

File form: 0535-21- Final Report for the Eagle Foundation – December 2020

Essential medical supplies and equipment in response to the Coronavirus outbreak in Cambodia

Date grant accepted: 1st April 2020

Amount of grant: GBP 29,925

Total number of beneficiaries 8,050

Conversion rate 1 GBP = 1.24 USD (31.03.20)

Overspend: GBP 393

Background

The Covid-19 pandemic left no country untouched. As the world adjusted to the reality of a novel coronavirus tearing a swathe through the human population, the health inequalities between rich and poor within countries, and between countries, were never more obvious. While wealthier countries such as the UK struggled to access enough personal protective equipment (PPE) for our health workers due to huge global demand, in many low-income countries funds for PPE were almost non-existent leaving doctors and nurses to protect themselves from a highly contagious virus however they could. Many of IMPACT's hospitals, and Government hospitals we work with, found themselves on the frontline of a rapidly unfolding crisis and quickly had to adapt to deal with the pandemic.

Thanks to the generous support from Fondation Eagle, our partners in Cambodia were able to respond in an effective and timely manner to the needs of communities in our programme areas during the first wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. As a grassroots organisation, IMPACT Cambodia was in constant communication with management and staff at all levels of hospitals, Health Centres and health posts, many of which have been supported by Fondation Eagle in the past, and were able to distribute medical supplies and equipment to where it was needed the most. With your generous grant, we ensured that doctors, nurses and health workers on the frontline were adequately protected and equipped for the perilous job they faced.



Medical supplies were purchased immediately and distributed to quarantine units



Medical supplies and equipment was delivered to the provincial Health Department of Banteay Meanchey for distribution



Doctors wearing full PPE whilst taking tests of patients in Poipet

Timeline: The emergence of the Coronavirus in Cambodia

- 12th January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that a novel coronavirus was the cause of a respiratory illness in a cluster of people in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China
- IMPACT Cambodia's activities were able to continue as normal throughout February but when the team returned from distributing water filters in Banteay Meanchey Province on 10th March, the Ministry of Health announced Coronavirus cases in the province
- Three Coronavirus cases were announced at Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital in Kandal province on 13th February and the patients were placed in isolation
- All schools closed in February
- WHO officially declares the Coronavirus outbreak a pandemic on March 11th
- Following the announcement, 24,000 workers returned from Thailand through the Poipet border in Banteay Meanchey, rapid testing and quarantining by the authorities helped to suppress an outbreak
- The country was placed in to a State of Emergency on 10th April, causing widespread panic and mass movement of workers returning from cities to rural areas



The IC team distributed medical supplies to special quarantine centres. The first quarantine centre was established in Preah Chan Hotel, pictured here.

In April, medical equipment funded by Fondation Eagle was delivered directly to the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Health Department.

Using the vehicle recently funded by Fondation Eagle, The IMPACT Cambodia (IC) team delivered the medical supplies including: PPE, hand sanitiser, surgical masks, thermometers and gloves to newly established quarantine centres. The IC team supervised the delivery of larger medical equipment such as hospital beds, oxygen concentrators, and suction machines, which were delivered to the quarantine centres in Banteay Meanchey Province.



Equipment was subsequently distributed amongst three IMPACT supported hospitals in Banteay Meanchey Province; Phreah Net Phreah Hospital, Svay Chek Referral Hospital and O' Chrov Referral Hospital. This included the delivery of ICU beds, suction machines, patient monitors, cleaning materials.

100 sets of PPE, including uniforms, gloves, aprons, 1,000 masks and 40 digital thermometers were distributed to medical staff and health care workers working in quarantine centres, Health Centres and hospitals throughout the province.



Hospital beds were all installed in Preah Chan Hotel, Banteay Meanchey, which was established as one of the first quarantine units



Tests were taken immediately from the workers returning from Thailand

During this first wave of the virus, there was a great concern for the inhabitants of Kandal Province. Following mass testing and screening of a huge influx of Cambodian workers returning from Thailand, 79 people tested positive for the virus and were promptly quarantined at Chey Chumneas Hospital. You may recall that a generous grant from Fondation Eagle established audiology services at the hospital in Phnom Penh in 2013. The quarantine unit was lacking in essential equipment to support the number of patients, and hospital management requested the support of IMPACT Cambodia as a matter of urgency. Thanks to the generous and timely support of Fondation Eagle, funds were mobilised and the necessary equipment was delivered to the hospital quickly. The hospital received four hospital beds, two suction machines, two patient monitors and two oxygen concentrators, and staff were equipped with masks and PPE uniforms.



Dr. Ly Makara, Director of Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital pictured above (blue shirt) was relieved to receive emergency items to equip the COVID-19 Treatment Centre following a large number of positive cases.

In all Health Centres and quarantine facilities, the most common symptoms patients appeared to be suffering from included respiratory problems, high temperatures, asthma, stroke, and heart attack.

Dr. Ly Makara, Director of Chey Chumneas Hospital spoke to the IC team in November.

"The materials and equipment provided have helped saved lives of patients 80 to 90%. It made us have a much better position to cope with the threat of spread of COVID-19. Coming to receive health service during the outbreak situation worries both medical doctors and patients, because they are all aware of the dangerous and contagious virus. A group of medical practitioners at OPD in Chey Chumneas told us that they were very relieved, because they learnt that CCH have just received good materials for emergency cases. So were the patients, they were relieved".



This pregnant woman was referred to Chey Chumneas having suffered with severe respiratory symptoms.

Case studies

Mr Chansophorn is a member of the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Health Department, he gave an insight in to the impact the delivery of equipment and supplies had on staff working throughout the province.

"During the pandemic, we have not received in need medical supplies from any others but IMPACT Cambodia. We were one of the frontline teams in the province and we had nothing in hands back then. The medical supplies that we have received from IMPACT Cambodia were extremely helpful and got distributed to the three Health Centres in Banteay Meanchey; Svay Chek, Preah Neth Preah, and Malai Referral Hospital. Staff in all three Health Centres have worked really hard providing the best quality health service as they could. The PPE sets, the surgical alcohol, gloves and other important supplies from were all applied and used very wisely. Samples of workers who returned from Thailand were collecting 200-400 everyday and positive cases were all quarantined. And now that Cambodia is reaching the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making sure to follow the usual safety precautions every time. Without your help at this very difficult time, things would have been very hard to control." **Chansophorn**

Dr. Kang Kim Eng, Head of Malai Referral Hospital showed his concerns on the flow of the Cambodian workers who returned from Thailand illegally. The Malai border checkpoint met at least 500 labourers each day, and there were a great many that sneaked in to several borders without passport during night hours.

"What worried me most were the illegal workers entering at night. We would not know what disease they might have carried, would it be possible that they were tested positive and could it be they illegally entering the country. The frontline team and I were there for months to strictly check and take the samples. We have received your supplies, which were tremendously in need. We really appreciated your help during this hard time. Many people have been saved by your emergency supports, we front liners, are all thankful for every thought of you towards us. By November, the Cambodian Thai border was still closed and people seem to understand about the lesson that we have provided called "Stay Home to Stay Safe", I could barely see people getting sick. It is a good thing happened since early November in Malai." **Dr. Kim Eng**

Throughout the pandemic, many of the labourers returning from Thailand lived in the Preah Neth Preah District. Health workers took between 350 – 550 samples every day. Dr. Kvan Chantha, Head of Preah Neth Preah Referral Hospital said that the situation that they were facing was very difficult and worries that cases are again beginning to rise. *“There are patients who carry lung disease and cough and that worries them most during this time of the second outbreak of COVID-19. The ICU beds, patient monitors, and suction machines that we have received during the first outbreak are still being used and still in undeniably in need for this second outbreak of the pandemic. Luckily, we have your medical supplies such as mentioned, if not, it would have been such a mess during this difficult and busy time.”* **Dr. Kvan Chantha,**



Emergency beds and oxygen concentrators were distributed to three hospitals, selected by Banteay Meanchey Provincial Department

Beneficiaries

Thanks to the generous and timely donation of medical supplies and equipment for quarantine centres and hospitals in both the Banteay Meanchey and Kandal Provinces, health workers and medical professional have been able to continue to provide healthcare and support for those recovering from the virus safely and effectively.

Number of beneficiaries from April to November 2020	
<p>Malai Referral Hospital</p> <p>140 patients have benefitted from the provision of Intensive Care Unit beds</p> <p>2,300 patients have benefitted from the provision of hospital beds</p> <p>Svay Chek Referral Hospital</p> <p>195 patients have benefitted from the provision of Intensive Care Unit beds</p> <p>1,670 patients have benefitted from the provision of hospital beds</p>	<p>Preah Neth Preah Referral Hospital</p> <p>570 patients have benefitted from the provision of Intensive Care Unit beds</p> <p>2,900 patients have benefitted from the provision of hospital beds</p> <p>Chey Chumneas Referral Hospital</p> <p>175 patients have benefitted from the provision of Intensive Care Unit beds</p>

Expenditure

Item	Unit	Unit Cost	Budget	Expenditure
Medical supplies				
Digital Thermometers (reusable)	40	40	1,600	1,600
Masks	1,000	0.3	300	300
Gloves	4,000 (pairs)	0.1	400	400
Protective uniforms	100	10	1,000	1,000
Sub Total			3,300	3,300
Medical equipment				
Hospital Beds	30	200	12,000	6,000
Intensive Care Unit Beds	12	1,100	13,200	13,200
Oxygen Machine 10 L	2		/	3,450
Oxygen Machine 5 L	1		/	600
Suction Unit	5		/	725
Patient Monitor	2		/	1,600
Sub Total			25,200	25,575
5% Project Management (including transportation)			1,425	1,443
Grand Total			29,925	30,318

As you will have noted from the expenditure report above, the grant was used to purchase 30 hospital beds and not 60 hospital beds as stated in the budget on the original proposal. The IC team worked closely with the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Health Department to determine the need amid the changing situation. Your generous funds were used instead to purchase medical equipment such as patient monitors, suction machines and oxygen machines, which were vital in treating patients suffering with symptoms of the virus effectively. These items will, of course, be in use in Health Centres throughout the province for many years to come.

Thankyou

The support of the Fondation Eagle has enabled our partners to respond in an effective and timely manner to the needs of the disadvantaged communities in which they work. By providing medical supplies and equipment for quarantine centres and hospitals in both the Banteay Meanchey and Kandal Provinces, health workers and medical professionals have been able to continue to provide healthcare and support to those recovering from the virus safely and effectively. The medical equipment that has been delivered will be used in IMPACT supported Health Centres and hospitals, benefitting the communities for many years ahead.