

AHF *in* THAILAND



FACTS (UNAIDS/WHO, 2008)

Country Population	64 million
Persons living with HIV/AIDS	610,000
Persons in need of ART	250,000
Persons receiving ART	153,000

1AHF Site:

Wat Phrabatnampo – Center of Hope *Lop Buri Province*

Patients on ART:	Total patients in care:
201	284

BACKGROUND

Thailand is a middle-income country that has made remarkable human development progress in the past twenty years. Poverty was reduced from 27% in 1990 to 9.8% in 2002 (United Nations, 2009). About 32% of the population is urban and mostly based in the Bangkok area, while the rest of the population is concentrated in the rural rice-growing areas of central, northern, and northeastern Thailand (US State Department).

Thailand is one of the world's few countries recognized as having prevented the spread of HIV/AIDS through effective public policy. Still,

AIDS is a leading cause of death and the adult prevalence rate is 1.4%.

Though the first case of AIDS in Thailand occurred in 1984, it was not until the 1990s that AIDS prevention became a national priority and massive public information campaigns were launched. Efforts to increase condom use in sex establishments were particularly successful.

Today, the majority of HIV infections occur through heterosexual sex (USAID, 2005) and young people, having missed out on the extensive HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns of the



1990s, are becoming a primary risk group as high-risk sexual behavior increases. Men who have sex with men (MSM) account for one-fifth of all HIV infections and IDU, migrant workers, and sex workers are also considered high risk groups.

AHF's GLOBAL PROGRAM SINCE 2007



In Thailand, AHF partners with the Lop Buri Provincial Government and the Dramaraksa Foundation to provide antiretroviral therapy (ART) to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) at the Center of Hope, 75 miles north of Bangkok. The clinic is located on the grounds of Wat Phrabatnampo, Thailand's world-renowned AIDS temple. In this model, Dramaraksa Foundation provides the clinic space and the Lop Buri Provincial Government covers drug and laboratory costs. AHF provides technical assistance and supervision to assure compliance with government guidelines for ART provision.

Dedication Ceremony, August 2007

AIDS Healthcare Foundation

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