



**STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2018**

**UNTENU FOUNDATION**

# INTRODUCTION

The economic situation in Cambodia in the last few years has shown improvement. The percentage of the population living under the poverty line (with incomes below \$2/day) in the last few years has reduced by half. In 2008 alone, 34% of the population lived under the poverty line and in 2012, this has reduced to 17.7% . This group is quite big and makes efforts to make ends meet with less than \$2.30 per day. Any reduction or drop in income due to economic uncertainty is sufficient to push them back below to poverty line (Source: [The World Bank](#)).

There are communities who are often discriminated or marginalized, with little protection of human rights remain economically vulnerable. While it is true that HIV-treatment costs are free but the general medical care is not high on the agenda in Cambodia. The additional costs associated with transport and logistics to get the medication and supplementary medical costs often remains an obstacle for the most vulnerable and poor communities.

Vulnerable groups within Cambodian population, are those with HIV+ and tend to have sex with other men and transgender. But in Cambodia, the lesbian population also runs into similar risks. Therefore, from here on, we speak off or define the vulnerable groups as LGBTI (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered/Transsexual and Intersexed). Within this group, sexual workers or prostitutes run into or become most vulnerable to health and safety risks. (Refer: [Poverty of LGBT PEOPLE in Cambodia](#)).

It is not uncommon that sexual work or prostitution under the LGBTI community forms a means as an escape from poverty. Sexual work is illegal in Cambodia, dangerous and brings along with it many health risks. Everyone has the right for a safe and healthy workplace. This also applies to sexual workers. People hoping for safe and sustainable workplace does not imply or mean that Untenu in principle is against sexual work.

Due to the lack of a reliable and stable source of income, having a financial support sometimes is an immediate necessity for providing medical help, food and shelter. In this context, it is a better to offer a long term perspective by putting the lives of the vulnerable group of people on track and allow them to maintain a sense of purpose. In addition to emergency help, Foundation Untenu makes sincere efforts to stand up to challenges.



## **1. EMERGENCY HELP**

### **1.1 Overview of the situation**

A large/significant number of LGBTI people have absolutely no contact with their families. If there were to be any communication or contact, often there is financial shortage even for basic amenities. Sexual workers are regularly confronted with arrests and violence in the hands of the police. Sometimes LGBT people with HIV have no money for transportation to the clinic to pay for HIV inhibitors in locations where they are distributed. Without HIV Inhibitors, people become sick and slip into a downward spiral.

It also happens that no one is able to pay for the funeral costs. This is where Foundation Untenu can mean something, where it steps in to provide and facilitate a respectful and dignified farewell.

### **1.2 Target group**

- HIV+ LGBTI people who suffer from acute shortage of food supplies, shelter and medical support care have no means to arrange for the facilities.
- Family and close relatives of LGBTI people who die, are unable to provide the facilities for a dignified farewell.

### **1.3 Goal**

Ensuring emergency help for HIV+ LGBTIs. Subsidizing or lower the financial burden for a valuable/respectful funeral service for HIV+ LGBTIs in situations where close family and friends are not in position to handle or take care of them.

### **1.4 Objectives**

- One time emergency help as a means of financial contribution for food, temporary shelter and general medical care.:
- Supply of food, transport to the medical center/Clinic/hospital.
- Financial contribution for a dignified farewell/funeral service.



## 1.5 Organization

Volunteers of partner organizations in Cambodia can apply for emergency help requests using the Online Aid Request Form (Through the [website](#) or via email). After an review by Untenu foundation, the committee board decides to grant a maximum amount of 100\$. Under special circumstances, there might be a deviation or an exception can be made. Every request for emergency help must comply with the following conditions:

- Intended recipient is HIV+ (proof of evidence: photograph from HIV book) and is part of the LGBTI group.
- Intended recipient has a dire need of emergency help. (financial help for medical costs, food and shelter).
- Financial assistance needs for maximum of one month.
- Close relatives of the passed away HIV+ person do not have means or resources for the funeral service.
- Both the volunteer as well as the intended recipient receive a proof of identity.

\* Not all people have access to proof of ID (Identity Card).



## **2. EDUCATION**

### **2.1 Overview of the situation**

Age related/health related physical decline is often the main reason for the income decrease within HIV+ sexual workers. The work is loaded with risks and challenges and there is little scope for other kinds of work.

Although the work opportunities have increased in Cambodia, it is often the unskilled labor. The competition is high, with 60% of the population below 54 years of age (Source: [Index Mundi](#)) The level of the education offered is often below par in Cambodia. A new generation of younger LGBTIs, who face a shortage of financial resources with little prospects of a regular full time job, tend to run into a greater risk of landing in the entertainment business as sexual workers. Combating stigma and discrimination, ensuring a protection under law are the first steps towards equal opportunities and more opportunities for a healthy and safe workplace.

In order to offer HIV+ LGBTIer more perspective for a better life, it is necessary for them to be guided to occupations that can offer prospects for a healthy and safe workplace than alone sexual work. The learning of professional skills that can be transferred in a safe and sustainable way to live a decent life, is the ultimate goal of this initiative, even if it is applicable to sexual work.

In 2017, an initiative was taken up to setup and collect funds for financing of structural help projects. Keeping in mind, that educative skills/training and projects that will ensure encouragement to undertake their businesses or an job in a safety and healthy environment. In 2018, we would like to initiate the first projects along these lines.

### **2.2 Target group**

- HIV+ LGBTIs who are sexual workers and consequently become old run into risk of physiological problems and therefore anticipate a drop in income.
- Young HIV+ LGBTIs who as a consequence of poverty, discrimination and isolation run a great risk in the entertainment business of becoming a sexual worker/prostitutes.
- HIV+ positive LGBTIs whose current resources would like to be improved upon but have no money to invest in an education aimed at gaining professional or vocational skills.

### **2.3 Objective**

Improve their current living conditions for a better life by offering education to HIV+ LGBTIs



## 2.4 Goals

- Funding of vocational skills based education//training so that young HIV+ LGBTIs can get a perspective for safe and sustainable ways to earn a living instead of just becoming a sexual worker in the entertainment industry..
- Offering of courses for HIV+ LGBTIs who are currently working as sexual workers so that their chances in the labor/job market improve and have access to a secure workplace, even if that means being a sexual worker.

## 2.5 Organization

- Intended recipient is a HIV+ and is an active part of the LGBTI target group.
- Intended recipient works as a sexual worker and foresees a decrease income as consequence of physiological problems and or due to age related issues OR:
- Intended recipient runs a risk of becoming a sexual worker in the entertainment industry..
- Untenu Foundation pays for the education of the individual and works closely together with recognized/official organizations in Cambodia who have experience in offering educational training to vulnerable groups for obtaining a have a sustainable and safe workplace.
- The duration of the education is defined and fixed in advance.
- The education must be completed by obtaining a certificate.



### **3. WORK EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT FOR SELF OWNED BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Overview of the situation**

Many HIV+ LGBTIs in Cambodia living under poverty have little or no work experience. In addition, they lack financial resources for e.g. to set up their own businesses. Some of them have no work experiences other than the experience as a sexual worker. The stigma associated with HIV+, on sexual minorities and the past activities as a sexual worker form an obstacle to opportunities for a new job or a workplace. The breaking of this vicious circle is not simple as it appears. Foundation Untenu would like to provide HIV+ LGBTIs who lack opportunities by offering support through mediation to join workplaces and jobs and support the setting up of their own business.

In the coming years, negotiations will be carried out with Dutch entrepreneurs/ businesses working in Cambodia to offer possibilities for a paid workplace and also offer less educated HIV+ LGBTIs. At a later stage, the local NGOs will also be involved.

Through our website, which is planned to be set up in 2017 with experiment through crowdfunding, finances will be built up for concrete projects. For e.g. A sexual worker with a relatively small amount of finances can be helped to get a handcart, through which the intended individual recipient can sell goods and provide services. The money for such small initiatives can be raised through crowd funding

In 2017, a beginning has been made with raising funds for structural support help projects to be financed. It must be kept in mind that these are for education opportunities/educational training/vocational skills training and projects to encourage the setting up of own businesses and the opportunity to build work experiences.

#### **3.2 Target group**

HIV+ LGBTIs who live in poverty, without prospects of improved living conditions.

#### **3.3 Objective**

Improve the living conditions and offer prospects for a better life for HIV+ LGBTIs living under poverty, by offering work place experiences or jobs and as much as possible mentoring in setting of their own businesses.



### **3.4 Goals**

- Mediate for a paid workplace.
- Guidance and Mentoring for defining a business plan and possible setting up of their own business.
- In case it is necessary, offering micro credits to above mentioned people with a defined business plan.

### **3.5 Organization**

- Untenu Foundation mediates for paid workplaces through local entrepreneurs or through local NGOs with current experience in supporting comparable vulnerable target groups on their way to the job/labor market.
- Assisting local partner organizations of Foundation Untenu with writing up of business plans and investment plans. They organize also offer further support for volunteers working on projects of Untenu.
- Providing local partner organizations of Foundation Untenu with micro credits, Foundation is the co-financier.
- Untenu Foundation finances means where LGBTIs after a period of time can manage and improve their living conditions.
- By means of crowding funding, Foundation Untenu would raise finances for specific small scale projects (that would lead to setting up own businesses).





## **4. STRENGTHENING OF KEY FIGURES WITHIN THE LGBTI AND HIV+ MOVEMENT IN CAMBODIA**

### **4.1 Overview of the situation**

In Cambodia, HIV- heterosexual men often play a key role often in relevant organizations for LGBTIs and people with HIV. Without doubt or unambiguity, these people do significantly good work with sincere efforts. However, it is also essential that for good work/efforts being made by the LGBTI community and people with HIV are well represented and recognized within their own group/community.

Foundation Untenu would like to contribute and strengthen the position of key/ important people from the LGBTI and HIV community. That's why we are willing to train promising and talented people to become future leaders within their own community.

### **4.2 Target group**

Members of the HIV+ LGBTI community in Cambodia have the potential to become future leaders within their community but lack the knowledge and experience.

Hence, Foundation Untenu would like to offer Untenu Masterclass in their lives. With good /sufficient spirits and budget, we would like to organize educational training sessions that would strengthen the LGBTI community in Cambodia gradually in phases over a period of defined time.

### **4.3 Objective**

Strengthen the capacity of (HIV+) LGBTIs so that gradually they begin to take up or strive for important positions within HIV and LGBTI community in the near future.

### **4.4 Goals**

- The education and training of talented/promising (HIV+) LGBTIs in leadership, responsibility and management etc.
- On a temporary basis pay(Foundation Untenu is not the employer) for one or two (HIV-) LGBTIs in Cambodia to build up or gain work experience.

### **4.5 Organization**

- Untenu Foundation is hereby looking for collaborative/cooperation within relevant organizations that possess experience in the field of community and leadership building, management and responsibility/delegation etc.
- Participants from outside Phnom Penh would be provided with accommodation and meals.



## 5. UNTENU FOUNDATION

### 5.1 Cambodia

In 2017 and 2018 too, the Foundation Untenu would continue to work together with local partner organizations and potential new cooperation partners.

Local partners, namely volunteer organizations without access to big budgets have until now not managed help requests. Foundation Untenu is not the only international/foreign NGO that offers free volunteering services to this Cambodian organization. This situation is no longer desirable because the local organizations are weakened instead of being strengthened. *From 2017 onwards, local partner organizations would have to make requests for financial help (Vanaf 2017 worden lokale partners jaarlijks achteraf per afgewikkeld hulpverzoek tegemoetgekomen in de kosten.)* . Collaborations with current and potential new cooperative partners would be continued and started in 2017 and 2018.

- Untenu Foundation works together with local volunteering organizations that couple with the target group that we are mainly working for : LGBTIs who live with HIV.
- Through the network of NGOs, emergency situations would communicated where help requests can made by submitting an application to Foundation Untenu.
- The local volunteers fall under the responsibility of the who currently work for NGOs in Cambodia.
- The local partner organizations have the responsibility of providing receipts/ bills accounted and photo reports for the funding received through Foundation Untenu.
- Untenu Foundation would go into negotiation with Dutch entrepreneurs/ businesses in Cambodia to create potential workplaces to for internship/ gaining work experiences.
- Through the training offered, Untenu Foundation would like to provide or create opportunities as volunteers.



## 5.2 The Netherlands

In the Netherlands, since the setting up of the organization, relevant and necessary work has been put forward. Not only in content but also in terms of finances and organizational aspects. A lot has been done so that the priorities and the goals of the foundation be known so has gather and enhance financial resources for the work in Cambodia to be financed. Our ambassadors Meander & Bijoux continue to play a significant/prominent role. Through organization of shows events, sufficient funds and contributions have been generated.

The website is now available in Dutch and partly in English and Khmer. On the Dutch and English website, there are possibilities to make online donations. Donations can also be made through a mobile pin transaction device. Our network in The Netherlands has grown with the number of volunteers and people who are prepared to work spontaneously at sponsored events. The contacts with the Cambodian community in The Netherlands will be referred to and wherever possible it will be strengthened and supported through cooperation. The progress will be monitored and the costs made through activities of the Foundation will be taken into account regularly. It must be probably/perhaps mentioned that the travel and accommodation expenses to Cambodia made by the volunteers and the organization committee members of Foundation Untenu are from their own personal budgets /expenses.

- Funding will be raised in The Netherlands, more or under the HIV and LGBTI community through annual events such as the Rotterdam Pride, World AIDS day Rotterdam, AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Pink Saturday.
- Other funds will be collected in 2017 and 2018 for the setting up of active plans around educational courses and setting up of businesses.
- On the 1st of January of every new year, the progress and the state of finances will be reviewed. From the total available budget, a minimum of \$500 will be reserved for emergency help. The remaining available resources would be put towards educational training or other projects.

**Approved:** January 14, 2017

The chairman:

The treasurer:

Ron van Zeeland

Willy Lourenssen

