



File form: 0555-38 Interim Report for the Eagle Foundation – April 2021

Improving maternal and new-born health services at Ou Chum Health Centre, Ratanakiri Province, Cambodia

Date grant accepted: 01/10/2020 Funds received 08/10/20

Amount of grant: GBP 9,304

Conversion rate: Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 1.25 USD (08/07/20)

Total number of beneficiaries: 704 (including 458 vaccinations)

Expenditure: GBP 8,660

Underspend: GBP 644

Background

With generous funding from Fondation Eagle, our partner in Cambodia has been able to begin implementing this project, aimed at improving maternal and new born health services at Ou Chum Health Centre, Ratanakiri Province. The IMPACT Cambodia team has supervised the delivery and installation of medical equipment, such as an autoclave and other vital maternity equipment, as well as facilitate a five day training course for senior nurses and midwives from Ou Chum Health Centre.

Ratanakiri

Ou Chum is only 10km from Banlung, however the surrounding villages that the Health Centre serves are often up to 40 km away. Roads are treacherous, especially in the rainy season. For this reason, coupled with a limited knowledge of healthcare, 90% of pregnant women receive only two antenatal checks during their pregnancy. Furthermore, just 53% of pregnancies are assisted by a skilled provider. The staff of Ou Chum Health Centre are dedicated to changing negative healthcare perceptions in the underserved region and are delighted with the delivery of new equipment.

Since they began working with IMPACT Cambodia in 2020, staff from the Health Centre now go in to the villages to hold health screening sessions. Staff spread key health messages, such as the importance of good hygiene, nutrition and importantly they encourage women to attend the clinic for vital maternity and child health care services.





Vital medical equipment was urgently needed to increase capacity of the Health Centre and enhance safe medical practices during childbirth, reduce the spread of infection and improve postpartum recovery.

Delivery of the equipment was completed in December 2020.

The staff at the Health Centre are delighted with the new equipment, which has replaced some very old machines.



Som Tarv, Head of Ou Chum Health Centre, can be seen here during an outreach visit to one of the outlying villages, educating people how to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



During the interim period, staff from Ou Chum Health Centre have taken health screening and education in to several outlying villages. Screening includes general health checks for women and children to identify illness and malnutrition, which is rife in the area.



Yorn Savdy, a midwife at Ou Chum Health Centre is pictured here on a health screening visit.

Case Study

Yorn Savdy has been working as a midwife in Ou Chum Health Centre for almost ten years. She spoke to the IMPACT Cambodia team about her time as a midwife and the struggle she has with providing the best possible care without proper equipment.

"The problem that we used to have was lacking of maternity equipment. The maternity equipment was not enough to meet the actual needs. Some equipment was very old and damage. This new equipment that has been delivered has solved all the problems that we had regarding maternity equipment by donating up-to-date equipment at a time that we really need it. We also use some equipment for health screening at the villages. I would like say thanks to IMPACT for donating all this equipment to O Chum Health Center. We really do appreciate the equipment and the training that has been provided. This is a hope for all the people in this area."

Beneficiaries

January to March 2021:

• Deliveries: 33 • Prenatal checkup: 213 • Vaccinations: 458

Training Healthworkers

A five-day intensive refresher training course took place in January 2021. Training was provided for seven nurses and midwives from Ou Chum Health Centre and took place at Banlung Referral Hospital in Ratanakiri Province. The course is made up of components including; management of postpartum hemorrhage, detection and early signs of complications (gestational diabetes/pre eclampsia/miscarriage/infections), management of tears and injuries in birth as well as neonatal care. Training was provided by qualified trainers from Ratanakiri Provincial Health Department. Each participant had the opportunity to practice new skills under the supervision of qualified trainers. Many of the participants had not gained any further training since leaving school many years before and were very grateful to have a chance to refresh their skills and knowledge, knowing that it would be beneficial in their role.

Dr. Nhem Sohpy, Head of Banlung Operational District told the IMPACT Cambodia team;

“This is the third training for midwives in Banlung Operational Department supported by IMPACT Cambodia. This is one of the most important trainings for them. We have never had this kind of

training for our staff for training. Our midwives from different communes and villages have never been this lucky to attend education session like this before, which I think would be impossible to even think of having ones. They have been proposing and suggesting to have the training held many times before, and because we were also at the stage of facing a lot of hardships ourselves, it has been postponed until now. I strongly believe that after this training, they will input everything they learnt into implementation and pregnant women in the district will be supported better”.

A one day course is also planned for nurses and midwives from Ou Chum Health Centre on the 1,000 Day programme. IMPACT Cambodia provides supplementary training in nutrition for mothers, babies and infants using the successful ‘1,000 Days’ Model, which focuses on the critical first days of life from conception until a child is aged two. This was due to take place alongside the refresher training but unfortunately had to be postponed due to the continued COVID-19 restrictions.



Expenditure

Equipment	Unit	Unit Cost £	Budget £	Interim 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; Foetal doppler	2	650	1,300	1,300
Autoclave	1	720	720	720
Delivery chairs	2	135	270	270
Gynealogical operating table	2	1,390	2,780	2,780
Delivery lamp	2	145	290	290
Portable aspirator	2	250	500	500
Training for nurses and midwives			3,000	2,500
Sub Total			8,860	8360
Project management @5%			444	300
Grand Total			9,304	8,660

Challenges

The Cambodian government announced a strict lockdown on April 14th following a spike in COVID-19 cases. The latest figures take the country's overall number of cases to 9,359. Cambodia until recently had one of the world's lowest numbers of infections. It has reported 71 deaths, all in the past two months. (*Reuters - April 21*) Travel is no longer permitted between provinces.

IMPACT Cambodia has made every effort possible to stay in good communication with us throughout the entire pandemic, and we will keep abreast of the current outbreak as it unfolds. We look forward to updating you fully on the remainder of the work to be carried out. Thank you.