

## Final report for the Eagle Foundation – September 2016

Maternity equipment for Poipet Referral Hospital, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia

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Thanks to a grant from the Eagle Foundation in November 2015, IMPACT has equipped Poipet hospital's maternity unit with vital equipment to safeguard the lives of women and their babies at this hospital on the Thai/Cambodian border, which serves a large population with challenging health needs. The town attracts economic migrants from all over Cambodia, seeking illegal work opportunities in Thailand. The town is infamous as a base for human trafficking, gambling and prostitution. 10% of the maternity unit's patients are under 18 and there are many other high-risk pregnancies associated with sexually transmitted diseases, HIV infection and drug use.

### PROJECT UPDATE

As described in our May 2016 interim report, the medical equipment, which you so generously funded, was installed at the hospital on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016. This included a patient monitor, electrocardiograph, infant incubator, suction unit and oxygen concentrator machine.

The main aim of the project was to establish neonatal intensive care services at the hospital and since the installation of the new equipment, two of the hospital's midwives have been seconded in Phnom Penh on a six-month training and work experience placement under the auspices of National Maternal and Child Health Centre (NMCHC), which is the only authorised training provider on neonatal care in Cambodia.

Earlier in the year, representatives from the NMCHC undertook an inspection of Poipet's services, in order that the package of training could be tailored to meet the hospital's needs. Following the visit, IMPACT was advised that midwives should also undertake further training in safe anaesthesia practices, to improve aftercare for women undergoing caesareans and epidurals.

Two of Poipet's midwives - Hai Van Sedha and Srey Neang - began their studies on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Following two weeks of classroom theory, they have since been on a supervised work placement at the Khmer Soviet Hospital in Phnom Penh for on the job training and mentoring with senior practitioners. They will be returning to their posts at Poipet hospital next month to share their new knowledge with the hospital's ten lower-qualified primary midwives.

At the end of August 2016, IMPACT Fieldworker, Rasmi Sophoan, interviewed Hai Van Sedha and Srey Neang in Phnom Penh. They were enthusiastic about their studies, with both of them reporting they have gained new knowledge and practical experience. Both sadly described how they had previously had premature babies die in their care due to lack of skills and equipment.



Midwife Hai Van Sedha, midwife in training



Midwife Srey Neang learning to care for a premature baby born who was born at 26 weeks of pregnancy

*'I have been working in Poipet hospital for four years. I met so many babies who were born premature but there were three cases that died after birth in my hands and I was so sad. If I had learned all this from the course before, I might have been able to save their lives.*

*A typical case I have assisted with was 32 year old pregnant woman. She came to have delivery at Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital. She was not in labour but she had preeclampsia. Doctor told her that she has to give birth through caesarean. The operation went well with spinal anaesthesia. The baby is premature but we practiced to make sure both the mother and baby were safe and had good health.*

*I want to thank IMPACT Cambodia that has supported and motivated me for this training. I will bring all the knowledge that I have learnt to my hospital and use it all my best for serving our patients' – Midwife Hai Van Sedha*



**Hai Van Sedha practice learning how to use the ventilation mask for anaesthetic (at Khmer-Soviet Friendship hospital)**



**The trainee midwives with Professor Tann Sokhak (senior trainer)**

## CASE STUDIES:

Back at the hospital in Poipet, 571 babies have been born since May 2016 and the the new equipment purchased by the Eagle Foundation has already benefitted many of the mothers, in particular the 98 women who gave birth by caesarean section. Dr Lay I Choung, the Director of the Maternity Unit, described several case studies to illustrate this:

**Heng Narin** - 36 year old mother comes from Samki Village. She has two children. She had pregnancy for seven times before. Sadly, she had miscarriage four times because her health condition was not good.

*This time, Narin had a prolonged pregnancy. There were ten days after her estimated due date. In July 11<sup>th</sup>, she started to feel pain of contraction. She came to have delivery at Poipet Referral Hospital. We told her that she needed to give birth by C-section, otherwise she would have problem. She decided to receive surgery as advised. Narin also asked doctor to do tubal ligation because she does not want to get pregnant anymore. She is afraid that she will face the same problems. By receiving caesarean on time and under the attention from doctors, both the mother and baby are now safe and have good health.*



**Dr Lay I Choung with Narin**



**Sorn Kim Chen** is 18 years old. She comes from Nimit Village, Poipet Commune, Poi Pet District, Banteay Meanchey Province. This is her first pregnancy and she was pregnant with twins. She did not have prenatal care. In July 9<sup>th</sup>, Chen was in labour and she went to have delivery at Kauk Health Centre. Since Chen had pregnant with twins, she was transferred to Poipet Hospital. The twins are delivered by caesarean section. Under the attentions from doctor, Chen has received successful caesarean.



Chen stayed with her twin sons in hospital for three days after delivery

**Seth Kim Sim** is 24 years old. She lives in Brochea Thorm Village,. This is her first time of pregnancy. Sim came to have delivery at Poipet but she could not give birth naturally because her health condition was very weak. She had preeclampsia and doctor has suggested her to have delivery by caesarean, otherwise, both the mother and baby will have problem. Sim gave birth to her son by caesarean on the same day. Under the attention from doctors, Sim has received caesarean successfully.



Dr Lay I Choung (white hat) conducted the caesarean

**Saray Sin** A 32 year old mother, Sin Saray from Ou Beichaon Commune came to have delivery by caesarean at Poipet hospital because her pregnancy was in fatal distress. Doctors told her that she could not give birth naturally. She has to give birth through caesarean in order to save baby's life. Saray has got a successful caesarean. Both the mother and baby were safe.



Saray and her baby Stayed at the hospital for 4 days. They had to sleep in front of the post-delivery room because the maternity wards were exceptionally full at the time

## THANK YOU

IMPACT is so grateful to the Eagle Foundation for providing the staff at Poipet hospital with the skills, equipment and knowledge to improve the care they offer to pregnant women and premature babies. When IMPACT's Fieldworker interviewed the midwives they were brimming with enthusiasm and confidence. We have since heard that the hospital will now be sending one of the doctors for advanced training in neonatal care at the National Maternal and Child Health Centre to further boost staff expertise.

**Dr. Lay I Choung requested this message be recorded in appreciation:**

*'The support from IMPACT Cambodia is really significant in helping Poi Pet Hospital to help reduce both maternal and child mortality rate. The materials and equipment received will allow us to save many mothers' lives. I am deeply thanks IMPACT for the support of the training of the two midwives in anaesthesia and in neonatal care. Through their report we are very proud of them. They also feel proud and fortunate that that receive the chance to receive training at the National Level, with National Standard in mother and child health care.'*

*After the training of the two midwives is finished the National Centre will come to follow up their practice and will continue the 'on the job' training here in our hospital to make sure that the Neonatal Care is conducted appropriately. I myself, even though I am not specialised in Neonatal Care but with my experiences in Comprehensive Emergency of Maternity Health Care and now with the two advanced trained midwives, we will be able to save more lives of poor babies in our area.'*

## Expenditure statement

	Budget (£)	Expenditure (£)
Patient monitor	1,806	1,806
Electrocardiograph	1,409	1,409
Infant incubator to establish a neonatal care unit	6,430	6,430
Suction unit	1,300	1,300
Oxygen concentrator machine	1,377	1,377
Small medical items (glucose testing kits, stethoscope, dressing cart)	1,449	1,449
Training for staff in neonatal care of premature babies	2,898	2,898
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16,669</b>	<b>16,669</b>
Project management (IMPACT Cambodia) @ 5%	833	833
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,502</b>	<b>17,502</b>

**More photographs of the midwives in training at the National Maternal and Child Health Centre**

