



File form: 0522 Final Report for the Eagle Foundation – April 2021

Improving maternal and new-born health services at Banlung Referral Hospital, 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: 4,797

Expenditure: GBP 24,807



Ratanakiri

- Extends from the mountains of the Annamite Range in the north, across a hilly plateau between the Tonlé San and Tonlé Srepok rivers, to tropical deciduous forests in the south
- For over a millennium, Ratanakiri has been occupied by the highland Khmer Loeu people, who are a minority elsewhere in Cambodia
- Ratanakiri is sparsely populated; its 184,000 residents make up just over 1% of the country's total population
- Residents generally live in villages of 20 to 60 families and engage in subsistence shifting agriculture
- In the region only around 13% of homes have access to electricity

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, supplies and essential training for medical staff and health workers. All the maternity equipment funded by Fondation Eagle was delivered and installed at the maternity unit of Banlung Referral Hospital in July 2020 as detailed in the interim report. The equipment replaced many old and broken pieces of machinery and was installed safely, with training provided to staff on maintenance procedures.

Banlung itself has a population of around 17,000 and the surrounding district has a population of 23,888. It is a relatively lively commercial centre; ethnic minorities from surrounding villages often come to the town market to sell their goods. Since the installation of the much needed equipment, hospital staff have noticed a profoundly positive impact on staff and patient moral. Maternity staff have commented that they feel able to do their job with pride in a better environment and this is having a very positive effect on the women accessing healthcare in this extremely disadvantaged and remote community.

In previous years, women experiencing complicated deliveries were referred to better equipped hospitals, often many 100's of Kilometers away, which would result in a long journey for the mother, putting her and her unborn baby at great risk. The hospital is now well equipped and has increased capacity to support pregnant women safely, avoiding the need for referrals to bigger hospitals.

Beneficiaries



3,014 women received healthcare services in the maternity unit at Ratanakiri Referral Hospital and 1,783 babies were delivered throughout the entire project timeframe.

Saleh Azy, Midwife, Banlung Referral Hospital

“It has been many years that our hospital had not have sufficient equipment in maternity unit. Sometimes, when the equipment has crushed or damaged and needed to be repaired, we had to put in our own money in order to have done we had to make sure that the repairing would not take too much time so



we got to paid them with double price. The equipment that you has supported had easing our work to become faster and more effectively. Moreover, the atmosphere in delivery room looks more convenience and finer than before while having the new equipment set up”.

She continued, “This equipment has building us up like a big house, step by step. From the smallest, simplest material to the most important equipment in delivery room. For example, we used to use a wooden stick serum hanger and tie it to the bed legs for our patients. We are very grateful and thankful that IMPACT has supported us these cannot-work-without equipment that we have always been hoping to have for so long.”

Real life stories

Ruoch Pin, 23 years old, lives in Veun Sai District, Ratanakiri Province. She told the outreach team that she chose to have her baby at the hospital because she thinks that the maternity department has a high standard of equipment and that she would be happier to be at the hospital in case there was a complication during the delivery.



The two babies, pictured above, were born on the same day at Banlung Referral Hospital. The baby on the right weighs 4.3kg and the newborn on the left weighs just 3.5kg. Both mothers and babies are doing well.

Refresher Training

A three-day training course on “Preventing Postpartum Hemorrhage and Resuscitation” for 17 midwives in Banlung Operational District was conducted at the meeting hall in Banlung Operational District Office in early September. Four trainers delivered the training session. In addition, IMPACT Cambodia’s midwife, Khun Nary, provided an education session on primary ear healthcare and the 1,000 Day Program was introduced by IMPACT Cambodia’s Sonita Pong to all participants.

A second training course was conducted for 17 midwives in Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department in February 2021. The second training course focused on “Life-saving Skills”. This two day training session included; resuscitation of mother and newborn, severe pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, postpartum haemorrhage, obstructed labour, and other emergency procedures including the use of anti-shock trousers. 17 midwives from Health Centres across Ratanakiri took part in the training course.



Each midwife had the opportunity to practice and perform the new skills learnt on the course under the guidance of highly qualified trainers.



IMPACT Cambodia's outreach team took the opportunity to speak to participants after they completed the course. Sii Vann Dou, pictured above, is a midwife from Ta Veng Health Center, which is located 55km away from Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department. Sii Van Dou attended the training course in her 8th month of pregnancy.

"I am very happy that I got a chance to attend this training. This training is very important for daily work and for myself as well. My knowledge and skill have improved after being trained. I will use what I have learned from here to serve the people in my area, especially for mothers and babies, all the best I can." Sii Vann Dou.



Keo Sunty is the Head of Maternal and Child Health Committee Unit at Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department, she told the outreach team; "I would like to express my gratitude for the training which I was very honored to have. Without having you thinking of conducting or helping people in Ratanakiri, the trainees would not be able to grab this chance to learn and recall the knowledge they have had. This is one of the most important trainings for the midwives, because it helps improving their knowledge and skills to make their work more effective. It strongly is contributing to reducing maternal and infant mortality rate in this province. They have never attended any training like this since they worked here for there was no supports from any partnering organisations."

Expenditure report

Equipment	Unit	Budget £	Interim Expenditure £	Final Expenditure £
Delivery materials	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	/
Gyneological 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	/
Sub Total		23,626	23,626	/
Project management @5%		1,181	590	590
Grand Total		24,807	24,216	590

* The cost for the entire training course was expended during the interim period. The first half of the course took place in September 2020 and the second half took place in February 2021.

Challenges

Cambodia is in the grip of its worst outbreak of the coronavirus since the pandemic began more than a year ago, the World Health Organization has said, warning that the Southeast Asian nation is on the verge of a “national tragedy”. Ratanakiri was forced in to lockdown once again in Feb 2021. Even though infections have reported to be low in the province, the enforced restrictions have had a hugely detrimental effect on families living on an average income of less than \$2.50 per day. The vast majority of families rely on agriculture as a main source of income. Thanks to the generous funding from Fondation Eagle, our partner on the ground is now able to provide emergency food assistance parcels for the most at risk families, as well as provide a rice mill machine, which will play a key role in maintaining food security as the community finds a way out of the adverse impact of the pandemic.

Thank you

Thanks to your generous grant, Banlung Referral Hospital maternity department is well equipped and has the capacity to provide quality maternity care for the women in the surrounding villages and communities. Training local health workers such as midwives and senior nurses in safe birthing practices helps to address the lack of maternal healthcare provision in rural areas. Importantly, training local health workers builds skills and knowledge which remain in the country to be used for the on-going benefit of the poorest people.