

Cambodia's First Lady Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen asked UN to support health sector in Cambodia, mainly in the country's rural area, said Ms. Khuon Sodary, Cambodia Red Cross (CRC) official.

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh international airport on July 15 on the way back from New York where she accompanied Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen to attend the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS being held, Ms Khuon Sodary briefed reporters of the Cambodia's requests for expanding the referral hospital program in rural area and providing the midwife training program to reduce the children and mother mortality rate in the country.

Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen met with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters, asking him to support Cambodia's requests, she said.

Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen delivered a speech on a lesson and Cambodia's experiences in reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, she said.

The HIV response in Cambodia has been acknowledged as a global success by the international community, receiving the Millennium Development Goal Award for achievements in halting and reversing the spread of HIV.

Prevalence amongst adults aged 15 – 49 years continues to decline from an estimated 2 percent in 1998 to 0.7 percent in 2010. Coverage of access to treatment and care has dramatically improved with 90 percent of people living with HIV now receiving antiretroviral treatment.

In the meeting, former US President Bill Clinton appreciated Cambodia for the success in reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, she said.

During her stay, Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen also held a talk with UN General

Secretary's wife, Ms. Ban Soon Taek, Ethiopia's first lady Ms Woizer Azed Mesfin and UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Dibide.

First Lady Lok Chum Teav Dr. Bun Rany Hun Sen returned home on June 15.