

File form: 0523 Interim report for the Eagle Foundation – November 2020

Improving maternal and new-born health services at Rohat Teuk Health Centre, Banteay Meanchey Province Cambodia.

Date grant accepted: 26.03.2020 Funds received: 14.04.20

Amount of grant: GBP 12,999

Conversion rate: 1 GBP = 1.3 USD (18.02.20)

Total number of beneficiaries: 357 women accessing maternity healthcare and 74 deliveries

Expenditure: GBP 11,640 Balance remaining: GBP 1,359

Background

Your generous grant is being used to provide vital medical equipment and supplies to Rohat Teuk Health Centre, safeguarding the lives of women and their babies during pregnancy, birth and beyond. Your grant is also being used to construct a small building extension, in order to create a delivery suite in the Health Centre, allowing for a separate waiting room for patients and their families.

Rohat Teuk Health Centre was established in 1997 with just one building. The Health Centre services 13 villages with a population of 13,377, which includes 6,872 women of reproductive age. Staff at the Health Centre had struggled for many years to provide the appropriate level of care to the large numbers of patients who attended the clinic, due to lack of space and equipment. Medical Health Centre staff informed us that pregnant women who came to have their health check-up or pre/postnatal check-up had no choice (even during the rainy season) to wait outside, under trees and to sit on the floor due to overcrowding.

Coronavirus

The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on all areas of daily life in Banteay Meanchey but thanks to support from Fondation Eagle, our partner IMPACT Cambodia (IC) was able to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the communities in which they work. Throughout the pandemic, Rohat Teuk Health Centre has been able to continue providing healthcare services with strict guidelines in place to protect staff and patients.

The local population in Rohat Teuk has expanded slightly as workers returned from Thailand in the early stages of the pandemic. Many are responsible for the families' income and are now facing difficulties in gaining reliable work. It is reported that approximately 60 - 75% of the returning workers are working in rice fields, planting crops and picking cassavas (a local food staple). Whilst others are taking on low paid labour work such as breaking rocks.

There have been some positive outcomes reported however. In Cambodia, many parents leave their children with grandparents at a very young age in order to work in Thailand in construction or in garment factories, sending money back regularly, however with borders still shut, parents are able to spend more time with their children, which will undoubtedly have a positive effect on children's development.

Construction

Thanks to your support, our partners were able to oversee the construction of the delivery room in Rohat Teuk Health Centre. With lockdown restrictions having eased, construction was able to begin in July 2020. There was no shortage of local construction materials and labour, and every precaution was taken to ensure the building went ahead safely.



The new building was constructed next to the Health Centre, using the existing buildings structure for support.





The medical equipment kindly funded by the Fondation Eagle was delivered shortly after the building extension was at 80% completion.

The delivery suite has been designed to provide a safe, clean space for women to give birth.

The extension allows space in the old building for a waiting area for patients and visitors.

Maternity equipment kindly funded by Fondation Eagle has benefitted 357 women, who have accessed pre and postnatal care. A total of 74 deliveries have taken place in the Health Centre, all of which took place in the existing building. Seven staff members are benefitting from improved working conditions at the Health Centre.

When the IC team visited the Health Centre in January 2020, they were shocked to see the poor conditions in which the staff were working in. They were concerned that staff were stressed and overwhelmed with the overcrowding and lack of vital equipment. Senior Staff Midwife Sakuna, told the team that she had purchased small items with her own salary, but it was hard to keep working in such a way. Thanks to the generous support of Fondation Eagle, the staff are no longer under such pressure and they have delighted in telling the team how happy they are to be able to provide a better standard of care for their patients. Sakuna told us that she feels the construction of the building has enhanced morale of the staff and peaked the imagination of the local residents. She said that word is spreading that the Health Centre is able to provide better care and women are arriving for their check-ups eager to see the positive changes.

Phorn Vatey

Phorn Vatey is the Head Midwife at Rohat Teuk Health Centre. She has been working for as long as the centre has been running.

“Years passed by so were the equipment! The dressing cart, the Fetal Doppler, the everything I have, I used them all to the bitter end. It is helping us a lot now that we have medical equipment and a new room for maternity performance. This precious gift is gifted for us to give women a better place to rely on.” Phorn



When the equipment is delivered, a member of the IC team provides instruction and training on how to use items such as the digital thermometer or how to replace the battery of the Fetal Doppler machine.

Han Mon

Mon is 27 years old. She lives in Rohat Teuk village, 13km from Rohat Teuk Health Centre. Mon works in Thailand as a construction worker with her husband, but they decided to return home when her father became very sick. The couple made their decision not to return to work in Thailand after he passed away, to stay close and take care of her mother.

“I am on my first pregnancy and I am afraid I would face the same situation like my cousin. Back in 2018, my cousin had to transfer to another health centre because it was so squeezed inside the maternity unit. But, I was told by her that it is going to be fine from now, because when she came to have her children vaccinated the building was almost finished. I’m glad the health facility in my village is improving and I believe that everyone is happy with it.” Mon

Ban Sameun

Ban Sameun has worked at Rohat Teuk Health Centre since it was first established in 1997. Sameun is responsible for outpatient screening and vaccinations, he has a great deal of knowledge about his patients and the community and is very happy to see the new improvements to the Health Centre.

“It has never been easy for all of us. Since 2014, new people moved in quite a lot in that year. The total population increased and a lot came for health check-up. There were a lot of pregnant women too.” Sameun

Dan Pann

31-year-old mother of four, Dan Pann, lives in Rohat Village, around 15 km from the health centre. She brought her two nephews and her two daughters to receive vaccinations and was surprised with the unfinished construction. When she heard that there will be positive change for this health center she was happy.

“I am so happy for everyone. My two daughters could have been born here, but there was so much disadvantage situation back then. There was no place to wait for delivery. It would have been better if there had been just one more bed for us pregnant women, because that is the moment when we cannot shift from place to place. I had to transfer to another Health Center and it is much farther than here.” Pann



Mon receiving her antenatal check-up at the Health Centre. Head Midwife Phorn Vatey pictured above using the new Fetal Doppler.



Sameun, pictured above, said that he was very happy knowing that there will be space for his patients.



Pann, pictured above with her nephews and daughters, told staff that she would be passing on the good news of the Health Centre to her neighbours.

Expenditure

Equipment	Budget £	Expenditure £
Delivery materials: Episiotomy & Mayo dissecting scissors x2; Allis tissue forceps; Vaginal speculum (different sizes); Forceps (Long haemostatic, tissue, artery and dressing x 2); Dressing scissors x2 ;scalpel handle x 2, Kidney basin x 2; Needle holder x 2; Urinary catheters x 2; Portable aspirator x 2; Tray instruments x 2; Sterile instrument boxes x 2; Compress box; Fetal Doppler x2	1,294	1,294
Delivery chairs x2	270	270
Measuring mat for infant x1	30	30
Infant scale x1	71	71
Delivery beds x2	800	800
Portable aspirator x1	250	250
Autoclave x1	716	716
Sub Total	3,431	3,431
Construction		
Small building extension to create delivery suite. Including: labour; brick & cement work; door & window fittings; internal & external painting; electrical installation & fans; floor tiles; and site clearance	8,950	* 7,900
Sub Total	12,381	11,331
Project management @5%	618	309
Grand Total	12,999	11,640

* A small amount of construction is yet to be completed, including exterior painting and snagging which is scheduled for next month.
Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.3 USD (18.02.20)

Challenges

Several of IMPACT Cambodia's programme areas have been badly affected by the recent spate of flooding, which began in early October 2020. When news of the imminent flooding reached the Rohat Teuk Health Centre, patients were promptly moved to the nearest Referral Hospital and medical equipment was moved to a safe area. The situation has presented many challenges for the community in accessing the Health Centre and mobile camps were set up to reach those in need.

Thank you

We are so grateful that Fondation Eagle is supporting the construction of this much-needed delivery suite and medical equipment to improve maternal and new-born health services at Rohat Teuk Health Centre. The equipment has been delivered and construction of the delivery suite is currently at approximately 80% completion. We very much look forward to sending a final report detailing the completion of the construction.