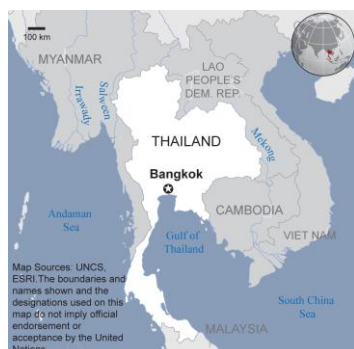


Strengthening HIV resilience in Thailand mobile populations' source communities



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: Thailand

Duration: February 2005 to December 2007

Implementing UN Agencies: ACRO

Other Implementing Partners: Services for Health in Asian & African Regions; Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Budget: \$1,031,009.10

Key Words: HIV/AIDS; capacity-building; income generation; rural communities

BACKGROUND

Today a large percentage of the Thai population travels abroad in search of employment. By 2005, as more and more young people left the country in search of jobs elsewhere, the rural communities which they left behind were drained of the required human resources to sustain their traditional industries. As a result, these communities became increasingly dependent on the money sent home from abroad. At the same time, while living far from home in unfamiliar cultural surroundings, these workers were especially vulnerable to HIV infection, which if they

contracted, they could import into their communities upon their return home either seasonally or for the holidays. In these rural communities, those infected were often excluded due to the social stigma attached to the virus. Consequently, to strengthen the resilience of mobile populations in Thailand required a comprehensive approach that accounted for the interlinkages between population mobility and HIV infection, while strengthening the economic self-sufficiency of those impacted by the virus.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Responding to the interconnectivity between HIV/AIDS vulnerability and population mobility, the project sought to build sustainable community resilience to HIV/AIDS in mobile populations' source communities in northern Thailand. Accordingly, the project was designed to (i) increase the understanding

of mobility-related HIV vulnerability amongst community members and mobile workers; (ii) build sustainable income opportunities in source communities; and (iii) strengthen community-based counselling, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

BENEFICIARIES

The project benefited communities in the provinces of Chiang Mai, Lamphun, Lampang, Phayao, Chiang Rai and Mae Hong Son in Northern Thailand. Beneficiaries participated in awareness raising programmes on mobility-related HIV vulnerability.

The project also supported community-based development groups that carried out a variety of income-generating activities benefitting people living with HIV/AIDS, returnees and others.