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Final report for the Eagle Foundation – July 2017

New building at [Malai Referral Hospital](#), Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia

File form: 00383

We are proud to announce that the new Eagle-funded Maternity Unit at Malai hospital is now fully operational. Building work completed in January 2017 and was followed by a period of work to install the internal fixtures and fittings. The Unit opened its doors to patients in April and already **488** women have given birth in the new delivery room or received ante and postnatal care.

IMPACT Cambodia has been working with this hospital since 2015, when your initial grant funded essential maternity equipment and training for midwives. Thanks to Eagle, over the course of two years, the hospital has been transformed. The new infrastructure has vastly improved patient care and staff morale is high. Rasmi Sophoan (IMPACT Cambodia's Outreach Co-ordinator) told us after her visit last week; *'Coming to this hospital again, the feeling is not the same. Now it feels like a warmer and happier place and this is something felt by the hospital staffs and pregnant women or patients who come to receive health care service too.'* Previously the hospital had a poor reputation and wherever possible local people would rather pay for care at a private clinic, often falling into debt in order to do so. You may see from the patient comments below that a new confidence is dawning in the medical care available at the hospital.



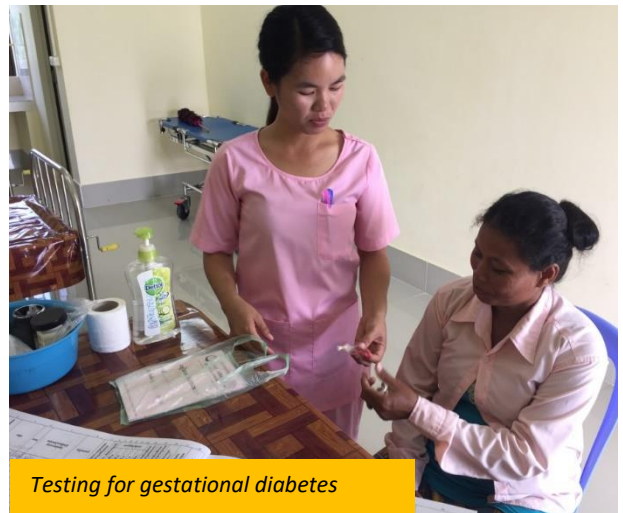
Safer motherhood and child survival – a key IMPACT priority

Cambodia's maternal mortality rate of 170 deaths per 100,000 live births is one of the highest in Asia. Women who attend routine check-ups during pregnancy significantly decrease the chance of harm to themselves and their child at birth, yet many women do not attend pregnancy checks or deliver in a health facility because they have limited knowledge of availability or cannot afford it. Children not born in health centres are less likely to receive healthcare during their most critical years of development and it is these same children who usually also lack access to safe water, clean toilets and adequate nutrition.

Since the new Maternity Unit opened, 420 women have received ante and postnatal care and had the births of their children registered. They will be strongly encouraged to bring their babies for health monitoring and immunisations throughout infancy.

IMPACT Cambodia's own research in local villages identified that 70% of mothers had not received medical check-ups during pregnancy. IMPACT's '1,000 Day rural outreach programme', in tandem with the midwives at Malai, are raising awareness of the importance of antenatal care, as well as challenging dangerous traditional birth practices, which put women and babies at risk. For example, in Banteay Meanchey up to two-thirds of new mothers remain 'on fire' for a week after childbirth. This traditional practice of women who have just given birth laying on a bed with a small fire underneath and wrapped in very warm clothes despite high humidity and hot outdoor temperatures is unnecessary and can cause infections to spread or the mother to become ill. It is also linked to the practice of drinking large quantities of alcoholic rice wine in the weeks after birth (believed to raise body temperature) which is obviously harmful to the baby if it is breastfed.

The hospital director is confident that there will be fewer obstetric emergencies as more women come forward for monitoring and likely complications are identified well ahead of birth.





Aem Samut – Head Midwife – on her postnatal rounds

Dr Kan Kim Eng - the Hospital's Director - asked IMPACT Cambodia to record his message of appreciation on behalf of the hospital and staff:



'First of all, I would like to say to the funder thank you for your support and always think about pregnant women in Malai. It used to be very sad seeing pregnant women getting turned away from our hospital because we did for not having enough space for them to stay during their labours. It was also dangerous, because referring them to the provincial hospital was very risky because of the long journey. Now that we have the new building with a big space, we can hold more than 10 pregnant women. I confidently expect that mortality will decrease and we will only ever transfer cases that cannot be performed due to lack of equipment because space is no longer the issue.'

In the meantime, the feeling is more than just happy, to me personally. Receiving the building is one thing but becoming the place where everyone can trust and rely on, that is the greatest feeling ever. I can't thank you enough for the high attention that the Donor and IMPACT-Cambodia have given to the health care of pregnant women in Malai District. We will always remember the kind heart of yours.'

Aem Samut - Head of Maternity Services:

'I am really happy, finally the wait is over! Seeing this new building built, and the equipment moved in, I can say that helping pregnant women in this District is not going to be such a problem anymore. I strongly believe that this building is just the right place for those pregnant women who work on the border with Thailand to come. We can help decreasing the expense on transportation fees and also the number of mother and child death rates (because it takes such a long time transferring to the provincial hospital).'

The new building has been designed with an airy veranda and is a relaxing space for patients to wait and new parents to bond with their babies



Expectant mothers are given a registration card to record their progress and keep track of immunisations once the baby is born

Chin Vanthin (26) Chin was one of the first patients to register at the new Maternity Unit for antenatal care. She has now given birth to a healthy baby boy. She told IMPACT Cambodia, *'I don't know how to explain, I guess not just us but other patients who stay in this room right now too, have never walked on such glossy tile flooring before. Thank you for building a home for us. Our family will call this building a home from now on.'*

Her husband commented; *'I work here in Malai and I don't earn much. This is the border area, and most of the people are like me. We work so hard but earn very little and so cannot afford private clinic fees. And we also miss a daily income if we travel far for appointments. I heard from my co-workers, that Malai Hospital has been upgraded, so I decided to take my wife here, and I'm not disappointed at all. It is big, it is very comfortable, and it is very clean. I wish this type of beautiful room should have been built long time ago for pregnant women.'*



Chea Chhim (29) who gave birth at the hospital on 11th July. This was her second pregnancy. During her first pregnancy there had been only limited antenatal care at Malai hospital and no ultrasound testing. Thanks to a previous grant from Eagle Foundation, staff are now trained in ultrasound technology and services are much improved. Chhim told IMPACT Cambodia, *'In my previous pregnancy, I came for prenatal visit and delivery in this hospital. There was no ultrasound service. I had delivery in the old building. Now in my second pregnancy things are so improved with ultrasound service. Moreover, I am so very happy that this hospital has the new maternity unit – it is so clean and I have been made to feel so much more comfortable than when I stayed in the old building'*



As well as housing the Maternity Unit, the new building incorporates a staff room, which is allocated for doctors and nurses to stay when they are doing shift work, as many live at long distances from the hospital.

Another room of similar size was originally intended to house an Accident and Emergency room but the hospital administration has taken the opportunity to reconfigure space across the whole hospital complex and as a result, the A&E clinic has remained housed within the main hospital. Thus the room is now allocated for maternity services. So far it has been used for women in the early stages of labour to rest away from the hustle and bustle of the main ward and before they are quite ready to move to the delivery suite. However, it is possible that in the future it may also be used as an isolation ward for premature babies, though there has not been a need for this so far.

Thank you

Thank you for your incredibly generous investment in Malai hospital. Your support has helped turn around this ailing institution and already many hundreds of women, like Chin and Chea, have received a much higher standard of care than they would have done previously. The morale of both patients and staff is at an all-time high and IMPACT Cambodia will continue to work in conjunction with Dr Kim Eng and his team in the months to come. We will soon be taking delivery of the delivery instruments and outstanding hospital furniture, funded by Eagle in April 2017 (file form 17004) and look forward to reporting back to you upon its installation.

IMPACT Cambodia has become well-known and respected in the local area. As well as maternity care, IMPACT is also conducting ENT screening and identification camps at the hospital, since ear disease and hearing impairment are a huge problem (especially amongst children) in rural areas. You may be interested to know that at the most recent camp commencing July 12th the ears of 320 patients were screened and 11 patients were referred for surgery to restore their hearing at IMPACT's ENT building in Phnom Penh.

Expenditure statement

Construction of new hospital building	Cost (£)	Expenditure (£)
Metal rods	1,750	1,750
Cement	2,888	2,888
Sand	1,021	1,021
Bricks	1,896	1,896
Stone 1x2	656	656
Stone 4x6	365	365
Ceiling support structure	2,042	2,042
Electricity line lamp & fan set	1,094	1,094
Floor tiles	1,903	1,903
Painting	438	438
Doors and windows	1,458	1,458
Toilet/sink/water sanitation system	365	365
Fill up the land	656	656
Tile roof, metal sheet extended roof	4,010	4,010
Labour	6,927	6,927
Sub-total	27,469	27,469
Monitoring and evaluation		
Project management (IMPACT Cambodia) @ 5%	1,373	1,373
TOTAL	28,842	28,842

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.44 USD (02.06.16)