

# LEAVING NO CHILD BEHIND

## Help Protect Child Health in Cambodia



As COVID-19 continues to strain health systems and paralyse economies, diverting attention and resources, child health around the world is in danger of being overlooked.

This is especially true in Cambodia, where effects are being felt throughout country. AHC is addressing challenges to meet child health needs in Cambodia, but we need your help.



# 1 in 3

Cambodians are at risk of falling into poverty



### COVID-19 IN CAMBODIA

The COVID-19 pandemic is disrupting livelihoods, security and health seeking behaviours for families across Cambodia. Hundreds of thousands of children are now at greater risk of poverty, malnutrition and preventable illness as families are forced to make difficult decisions about spending on food and medical care. The virus is likely to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

AHC is working to ensure that no child is forgotten and that progress in child health does not regress.

### A financial crisis has put the most vulnerable at risk

Because of global economic stagnation, AHC faces a possible US\$1.6 million shortfall in 2020. The cancellation of local and international fundraising events, the collapse of tourism in Siem Reap, and the reprioritisation in philanthropic giving around COVID-19 has dismantled our traditional funding model. This lack of funding impacts our ability to provide essential medical care to Cambodia's most vulnerable children.

#### AHC's response:

We've taken steps to mitigate the financial strain on our healthcare services. This includes budget reducing measures, delay of capital projects, utilizing reserve funding and emergency funding requests. We remain committed to supporting child health in Cambodia, however, and ask for your support now to ensure we can continue to provide essential healthcare services to children.

Funding Gap  
\$1.6 of \$5.9 million



### As the focus shifts, essential medical care must go on

As health resources are being diverted to support COVID-19, access to paediatric care is more important now than ever. Fears surrounding COVID-19 in Cambodia have reduced care-seeking behaviours, resulting in patients delaying treatment and arriving at AHC in critical condition.

#### AHC's response:

AHC's specialist paediatric services, some available nowhere else in Cambodia, are experiencing high demand. Our ICU and IPD, which treat life-threatening conditions, are at full capacity. We continue to treat the most vulnerable: cancer patients, babies born premature, and those with other underlying conditions. Any child who cannot receive or access treatment elsewhere – as a result of the pandemic or otherwise – will not be denied care.

20,137

total patients receiving treatment at AHC

143%

average bed usage in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

112%

average bed usage in our In-Patient department (IPD)

774

patients required specialty care for chronic conditions

AHC Q1 2020 Statistics

### Long-term impacts could send child health in Cambodia backward

The longer this crisis continues, and as the financial implications are felt in every family, the more expansive the health complications will be for Cambodia's children – many of whom are already at-risk and vulnerable. Children will become increasingly vulnerable to acute and chronic illness. Without proper treatment, children face increased risks related to co-morbidity and mortality, mental health issues and lower educational attainment.

#### AHC's response:

A continued economic downturn could cause the progress made over the past two decades in child health to regress as families are forced to reduce food and healthcare expenditure. AHC is delivering essential care services now, focusing our hygiene teaching in rural communities, as well as safeguarding the progress made in Cambodia in child health. We're ready to tackle the long-term impact COVID-19 will have on paediatric health in Cambodia.

72%

decrease in the under-five mortality rate

17%

decrease in malnutrition

Decreases recorded between 2000 and 2014, UNICEF



Please help AHC ensure that no child is left behind during this health crisis. Donate today at [angkorhospital.org/donate](http://angkorhospital.org/donate)