

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

25 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 support remains crucial until a sustainable Cambodian financing is secured.

BACKGROUND

The health sector in Cambodia reflects a typical administrative system of a post-conflict context. Peace and stability have only prevailed for several 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), to long-term and coherent collaboration between the Royal Government of Cambodia and its development partners, and to the commitment to achieving universal health coverage by 2030 as indicated in the Sustainable Development Goal 3.

THE KANTHA BOPHA HOSPITALS

The Swiss Kantha Bopha Foundation manages several pediatric hospitals in Cambodia known as the Kantha Bopha Hospitals. Founded in 1991, and now with five sites in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap Angkor, these health facilities care for around 65% 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 26 years, Kantha Bopha Hospitals have treated more than 17 million outpatients and 1.8 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 wings assist up to 85 births daily and at least one cardiac surgery is performed 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 programme 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.

Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has supported the Kantha Bopha Hospitals since 1994 with a total amount of over CHF 69 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. In 2018, Switzerland supported the establishment of the Cambodian Kantha Bopha Foundation as dialogue and fundraising partner which will contribute to securing sustainable financing solutions of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals.

APPROACH

In 2013, Switzerland opened an operational presence in Cambodia and is implementing a country programme in close cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia and key development partners. Switzerland's Regional Mekong Cooperation Strategy (2018-2021) aligns with the country's development priorities. The three domains are: 1) governance, citizen participation and health; 2) agriculture and food security; and 3) skills development and employment. 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

Switzerland supports the overall goal of the Kantha Bopha Hospitals in contributing to the improvement of child and maternal health through equitable and responsive public health services, as well as sustainable health financing.

SDC is committed to continuing its support to the Cambodian Kantha Bopha Foundation, while advocating for solutions for the long-term financial sustainability of these hospitals.

The expected medium-term outcomes are:

1. Dialogue with the relevant authorities for the sustainable financing of the KB Hospitals by public and private actors in Cambodia.
2. Facilitation of the acceptance of KB Hospital model in public health institutions and networks. Follow-up on the decentralization reform in contribution to the integration of the KB Hospital model.
3. Inputs on evidence-based analysis and studies; contributions to pro-poor health financing and insurance models or reforms, as co-secretariat of a group of development partners leading discussions on health financing policies in Cambodia (P4HC+).



Manuel Sager, Director General of SDC met Dr. Beat Richner at the Kantha Bopha Hospital in Siem Reap
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PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Duration:

Phase 9: January 2019 – December 2021

Budget:

SDC budget phase 9: CHF 12,300,000

Implementing organization:

Kantha Bopha Foundation

Other partners:

The Royal Government of Cambodia,
Ministry of Health

Imprint

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