



## STRENGTHENING HIV RESILIENCE IN THAILAND'S MOBILE POPULATIONS' SOURCE COMMUNITIES

A UNTFHS funded project implemented by UNDP  
February 2005 – December 2007

### Beneficiary Stories

On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, after the SHARP staff finished their work of educating children about HIV/AIDS at Jommokkaew Kindergarten, the staff pulled the car over by a road-market to buy some water. The vendors saw the name tags and asked our staff what type of work ADRA is doing. They had seen the ADRA logo on the car that passed by the community and it looked quite familiar. The project staff told them briefly about ADRA and the project. When the vendors heard about ADRA's work, they started to tell a story about a young boy who studied in Baan Tamao School, where the staff had informed about HIV/AIDS a few days earlier.

The boy had asked his father: *"Do you know where HIV/AIDS come from?"*

The boy also said: *"It is not easy to get HIV/AIDS, for example, aunty who is HIV positive is selling noodles in the market, we can eat noodles from her shop and even talk with her".*

*"In the past I felt uncomfortable to buy noodles from her shop or talk to her, but my son told me that HIV/AIDS is infected through blood or unprotected sex",* the father of the young boy told the SHARP staff

Now, the boy and his parents feel comfortable to buy noodles from their aunt's shop and are not afraid to talk with or interact with people with HIV/AIDS (PWHAs). They have a better understanding about how to treat PWHAs. The father is proud of his son in that he can share his knowledge that was taught to him by the project staff and was able to apply this knowledge in a real situation. Before, they did not have enough information about HIV/AIDS and therefore had a misconception about PWHAs. Now, thanks to the education that they have received, the children and their parents in the community have a better attitude toward PWHAs.



*HIV and sex education in school.*

### Volunteer's Capacity

On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006, the SHARP team undertook an HIV awareness campaign activity for Loi Kratong Day (River Goddess Worship) at Amphur Maelao. The activity emphasized audience participation and the SHARP staff gave the volunteers this opportunity to host the event. Some volunteers were shy and concerned that they would not successfully facilitate the activities because they lacked confidence to share

the information. The project team encouraged them to try their best and utilize the skills and information they had picked up from the training.

The volunteers were divided into 5 teams:

- Team 1 distributed evaluation questions about knowledge on HIV/AIDS
- Team 2 distributed condoms and brochures that provided information about the project and gave a detailed explanation of the posters displayed.
- Team 3 hosted games about HIV/AIDS
- Team 4 hosted a Q&A on HIV/AIDS
- Team 5 sold products from the income generation groups and PWHAs groups

Through hosting these activities on Loi Kratong Day, the volunteers gained more confidence and discovered their own capacity in conducting such activities. They observed that many people were interested and wanted to participate in the awareness activities. The successful hosting of this event by the volunteers gave them a strong sense of fulfilment and strengthened their confidence to undertake more community awareness activities.

### **The Generosity of Baan Story**

On 15 January 2007, the SHARP team was invited to a house warming of Mrs. Keingkam. Mrs. Keingkam has lost her daughter in HIV/AIDS and therefore has to take care of her granddaughter. After a house warming lunch, the team was informed that the old house of Mrs Keingkam was in a very poor condition. The roof had a lot of holes and could not keep the rain out during the monsoon season. During winter, the house could not protect them from the cold wind. Therefore the PWHAs group and the entire community joined together to help building a new house for Mrs. Keingkam and her granddaughter. When the people in the community and the PWHAs group cooperate and build on each other's capacities, it strengthens their ability to help those who are affected by HIV/AIDS.



*Demonstration of condom use*