

CAMBODIA



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Swiss Agency for Development
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SUPPORT TO KANTHA BOPHA HOSPITALS IN CAMBODIA

Contributing to better health outcomes and the survival of Cambodian children and pregnant women.



A Cambodian woman with her child ©SCO PNH

THE KANTHA BOPHA HOSPITALS

Dr. Beat Richner, through the Kantha Bopha Foundation, manages several pediatric hospitals in Cambodia known as the Kantha Bopha Hospitals. Founded in 1991, and now with five sites, Kantha Bopha I, II, IV and V in Phnom Penh and Jayavarman VII in Siem Reap Angkor, these health facilities care for around 80% of all severely sick children in Cambodia on an inpatient and outpatient basis. They offer high quality health services (including prevention, care and rehabilitation) free of charge to all children and mothers, in order to respond to the needs of Cambodians living in poverty.

Over the last 24 years Kantha Bopha Hospitals have treated more than 16 million outpatients and 1.6 million seriously ill children requiring hospitalization. Following the construction of a maternity wing in Siem Reap Angkor in 2001, an extension with 80 beds and eight delivery rooms opened in October 2015. Today, the maternity wing assists up to 70 births and performs 650 pregnancy controls per day. The Kantha Bopha Hospitals are a model of well-functioning healthcare structures with an optimal cost-benefit ratio in one of Asia's poorer countries.

In addition to medical care, the Kantha Bopha Hospitals also provide an international postgraduate course. The program includes lectures and training on general pediatrics, infectiology, immunology and diagnostic imaging. As public hospitals, these facilities have the same status as a Cambodian university hospital. Cambodian senior doctors run the hospitals and supervise medical and nursing students. Given their broad coverage and status as Cambodian university hospitals, Kantha Bopha Hospitals are a major partner and crucial actor of the Cambodian health sector, with regard to maternal, neonatal and child health services and immunization.

BACKGROUND

The health sector in Cambodia reflects a typical administrative system of a post-conflict context. Peace and stability have only prevailed for 14 years and the country still suffers the consequences of civil war, and the extinction of the state apparatus and educated classes, especially in the health sector, under the Khmer Rouge regime.

However, Cambodia has made significant progress in improving the health status of its population. Results include: a) reduced maternal and child mortality rates; b) decreased prevalence of communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS; c) expanded coverage and increased access to essential health care services; and d) health equity schemes that provide a measure of financial protection, particularly for the poor. These improvements can be attributed in part to long-term political stability (which has provided space for development to occur) and to long-term and coherent collaboration between the Royal Government of Cambodia and its development partners.

An essential part of the strong engagement of the Government of Switzerland for the long term inclusive development of Cambodia remains the continued support to the Kantha Bopha Hospitals. Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has supported the Kantha Bopha Hospitals since 1994 with a total amount of CHF 55 Mio up to this date. Currently the Swiss annual contribution to Kantha Bopha Hospitals is CHF 4 Mio which corresponds to approximately 10% of the total budget of Kantha Bopha and one third of SDC yearly budget in Cambodia. The Government of Switzerland is committed to continuing its support to the Kantha Bopha Hospitals and to contributing to solutions for its long term securing.

APPROACH

In 2013, Switzerland opened an operational presence in Cambodia and is implementing a country program in close alignment and cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia and key development partners. Switzerland is engaged in three thematic priorities for its Regional Mekong Cooperation Strategy (2013-2017), which also align with the country's development priorities. The three domains are: 1) enhanced local governance mechanisms to improve public service delivery and promotion of inclusive and equitable development; 2) improved rural livelihoods and food security; and 3) promotion of skills development and technical and vocational education and training. SDC's continuous support to Kantha Bopha Hospitals is embedded within the framework of the local governance and health financing reform, with the goal to improve public service delivery.

OVERALL GOAL AND EXPECTATIONS

SDC supports the overall goal of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals in contributing to the good health and survival of Cambodian children and pregnant women. Moreover, Kantha Bopha Hospitals strive to build the capacity of local health professionals (doctors and nursing staff) through knowledge transfer and internships.

SDC is committed to continuing its support to Kantha Bopha Hospitals, while finding solutions for the long-term financial sustainability of these hospitals. The three expected medium-term outcomes are:

1. Free access to quality inpatient and outpatient treatment is given to ill children.
2. Cambodian doctors and health personnel are trained as part of the Cambodian training program for doctors and nurses.
3. Kantha Bopha Hospital's long-term sustainability is strengthened through broadening the funding base and full integration into the national health system.



Manuel Sager, Director General of SDC met Dr. Beat Richner at the Kantha Bopha Hospital in Siem Reap ©SCO PNH

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration:

Phase 8: 01 September 2016 – 31 December 2018

Budget:

SDC budget phase 8: CHF 12,300,000

Implementing organization:

Kantha Bopha Foundation

Other partners:

The Royal Government of Cambodia,
Ministry of Health

Imprint

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC
#50, St. 334, BKK1, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Web: <http://www.eda.admin.ch/cambodia>
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