

Grant Category:	Health
Project Name:	Children's Health Support Project Surgical Clinic Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Project Partner:	Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF)
Project Status:	Ongoing
Start Date:	May 2012
Completion Date:	April 2013
Reporting Period:	Third Quarter 2012 (September - November 2012)
Grant Amount:	\$15,240

Reporting Period Achievements

The construction of the surgery room is completed, and includes consultation and treatment rooms, survey room, pharmacy room, large waiting area and storage for medical equipment and supplies. The move to the new building was completed in mid-October including the transfer and set-up of all equipment. The utilities, including IT network, phone, water and electricity, have all been connected.

The equipping of the new surgical clinic is improving outcomes for patients through the prompt delivery of treatment. The clinic also improves efficiency due to a reduction in referrals to local hospitals with the resultant loss of time and expenses incurred.

The newly purchased equipment in the clinic ensures staff are now able to check and treat patients with symptoms including breathlessness, chest pain, palpitations, anaemia and pressure in the chest, services that previously had to be performed externally. 737 children and 787 adult patients benefited from the new equipment.

The medicines and medical supplies portion of the grant has helped the facility to improve services to patients with the facility providing the following during the reporting period.



Old small and poorly equipped medical clinic (Source: CCF)



New medical clinic with full facilities and large waiting area (Source: CCF)

Budget Update

Expenditure remains on target with 58% spent in the first 7 months of the grant period. 15% of total budgeted expenditure was incurred during the quarter, which aligns with outlays in the previous quarter. Spending on medical equipment will be lower in the coming months as only one major purchase is outstanding. However, other costs are likely to rise as transport improves with the passing of the rainy season and expenditure on hospital referrals is likely to increase.

Budget (US\$)	Actual/Spend to Date (US\$)	Difference (US\$)
15,240	8,859	6,381

Project Update

Key Achievements	May-Nov 2012
Medical Treatment	3,617 children treated with >95% cure rate
Dental Treatment	836 children treated
Hospital Referral	259 referrals for children with >95% cure rate
Minor Surgery	48 cases with 100% cure rate
Immunisation	564 children immunised with 0% infection rate
Training	Community: 34 sessions Staff: 18 sessions
Treatment of Patients using new Medical Equipment	785 pediatric patients and 787 adults

Outputs during the third quarter were slightly lower than the previous quarter due to a drop in patients requiring the services of the Clinic as a result of the long Pchum Ben holiday and transport limitations due to the rainy season. Service quality remained high with most patients successfully recovering from their illness/accidents. Results for the quarter were lower than expected for the raising of awareness regarding the safe use of medications.

Medical Treatment

1,591 children, including 849 females and 742 males were treated for health problems, which is an 18% drop on last quarter. The rainy season saw a rise in upper respiratory infections, rashes and diarrhea treatments:

- 85% - infections such as pharyngitis, tonsillitis, bronchitis and pneumonia
- 10% - diarrhea
- 5% - treatment for impetigo, injuries and scabies

The cause of illness for the majority of children is their environment as children either travel to the Dumpsite along with their parents or are left at home without proper care. The dense, unhealthy living environment also encourages the fast spread of contagious diseases.

The clinic continues to achieve a high follow-up rate with only 5% of patients not returning for follow-ups. Contact with these patients was not possible as no contact number was available and they were not from the Steung Meanchey area.



Patients awaiting treatment at the Clinic (Source: CCF)

Dental Treatment

400 children, 70% female, received dental treatments in the quarter which is a slight rise on last quarter. The most common problem managed at the clinic was tooth decay as the children either do not clean their teeth or do not do it properly, resulting in a significant number of fillings or extractions.



Dental Treatment (Source: CCF)

Hospital Referrals

123 children, 73 females and 50 males, were referred to partner hospitals for treatment of more serious issues. This is a decrease of 10 on the previous quarter. Cases requiring referral included severe fever, significant breathlessness, accidents requiring major treatment, major surgery, severe malnutrition, diarrhea with dehydration, dengue fever and HIV.

Clinic staff provide support during the treatment at hospital including accompanying the patient to hospital, transportation, food and hospital charges. Clinic staff also provide childcare support for hospitalised children who do not have a parent or relative who can stay with them.

Follow-ups were made to patients all patients with an 8% higher success rate of 98% this quarter compared to last quarter.



Clinical staff visit to patient at the Russian Hospital (Source: CCF)

Minor Surgery

Minor surgical procedures dropped back to a more standard rate of 14 children, 5 girls and 9 boys, compared to the high rate of 24 last quarter. Surgical procedures were more effective following the move to the new clinic in the second half of the quarter due to the improved quality of the space and purchase of new equipment that has enabled the team to take vital signs of patients during surgery including blood pressure, ECG, temperature, oxygen saturation and respiratory rhythm.

Children were treated for a number of issues including abscesses, impetigo and wound infection, with most treatments as a result of small accidents which are very common in the Community.

The clinic achieved a 100% recovery rate with no patients experiencing negative post-surgery effects.



Surgery on a child's scalp following an accident playing with friends (Source: CCF)

Immunisation

192 children, 84 females and 108 males, were immunised this quarter, a significant drop of nearly 100 on the previous quarter but is in line with the 160 children immunised in the six month period from Jan to Jun 2012. Clinical observation indicates that the vaccination program is proving successful the clinic is not seeing any children with the diseases in the vaccination schedule.

Children are vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, poliomyelitis, haemophilus influenzae, hepatitis B, mumps and rubella.

Training

The clinic provided 6 health education sessions to the children of the dumpsite community and their families with 25-30 participants at each session, 75% of which were females. The training covered:

- 2 courses on the use of medicines
- 2 courses on skin rashes and symptoms
- 2 courses on family planning

9 training sessions were also held for the clinic's doctors and nurses. Training areas included cervical cancer, breast cancer, dengue fever, upper respiratory diseases, fever and its management, physiological changes during pregnancy, hypertension and its management, otitis in children and scabies. The training is vital to ensure staff are able to provide high quality treatment to patients.

Project Challenges

Challenges	Recommendations
Low community understanding of medication usage	Training will continue to be offered with incentives for attendees to compensate for their time.
Financial issues at Kuntha Bopha Children's Hospital will negatively impact the referral service as they are free whilst other hospitals charge. Kuntha Bopha remains operational whilst it seeks additional funding.	Secure more funding for hospital referrals
Lack of correct care and an unhygienic environment result in high sickness levels in many of the children	Start preventative campaigns such as oral hygiene including distribution of oral supplies, body hygiene, elimination of mosquito breeding sites, etc. Establish a drop-in day-care centre where children can be left in safety to ensure they are not taken to the garbage site or left alone at home.
Immunisation coverage according to the National Curriculum is still narrow, so not all children in the program are fully immunised	Expand the immunisation program beyond the National Curriculum. Make immunisations available to children in other CCF programs.

Project Description

The objective of the Community Medical Centre project is to improve the health of vulnerable children and their families within the Dumpsite community through the provision of timely, efficient and effective medical services free-of charge.

The Community Medical Centre was established in 2009 within the dumpsite community centre compound and is staffed by a combination of local and international volunteer medical staff. Staff provide free consultations, medicines, immunisations and hospital referrals to poor local children and their families. The centre also runs a range of educational and support activities to assist the local community.

The centre has experienced a steady increase in patient visits up 20% from less than 2,500 to more than 3,000 including 600 children from 2009 to 2011.

Background

The Municipality Waste Dump in southern Phnom Penh is home to more than 2,000 people including 600 children, living in makeshift huts bordering the dump. Conditions in and around the dump are extremely poor due to the toxic fumes created by the dump as well as the presence of glass, needles and medical rubbish within the heap. Children work from a very young age to support their families with approximately 73% working more than seven hours a day for an average income of US\$0.75/day.



Source: CC

Case Study

Thom Seyha, was injured playing with his friends near his home resulting in two significant cuts on the back and right side of his head. His parents, scavengers at the Dumpsite who have four children, rushed their son to the clinic for urgent treatment. Thom Seyha's parents were advised that he required suturing to stem the bleeding. Thom Seyha's received local anaesthesia and was treated promptly. Painkillers were prescribed along with some antibiotics. Follow-up 5 days later confirmed that Thom Seyha's wound healed very well and he did not experience any complications from the treatment.



Source: CCF

"It's great generosity of the Clinic that helps poor people like us. We are very grateful for its help", said Thom Seyha's parents.

Appendix – Financial Update

Cambodia Children's Fund Children Health Support Project Total Expenditure as of November 2012						
Description	Approved Budget	May-12	Jun-Aug 12	Sep-Nov 12	Total Expense	Balance
Direct Salary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Doctor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nurse	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Equipment	6,600.00	3,613.00	0	0	3,613.00	2,987.00
Scope	2,600.00	2,300.00	0	0	2,300.00	300.00
Surgery Kit	1,000.00	450.00	0	0	450.00	550.00
Oximeter	840.00	820.00	0	0	820.00	20.00
Respirator	-	-	-	-	-	-
Laryngoscope	40.00	0	0	0	0	40.00
Balloon	120.00	43.00	0	0	43.00	77.00
New electricity connection (64 A)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surgery light	2,000.00	0	0	0	0	2,000.00
Air conditioner	-	-	-	-	-	-
Medical Supply	8,640.00	466.69	2,428.68	2,350.82	5,246.19	3,393.81
Medicines and medical supply	7,200.00	466.69	1,529.68	990.46	2,986.83	4,213.17
Hospital referral	1,440.00	0	899	1,360.36	2,259.36	(819.36)
Total	15,240.00	4,079.69	2,428.68	2,350.82	8,859.19	6,380.81

Source: CCF