

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND GUIDANCE

“Learning Together” - Reaching the Unreached

Sustained Capacity Building and Learning in Response to the Drugs, HIV, TB, and Mental Health Crisis in Southeast Asia

"Support for lifesaving and cost-effective harm-reduction services is paramount. These services focus on reducing the health and economic costs of drug use and prioritize preventing overdose deaths, and the transmission of HIV or hepatitis. The emphasis is on saving lives and ensuring public safety." Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, The Global Commission on Drug Policy. June 17, 2021

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INTRODUCTION

In response to the critical drug and health security crisis in Southeast Asia, the Southeast Asia Harm Reduction Association (AHRA) has developed a comprehensive Sustainability Plan and Guidance. This strategic framework addresses the urgent need for expanded and sustained harm reduction efforts in the region, particularly concerning opioids and amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS). Southeast Asia, located near major drug production zones such as the Golden Triangle, faces significant challenges related to substance use disorders and the transmission of diseases including HIV, hepatitis C, and tuberculosis.

AHRA, operating as a coalition of harm reduction implementers across Southeast Asian countries, recognizes the urgency of its advocacy and intervention efforts. The Association's core objective is to enhance the health and well-being, and reduce the vulnerability to HIV, TB and HCV, of individuals affected by drug-related challenges in nations including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. AHRA's interventions are grounded in evidence-based practices, emphasizing community-led, people-centered services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as people who use drugs, sex workers, and marginalized young women and girls who use drugs.

The AHRA Sustainability Plan emphasizes the critical importance of advocacy, intervention,

and lobbying for sustainability, added value, and return on investment. AHRA's advocacy initiatives focus on ensuring ongoing support for vital harm reduction programs. By actively engaging in policy advocacy, AHRA aims to influence favorable policies related to harm reduction within a broader health context, thereby securing sustained financial backing for its initiatives. This approach aligns with the Association's commitment to maximizing donor added value and creating an efficient, impactful harm reduction ecosystem.

AHRA's intervention strategies prioritize cost efficiency, transparency, and innovation. The Association recognizes the limited funding landscape and strives to optimize resource allocation while investing in evidence-based practices that yield the highest impact. Through these strategies, AHRA aims to create lasting change and contribute significantly to the global efforts in harm reduction.

This document outlines the specific strategies and objectives devised by AHRA to secure sustainable funding, enhance community capacity, address marginalization and policy challenges, and bridge the funding gap. By adhering to these principles and strategies, AHRA endeavors to ensure the continuation of vital harm reduction initiatives in Southeast Asia, thereby making a substantial impact on public health outcomes and promoting the well-being of the communities it serves.