

SUPPORT TO KANTHA BOPHA HOSPITALS IN CAMBODIA



Photo© Kantha Bopha Hospital

Over 30 years of Dr. Richner's tireless efforts resulted in millions of children receiving free quality medical care at the Kantha Bopha Hospitals. Despite his demise in September 2018, the five hospitals are operating smoothly with the management model he set up and the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to maintain it. SDC's financial contribution is complemented with specific expertise to support the hospitals to tap into other funding sources, making this SDC's last phase of financial support.

BACKGROUND

The Swiss Kantha Bopha Foundation manages five world-class pediatric hospitals in Cambodia known as the Kantha Bopha Hospitals (KBH) founded by Dr. Beat Richner in 1992. In the 30

years since, the hospitals in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap, have treated more than 18 million patients, thereof more than 2 million critically ill children. The maternity wing constructed in Siem Reap in 2001 assists around 71 births daily, summing up to a total of 18,172 professionally attended births in 2022.

The KB hospitals offer high quality health services free of charge to all children and mothers. They are a model of well-functioning healthcare structure with an optimal cost-benefit ratio in one of Asia's poorer countries.

Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has supported the KBH since 1994 with a total amount of over CHF 100 million up to this date. Currently the Swiss annual contribution to KBH is CHF 4 Mio which corresponds to between 8 and 10 percent of the total budget of the KBH.

OBJECTIVES

Switzerland supports the overall goal of KBH in contributing to the improvement of child and maternal health through equitable provision of highly specialized pediatric and obstetric care and building of a resilient health system in Cambodia. For this last phase of SDC support to the KBH, SDC will continue supporting the hospitals as well as the Swiss and the Cambodia Kantha Bopha Foundations in reaching long-term financial sustainability of the hospitals.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration
Previous phases: 1994 - 2022
Phase 10: Jan 2023 - Dec 2027

Budget
SDC budget phase 10:
CHF 17,000,000

Implementing Agency
Kantha Bopha Foundation

Other partners
- The Royal Government of Cambodia,
- Ministry of Health,
- Cambodian Kantha Bopha Foundation

EXPECTED RESULTS

The most important result is to contribute to the reduction of maternal, new-born and under 5 mortality rates. Furthermore, and after 28 years of financial support, this is SDC's tenth and final phase of financial support to the KB hospitals. During the five years from 2023 to 2027, the aim is to phase out gradually SDC's core financial support while strengthening KBH's long-term financial sustainability. With SDC's support the KBH will be able to explore and consolidate their new public private partnership business model as an independent social enterprise providing health care and human capital development for Cambodia's health sector. The KBH's privileged positioning within the political economy of Cambodia will allow the KBH to promote equity, patients' rights and ethical principles related to health care provision nationwide.

APPROACH

Besides contributing CHF 17 million to the KB hospitals, SDC has put aside extra funding resources to pay for expertise and facilitation to tap into other funding sources for the KBHs. This will be done for example by exploring options on how the KBH can tap into social insurance schemes. This involves the costing of health services, which is essential to negotiating cost per service with insurance providers. To support this process, SDC will recruit a health economist for representing Switzerland in the discussion with the health sector partners and for facilitating costing study and access to reimbursement schemes. In addition, the health economist can represent KBH by engaging in policy dialogue fora and ensure that policy formulation relevant to KBH data and experience are made available in a timely fashion. This support will allow KBH to explore and consolidate their new public private partnership business model as an independent social enterprise providing health care and human capital development for Cambodia's health sector.

KEY RESULTS AND INSIGHTS OF PREVIOUS PHASE

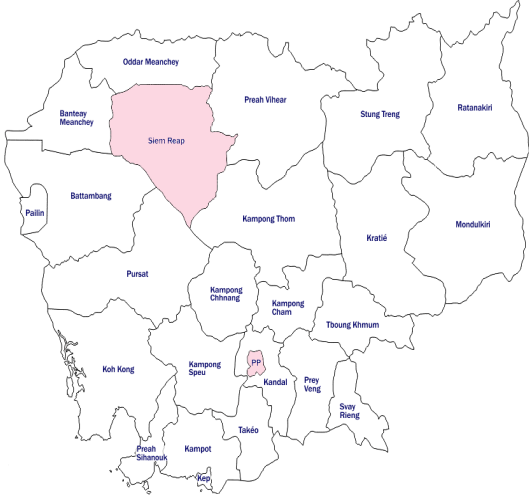
In the previous phase from 2019 to 2022, the performance of the five hospitals contributed strongly to the decline of child mortality. In the past decade, neonatal mortality has declined by 70% from 27 deaths per 1,000 live births (2010) to 8 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-22); the infant mortality rate has declined by 73% from 45 deaths per 1,000 live births (2010) to 12

deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-22); and the under-five mortality rate has declined by 70% from 54 deaths per 1,000 live births (2010) to 16 deaths per 1,000 live births (2021-22).

During the COVID-19 pandemic the KBH in Phnom Penh was the first hospital ready to treat children infected with the virus. On the financing side, the Cambodian foundation raised funds from government institutions, private sector and individuals and contributed to more than 50% of the financing required for the KBH in 2019, exceeding SDC's 2021 target of 48%.

TARGET GROUPS AND PROJECT LOCATION

The Kantha Bopha hospitals focus their support on children aged below 15 years and expecting mothers in Cambodia; accompanying caregivers of patients and Cambodian health personnel (doctors and nursing staff). The hospitals are located in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.



Target provinces highlighted in pink colour

Imprint
Swiss Cooperation Office and
Consular Agency SDC
50, Street 334, Boeung Keng
Kang, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Email: phnompenh@eda.admin.ch
Web: www.eda.admin.ch/cambodia

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