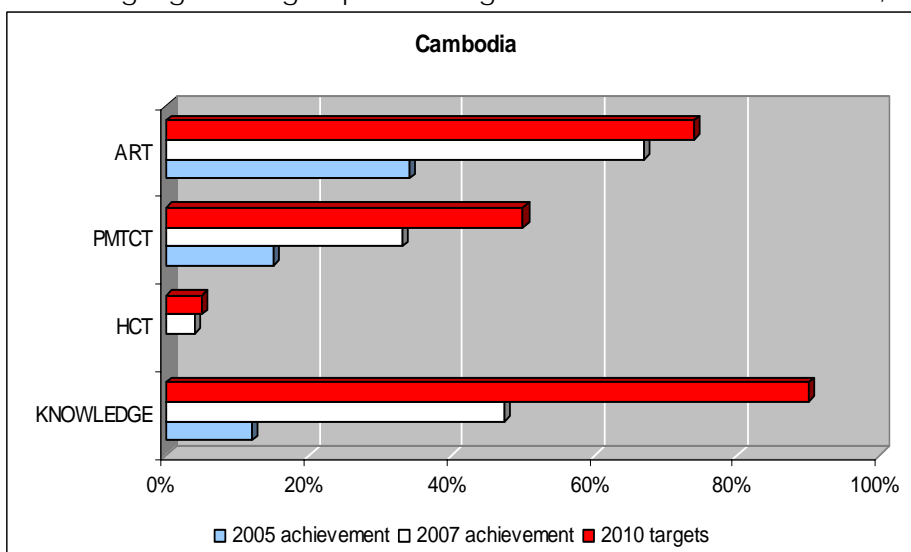
Review of national reports in 2008 demonstrated that Universal Access has catalyzed an accelerated and strengthened national HIV response with more results-based planning and a general overall improvement in access to services. National political leadership and coordination were found to be critical to scale up HIV interventions. However more emphasis was needed on addressing the obstacles to an effective scale up which may hamper achievement of Universal Access as well as of the Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, there is a need to accelerate and improve HIV-prevention efforts, and to better utilise resources available within civil society and to more actively engage people living with HIV.

Universal Access has generated a continuing engagement with national partners to monitor and review progress towards targets set with wide stakeholder involvement. This has resulted in a number of countries revising their national targets to ensure a sharper focus on areas in need of additional support.

Progress in Cambodia

The Universal Access process in Cambodia has re-focused the national response to HIV and AIDS. It has strengthened community understanding and demand for prevention and treatment as a basic human right. Obstacles that were identified in the 2006-2007 national consultation are now being more systematically addressed as part of a revised National Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive and Multisectoral Response to HIV and AIDS.

Cambodia has already reached beyond its target for the number of people living with HIV on ART. Efforts to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV and to improve voluntary counseling and testing have been accelerated. Although condom coverage and use rates among sex workers and their clients remain consistently high, much more needs to be done to scale up prevention efforts with groups at particular risk of HIV infection. The 2008 UNGASS review has confirmed the critical need to place greater emphasis on reaching higher risk groups including men who have sex with men, drug users and women and girls working in the entertainment industry.



Further challenges include addressing stigma and discrimination and strengthening institutional and individual capacity of service providers, communities and government to mobilize resources and utilize them in an efficient and effective manner.

Figure 1. The graph presents a snapshot of progress towards universal access based on 2005 and 2007 reported UNGASS achievements and 2010 reported targets, as per data available. Please note that ARV and PMTCT targets may be subject to change based on revised numbers in need of ART.

"(We) commit ourselves to pursuing all necessary efforts to scale up nationally driven, sustainable and comprehensive responses... towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010."

2006 Political Declaration, (UN General Assembly, 15 June 2006)