

Baseline survey in Vietnam and Cambodia for project titled “Subproject 8: Post Construction HIV Prevention on the Phnom Penh – HCM City Highway, Southern Corridor”

2009-2010

Background

The Phnom Penh-Ho Chi Minh City (PP-HCMC) Highway Project upgraded a section of the Southern Economic Corridor connecting Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam in order to facilitate economic activities and trade between the countries. Since project completion in 2006, there has been a significant increase in cross-border activities at the Bavet/Moc Bai border crossing between Vietnam and Cambodia.



The well-documented linkages between migration, mobility and the spread of HIV show that HIV prevalence increases along major transport routes, cross-border areas and in regions experiencing high seasonal and long-term population mobility. In response, a project has been developed entitled “TA-6467 (REG): Subproject 8 – Post-Construction HIV Prevention on the PP-HCMC Highway,” within the overall Regional Technical Assistance (RETA), funded by ADB, and implemented by World Vision of Australia (WVA).

The expected impact of the subproject is to mitigate the spread of HIV transmission in communities associated with ADB-financed infrastructure projects in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The project is also designed to raise awareness on human trafficking and encourage safe migration for migrant labor. The expected outcomes are reduced HIV risks and vulnerabilities among target populations and communities along the PP-HCMC highway and in the cross-border area.

As part of project implementation, Dr. Nguyen Truong Nam (ISMS) lead the implementation of a baseline survey in project sites in Vietnam and Cambodia from October to December 2009 with technical and logistical support from WVA. The purpose of the baseline study was to provide evidence for monitoring and implementation of the project. Data gathered will be used to report against key log-frame indicators and to provide project donor and partner-organizations with a comprehensive evidence base for implementing project activities.

Objectives

The objectives of the baseline quantitative study were to:

- 1 Provide a description of basic socio-demographic characteristics of intervention groups;
- 2 Provide an understanding of knowledge on HIV among intervention groups;
- 3 Identify risk behaviors necessitating interventions among sub-populations;
- 4 Identify priorities for planning prevention programs and for appropriately distributing limited resources;
- 5 Establish a baseline for monitoring and evaluation;
- 6 Provide key information to relevant organizations working with the project; and
- 7 Provide information to measure project impact.

Study Design & Methodology

A cross-sectional survey design was employed in the baseline study in which respondents were interviewed face-to-face using structured questionnaires. To provide information on subgroups and to guide the design of the sampling frame, mapping exercises were conducted for some of the target groups including motorbike taxi drivers, taxi drivers, long distance truck drivers, casino rolling staff, and migrant factory workers.

The Center for Health Education and Communication in Ho Chi Minh City and PADEK in Phnom Penh were subcontracted to perform the data collection and entry. Staff at these organizations were given a 3 day training in study design, sampling, respondent selection, screening, qualitative interview techniques, field supervision, quality control and data entry.

After the training, data collection teams conducted fieldwork under the supervision of Dr. Nam Nguyen (ISMS) and with support from other project team members.

Study Settings

Tay Ninh province, Vietnam: 5 communes that are along Highway No. 1 including 2 communes in Ben Cau district, 2 communes in Go Dau district, and 1 commune in Trang Bang district (Trang Bang Industrial Zone is in the commune in Trang Bang district).

Svay Rieng, Cambodia: Bavet town, bordering with Tay Ninh, Vietnam, where the casinos and entertainment establishments dominate.

Pray Veng, Cambodia: Neak Leuong the ferry area.

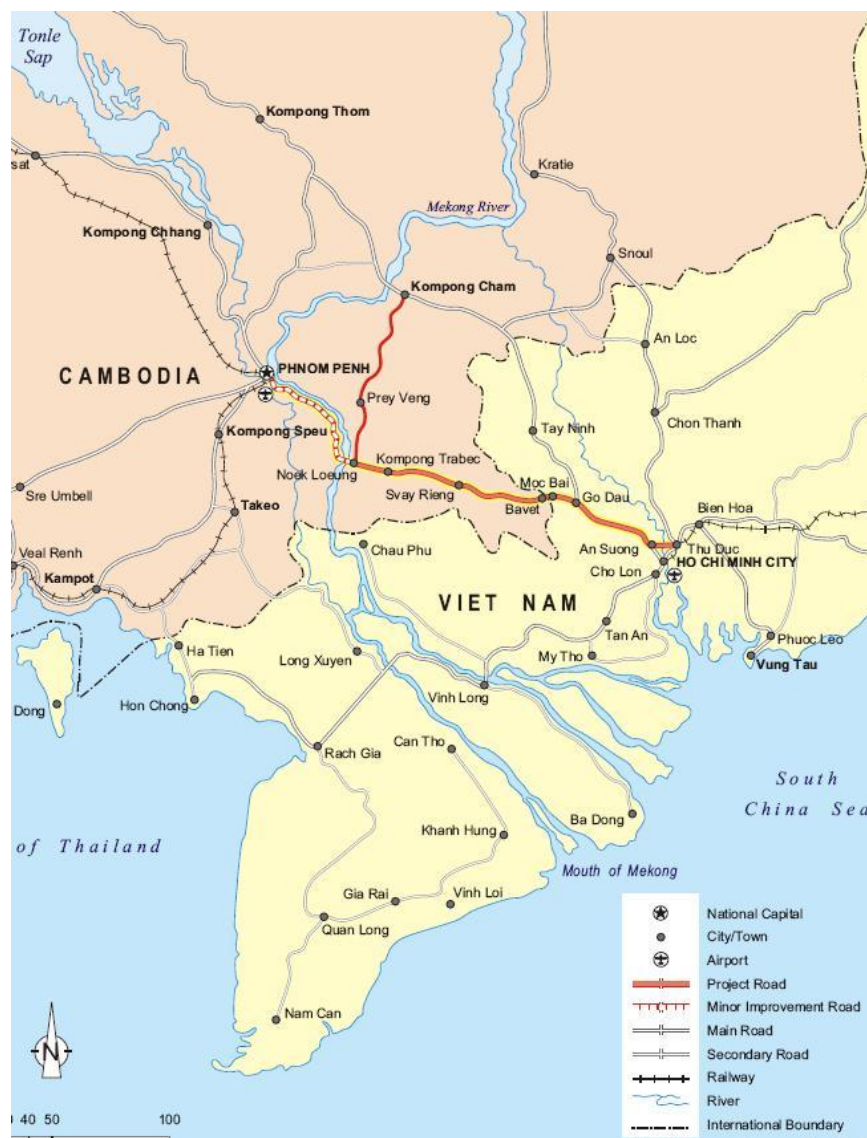
In addition, 5 communes along Highway No 1 in two provinces are the targets for community-based risk mitigation: 2 communes in Pray Veng and 3 communes in Svay Rieng.

Study Participants

The study participants were the same groups targeted by the subproject – those who are the most affected by the PP-HCMC Highway project and at-risk of HIV infection.

Vietnamese groups: A total of 1,105 Vietnamese were interviewed. The sample consisted of 381 commune residents in 5 intervention communes, 361 factory workers in Trang Bang industrial zone, 189 moto-taxi drivers in Bavet town and Moc Bai, and 174 casino rolling staff in Bavet town.

Cambodian groups: A total of 1,046 respondents were interviewed. The sample consists of 387 commune residents in 5 intervention communes, 151 factory workers in Manhattan Industrial Zone, 308 long distant truck drivers (LDTD) in Nealk Leuong ferry, 200 taxi drivers in Bavet town.



Highway No.1 from Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City

Output from ISMS

At the end of the study, ISMS compiled the results into a summary report. This report outlined the demographic characteristics of the intervention groups. It also examines their HIV-related knowledge and attitudes, risk behaviors, and VCT as well as their access to services and information. The report concludes by offering recommendations for HIV prevention efforts separately for the Vietnamese and Cambodian target groups. Overall, the report provides a basis for an impact evaluation at the end of the project period as well as evidence for future interventions targeting these groups.

Donors & Partners

The baseline survey was carried out by ISMS with funding from Asian Development Bank and technical support from World Vision Australia. Other partners included the Center for Health Education and Communication in Ho Chi Minh City and PADEK in Phnom Penh.