

RIGHTS-BASED FAMILY PLANNING AND MATERNAL HEALTH PROJECT

Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Care in Cambodia

Launched in 2012, the Cambodian-German Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health Project aims to improve the quality and utilisation of family planning, and maternal and child health care services. The three-year project is part of the Cambodian-German Social Health Protection Programme, commissioned by the German Government.

The project complements a comprehensive approach to German technical and financial cooperation that strengthens health care financing, health service delivery and health system governance. It focuses on:

- Improving emergency obstetric and neonatal care, including abortion-related complications;
- Increasing the use of modern family planning methods; and
- Promoting education campaigns on safe delivery, family planning and neonatal care.

The project supports the Royal Government of Cambodia to improve delivery, postpartum and newborn care through its “Fast Track Initiative”. This government-led initiative provides guidance on:

- Emergency obstetric and newborn care;
- Skilled birth attendance;
- Family planning;
- Maternal death surveillance and response;
- Safe abortion; and
- Behaviour change communication.

Although improvements have been made, further efforts are required to address remaining challenges. There is a need to

Project name	Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health Project
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Cambodia
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Health
Overall term	2012 to 2015

Improving Maternal and Child Health Care: The Muskoka Initiative

The German Government is committed to the Muskoka Initiative, established in 2010 at the G8 Summit in Muskoka, Canada. The initiative aims to improve universal maternal and child health care in line with UN Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015.

Cambodia has made significant progress on MDG 4 and MDG 5, as shown by the sharp decline in maternal mortality from 472 per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 206 in 2010. In the same time of period, the mortality of children under five years of age has dropped from 83 per 1000 to 54 per 1,000.

The Cambodian-German Rights-Based Family Planning and Maternal Health Project supports the Royal Government of Cambodia to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015.

further qualify midwives, to continue raising standards of health care services, and to improve access to health care for vulnerable groups.

Our Support

The project supports activities in four provinces of Cambodia: Kampong Thom, Kampot, Kep, and Kampong Speu.



Photographer: Micaela Arthur,
Partners for Development, Cambodia



Photographer: Ursula Meissner

Photo left: Pregnant woman in a Kampot village returning from her regular antenatal care visit

Photo right: Cheerful couple with healthy newborn at a health centre in Kampot



Photographer: Nicole Butcher, GFA



Photographer: Pak Nimol, RACHA

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The Chief of Kampong Thom Provincial Referral Hospital Maternity Ward coaches midwives.

Midwife in a remote Kampong Thom health centre educating waiting patients about family planning.

With a focus on advancing midwives' skills through on-the-job-training, the project supports the improvement of maternal and newborn health care services. Midwives receive specific trainings regarding skills to be performed during complicated deliveries. Medical doctors work in close collaboration with midwives and the Provincial Health Department in order to strengthen the link between emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities and their supervisors.

A further key intervention is increasing awareness and knowledge of maternal and newborn health issues in the communities served by health facilities. Technical cooperation focuses on increasing the demand for services and complements other social health protection approaches, such as the 'voucher scheme', which is supported by German financial cooperation. Special emphasis is put on health concerns of persons with disabilities, particularly women, to improve services related to sexual and reproductive health needs and rights.

While predominantly working at the subnational level with Provincial Health Departments, Commune Councils and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), the project also contributes to policy development and decision-making processes at the national level with the Ministry of Health and the National Centre for Maternal and Child Health.

The Results

During the first year of implementation, UNICEF was assigned to procure equipment and commodities to be provided to emergency obstetric and newborn care health centres and referral hospitals. In partnership with UNICEF, the project supported awareness raising on maternal and neonatal health-related issues and contributed

to an improved relationship between communities and their local health service providers.

The project has also coached midwives in Kamptot in cooperation with Malteser International. This training was later extended to cover all four provinces implemented through the international consulting firm GFA in cooperation with the Cambodian NGO RACHA.

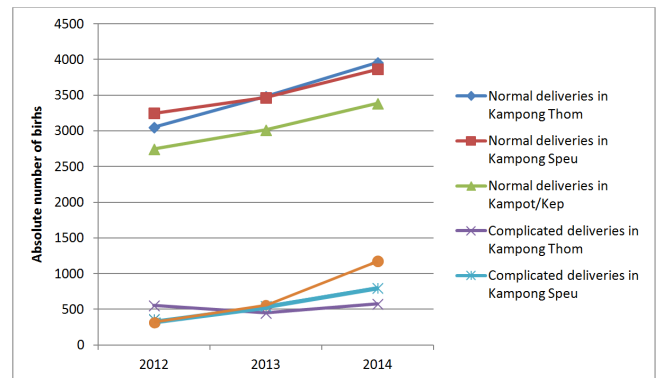


Figure 1: Progress in facility-based normal and complicated deliveries 2012-2014

GFA and RACHA are implementing activities to strengthen diagnostic, therapeutic and counselling skills of health service staff in emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities. This support has contributed to more facility-based deliveries and to a strengthened role of emergency obstetric and newborn care facilities to treat complicated deliveries.

The project also focuses on improving the knowledge of persons with disabilities concerning sexual and reproductive health and rights, as well as raising health service providers' awareness of disability-related special needs.

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