



Registered Charity No. 290992

IMPACT Foundation
151 Western Road
Haywards Heath RH16 3LH
Tel: 01444 457080
Email: impact@impact.org.uk
www.impact.org.uk

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Purchase of medical equipment for maternity deliveries for Poi Char Health Centre, Phnom Shrok District, Banteay Meanchey Province, Cambodia

Date grant accepted: 9th May 2018 (GBP 2,578)

BACKGROUND

Your grant has provided much needed maternity equipment to Poi Char Health Centre, an under-resourced rural facility in north-western Cambodia. This busy Health Centre serves people living in the surrounding 16 communities and was in urgent need of additional equipment: *'Previously, the Health Centre had only one delivery bed and there was no delivery chair. The existing delivery equipment was very old and dull. When there happened to be two or three pregnant women come for delivery at the same time it was a very difficult situation.'* - IMPACT Cambodia.

PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks to support from the Eagle Foundation, a full set of new maternity equipment was delivered and installed in early August 2018. This equipment has enabled the Health Centre to improve the quality of care on offer to the impoverished women they serve, especially during busy times. IMPACT Cambodia hope that the improved facilities will result in more women giving birth at the Centre and encourage migrant workers to return home from Thailand to have their babies - rather than giving birth far away from home and their support networks.

Dr Keo Pichsovann (Director of Poi Char Health Centre) described; *'The equipment we had was very old and there were a lot more that we have already casted off. Our Health Centre has been proposing to the government for the new ones but the years went past and there was still no help. It has been very hard, really, but our Health Centre is lucky now that IMPACT-Cambodia fulfilled and people in our area as whole on time. Thank you for the precious support, the work will go faster and safer with the equipment provided.'*



The Health Centre took delivery of the equipment in early August 2018



The equipment is already making a difference to the Health Centre, and has been used in the care of 55 women who delivered at the Centre in the three months from August to October 2018, and the 316 women attending antenatal care appointments during the same period.

The staff are hugely appreciative. Midwife Skun Heanh, head of Maternity Services at Poi Char told IMPACT Cambodia; *'I am very happy and thankful for the equipment. For years, our Health Centre has not had enough equipment for providing quality health care service to the women and children who live here. We had only one delivery bed and not many equipments. It was very difficult for us when there are two or three pregnant women delivering at the same time. There was no delivery chair. The mothers had to sit on the urine containers. It is such a grand relief, these are not the problem anymore, because IMPACT-Cambodia with their donor has saved us from our hardest challenge'*.



Above: Midwife Skun Heanh measuring a patient's blood pressure using the new equipment



Left and below: The new delivery beds in situ – a much needed upgrade since the old delivery bed was rusting and the mattress lining torn.



Some of the patients who have benefitted from your generosity:



Baby Sor Srey Mao has been coming for regular check-ups at the Centre since birth due to recurrent coughs and fever. Here Midwife Skun Heanh examines her with one of the new digital thermometers; *'These new thermometers are very useful, modern and easy to use. I am so happy that this is available in a rural area like this. We used to have only one thermometer for the whole Centre and things got slow because we had to share with other staffs. Now each unit can do its work smoothly and easily.'*

Kuoy Sarann is attending regular antenatal check-ups at Poi Char Health Centre. This is her third pregnancy and she is reassured so far to find that there is no risk signs for her or her baby and so she is planning to give birth at the Centre. Here she is undergoing a check-up with the new equipment.



Thank you Despite the progress that has been made in recent decades to strengthen Cambodia's health system, there are still critical inequalities in the distribution and quality of health services between urban and rural areas. Thus we greatly appreciate your support for IMPACT-Cambodia as they work to ease this burden in Poi Char. In the future, the Health Centre plan to increase outreach activities, taking immunisation and postnatal care directly to women in their villages. This is especially important during the rainy season, when it is difficult for women with small babies to travel. The small portable items you have provided will greatly assist towards this aim. *'We are deeply thankful for your support, through IMPACT-Cambodia, which means that mothers and children in this area will receive health care service more properly with the modern equipment'* - Dr Keo Pichsovann.

Expenditure statement

Maternity equipment	Budget (£)	Expenditure (£)
Episiotomy scissors x2	21	21
Mayo dissecting scissors x2	21	21
Allis tissue forceps x2	21	21
Vaginal speculum x 2 (100 x 35mm)	17	17
Vaginal speculum x 2 (50 x 35mm)	17	17
Vaginal speculum x 2 (115 x 35mm)	17	17
Hemostatic forceps x2	21	21
Long hemostatic forceps x2	21	21
Tissue forceps x 2	21	21
Artery forceps x 2	21	21
Dressing scissors x 2	75	75
Dressing forceps x 2	75	75
Scalpel handle x 2	21	21
Kidney basin x 2	9	9
Needle holder x 2	21	21
Urinary catheters x 2	30	30
Bowl, aprons & dressing cart x 2	140	140
Portable aspirator x 2	75	75
Tray instruments x 2	21	21
Sterile instruments box x 5	23	23
Compress box	20	20
Foetal doppler	93	93
Infant scales & measuring mat	79	79
Autoclave	114	114
Delivery chairs x 2	264	264
Delivery bed x 2	1,070	1,070
Plastic protective floor covering	7	7
Sphygmomanometer (blood pressure monitor) x 2	18	18
Stethoscope x 2	11	11
Digital thermometers x 5	36	36
Glucose blood tests	51	51
Sub-total	2,451	2,451
Project management @ 5%	123	123
TOTAL	2,574	2,574

Exchange
rate based
on 1GBP =
1.4 USD
(05.02.18)