



File form: 0522 Interim report for the Eagle Foundation – November 2020

Improving maternal and new-born health services at Banlung Referral Hospital of Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia.

Date grant accepted: 26.03.2020 Funds received 14.04.20

Amount of grant: GBP 24,807

Conversion rate: Based on 1 GBP = 1.3 USD (18.02.20)

Total number of beneficiaries: 1,237, - 6 months from April to September 2020.

Expenditure: GBP 24,216

Balance remaining: GBP 590

## Background

Your generous grant is being used to improve maternal and new-born health services at Banlung Referral Hospital, Ratanakiri, through the provision of vital medical equipment and supplies and essential training for medical staff and health workers.

In Cambodia, maternity related complications are a leading cause of death in women of reproductive age. The tragedy is that nearly all such deaths are preventable if a woman gives birth in the presence of a trained and adequately equipped midwife. Ratanakiri is an extremely remote province in Cambodia with a population of approximately 180,000. Over 500km from the capital of Phnom Penh, it takes IMPACT Cambodia's outreach team over eight hours to drive to. The average daily wage is less than \$2.50. Ratanakiri has very high rates of maternal and child mortality; over 10% of children die before the age of five and also has the country's highest rates of severe malnutrition.

Banlung Referral Hospital is the biggest and the only reliable referral hospital in Ratanakiri Province. The Referral Hospital is located in the centre of Banlung.

The hospital was established in 1983 and covers 18 Health Centres. Insufficient medical equipment and inadequately trained staff has attributed to an extremely challenging time for the staff and patients. Maternity staff often face complicated deliveries and are in desperate need of an upgrade in equipment to be able to respond more effectively.

## Maternity Equipment

The maternity equipment kindly funded by Eagle Foundation has been delivered and installed in the Maternity Unit at Banlung Referral Hospital.



*Banlung Referral Hospital has been critically under-resourced, putting staff under an immense amount of pressure and putting lives at risk*

IC organised the purchase of equipment, hiring a reputable medical supplies company, with whom IC have a long-standing relationship, from Phnom Penh to deliver the equipment. The company is also responsible for assembling equipment at the Hospital and providing guidance and training on its use. This is overseen throughout by the IC team. Ratanakiri has been largely unaffected by Coronavirus, with only one case having been reported. Banlung Referral Hospital is however, continuing to follow government guidelines; ensuring staff are provided with PPE, to protect themselves and patients. Social distancing is practiced throughout the Hospital and strict hygiene measures have been put in place.

- 1,237 women received healthcare services in the maternity unit at Ratanakiri Referral Hospital from April to September 2020.
- 996 babies were delivered.

Sok Kheng, midwife at Banlung Referral Hospital told us that all the staff in the Maternity Unit are very happy and satisfied with the delivery of all equipment. *“This equipment has helped our work to become easier and faster because they are all new and up-to-date. Previously, all the medical equipment in maternity were old and dull. Some machines needed to be repaired many times. We also had to pay for repairmen fee by ourselves.”* said Sok Kheng

Midwife Sok Kheng pictured here performing an ultrasound test using a newly donated Fetal Doppler



## Delivery of maternity equipment



Baby warmer machine



Operating tables



Mobile bed





Autoclave



Oxygen Machine



Suction machine

The provision of a modernised autoclave is especially timely in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. The previous autoclave was unfit for use in the Maternity Unit. The autoclave is used to steam sterilise medical instruments at a high enough temperature required to kill all bacteria and viruses.

### Case study

Teak Phoeurn is 22 years old and lives in Ta Vaeng Commune, Ta Vaeng District, Ratanakiri Province. She delivered a healthy baby boy at Banlung Referral Hospital in September 2020. Phoeurn had regular prenatal checkups at Ta Vaeng Health Centre, located 55km away from Banlung Referral Hospital.

When the labour began, Phoeurns’ mother and husband took her straight to Ta Vaeng Health Centre. Her initial check up showed that her blood pressure was high and that she was suffering from Nephrotic Syndrome (a disease affecting the kidneys). Staff at the Health Centre wasted no time in referring her to Banlung Referral Hospital. Fortunately, she made it to the hospital in time and delivered a healthy baby boy. Phoeurn remained at the hospital for 4 days, doctors monitored both mother and baby carefully in that time.

“When we arrived at the Health Centre, the midwives told us that my daughter needed to be transferred to Banlung Referral Hospital as she had High Blood Pressure and Nephrotic Syndrome. Now, there is sufficient equipment at the hospital and doctors would definitely save my daughter on time when complication happens during delivery. I am very happy that my daughter and my grandson had safe delivery and they are now in good health condition.” – Phoeurn’s mother.



Phoeurn with her baby boy 5 hours after delivery

## Training

A three-day refresher training course on “Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage and Resuscitation” for midwives in Banlung Operational District was conducted at the meeting hall in Banlung Operational District Office in early September. There were 26 participants, consisting of four Maternal and Child Health Committee members, the Head of Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department, the Head of Banlung Operational District, the Banlung Operational District staff members, and 17 nurses and midwives from Health Centres in Ratanakiri. Four trainers delivered the training from the Maternal and Child Health Committee of Ratanakiri Referral Hospital. During this training, IMPACT Cambodia’s midwife, Khun Nary, also provided an education session on primary ear healthcare. All the midwives were very interested in this topic and responded very positively. The 1,000 Day Program was introduced by IMPACT Cambodia’s Sonita Pong to all participants.



Keo Seangly, Head of the Maternal and Child Health Committee of Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department, told the team that this training course was the first training he had received in nine years.

*“I am thankful for the training that has been provided. This training is very useful for our daily work.”*

Ken Pisey is a midwife at Vern Sai Health Centre, which is located 48km away from Banlung. It took her almost three hours to reach Banlung Operational District Office. The road can be very treacherous if it rains, making it slippery and dangerous to travel on.

*“My hometown is in Kampong Chhnang Province. I came here in 2014 and started my career as a midwife at Vern Sai Health Centre. This is my first refresher training here. I am very happy to attend this training. It is, of course, very important for me, because I am able to notice the risk signs and save both mother and child right on time. More than that, an education on Primary Ear Healthcare is another new knowledge for me. It is great that I could have this chance.”*





## Expenditure

Equipment	Unit	Budget £	Expenditure £
<i>Delivery materials: Episiotomy &amp; 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; Feotal Doppler</i>	5	3,239	3,239
Patient monitoring system	2	3,000	3,000
Autoclave	1	716	716
Baby warmer machine	1	5,000	5,000
Delivery chairs	2	270	270
Gynealogical operating table	2	2,773	2,773
Delivery lamp	2	285	285
Oxygen production machine	1	1,889	1,889
Serum hanger	10	385	385
Portable aspirator	2	500	500
Mobile bed	2	500	500
Measuring mat for infant	1	30	30
Infant scale	1	71	71
Suction unit	1	1,511	1,511
Training for nurses and midwives		3,457	3,457
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>23,626</b>	<b>23,626</b>
Project management @5%		1,181	590
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>24,807</b>	<b>24,216</b>

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.3 USD (18.02.20)

## Thank you

We are delighted to report that the main activities of the project have been successfully completed. All the medical equipment has been delivered to Banlung Referral Hospital Maternity Unit. The training for nurses and midwives has taken place and has received huge praise from the Head of the Maternity Department at Banlung Referral Hospital. We look forward to reporting on the final outcomes of the project in due course.