



Impact Report October 2023

(April - September 2023)





Message from Hospital Director & CEO

Dear Friends of AHC,

Welcome to the October 2023 Impact Report.

Since our last report there have been more positive signs for the Cambodia economy. Tourism has been a significant contributor to growth, forecast to hit 6% next year.*

In August, His Excellency Hun Manet became the new Prime Minister of Cambodia. AHC welcomes the focus on health in the Prime Minister's agenda and will continue to work with the Royal Government of Cambodia to improve healthcare for children in Cambodia.

In the last six months at AHC we have focused on investing in key infrastructure - including installing air conditioning, ordering new beds and other measures to enhance the care we provide.

Families have been very positive about the changes, which make stays at the hospital more comfortable for children.

This report demonstrates significant steps to set AHC up for the future, as we approach our 25th anniversary in February.

These investments are possible with the support of our loyal donors - thank you for your partnership.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Ngoun Chanpheaktra

Hospital Director & CEO

*Asian Development Bank, 2023



Strategic Goal 1

Provide specialty care for children across Cambodia with long-term, rare or acute conditions.

A huge step forward: The first child at AHC receives a CT scan at the hospital

After much anticipation, earlier this year AHC was delighted to start using our newly installed CT (computed tomography) machine to perform scans for children at the hospital. The machine offers a new level of diagnostic capability, vital for treating patients with cancer, respiratory conditions and trauma injuries.

Initially the most common diagnosis for patients requiring a CT scan is retinoblastoma, an eye cancer seen in children, treatable if diagnosed early enough.

AHC specialises in treating retinoblastoma, with an on-site Eye Clinic and ophthalmologist to complement the work of our oncologists. Apart from AHC, the only other hospital in Cambodia that treats retinoblastoma is based in the capital, Phnom Penh (over 300km away).

The CT scanner is an important part of AHC's strategic plan to fill gaps in specialty care. The scanner will enable AHC to develop our capacity to treat critically ill and severely injured children – with more information on our plans in the next Impact Report.

136 total scans
between April 2023 and September 2023



“Before coming to AHC, I felt absolutely hopeless. Now, I can smile again.”

When first-time parents Lyly and Ratanak’s son Vicheka got ill with high fever and swollen eyes, Lyly spent the next six months between hospitals trying to find a cure. Finally, they arrived at AHC.

Prioritising caring for her son, Lyly had lost her job in manufacturing. She sold her phone to pay to travel to AHC.

“I was so surprised no one discriminated against us when we arrived. Nobody cared we did not have money. They only cared about treating our son.”

Eye Clinic Chief, Dr Khauv Phara checked Vicheka’s records and examined him and confirmed bilateral retinoblastoma. The CT scan confirm Vicheka had a level five tumour in his left eye that needed removal and a level two tumour in his right eye.

“I was shocked when we understood our son had cancer. I felt horrible watching him be sedated for the CT scan. I still cannot remove that image of him out of my head,” remembers Lyly.

“Then he got eye surgery so he can live. I cried, cried and cried. I felt so sad my son had to go through all of this.”

Our Eye Clinic team removed Vicheka’s left eye completely the next day and prepared him for chemotherapy.

Vicheka has now completed three out of eight chemotherapy sessions and two laser treatments. “The doctors and nurses always take the time to explain everything so clearly,” explained Lyly.

“We will be strictly monitoring him - we are all hopeful!” shared Dr Sam Lyvannak, AHC’s Oncologist.

At AHC, Lyly receives a food pack every morning from our nutrition team and emotional counselling support from our medical social workers.

“
My baby is now so lively and talkative. I am so happy to recognise his personality again... like how he was before.

Now, I can smile again.

”

Lyly
Mother of retinoblastoma patient Vicheka





AHC's impact

April 2023 – September 2023



40,705
total patients treated between
April 2023 and September 2023



21,782
patients received specialty
services*

** This number includes visits to our Eye and Dental Clinics (along with our intensive care, neonates and surgery units and inpatient and outpatient departments).*



Strategic Goal 2

Improve healthcare for children across Cambodia through education for health workers, community members and caregivers.

Building and futureproofing the Cambodian health workforce

COVID-19 disruptions created a delay and backlog for internships for both medical and nursing students, therefore AHC was delighted to welcome both students back to AHC in the last six months.

In focus: Nursing internship

AHC offers a two-week training curriculum for nursing students that includes both classroom lectures as well as hands-on practice in a clinical setting, totalling 85 hours of instruction.

The first two days of classroom learning focus on infection prevention control (IPC), antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and child protection.

Once ready to enter clinical wards, the students receive 60 hours of clinical practice rotation through AHC's Out-patient Department, In-patient Department (IPD), Neonatal Unit, Surgical Unit and Intensive Care Unit.

Clinical training also includes four case assignments that challenge students to document actual patient examinations to analyse how experienced nurses approach specific conditions and situations.

Students receive specialised microteaching on topics such as cancer care and malnutrition treatment from AHC's highly trained medical staff.

Students learn under the close guidance and supervision of AHC's nursing staff as well as accompanying teachers from each school.

Regular student evaluation and feedback through a structured curriculum approved by the Ministry of Health helps students retain their knowledge after they leave AHC.



“Taking the exam on my phone at home was so strange. I was determined to pass.”

During unprecedented lockdowns in Cambodia in 2021, many high school seniors faced uncertainty about their futures. Kry was one of them.

Kry grew up with his grandmother in Kampong Cham Province, who always encouraged him to become a nurse. He saw his nearby health training centre announce entrance exams for an associate degree in nursing, with full scholarships available to poor students.

“It was challenging and I was determined to pass and get a scholarship. I succeeded.”

In May 2023, Kry arrived at AHC to begin his month-long final internship placement. He was inspired by the attitude and expertise of AHC staff.

“My eyes truly opened at AHC,” shared Kry.

“All doctors and nurses always explained carefully and clearly step by step on how to care for patients. They always say treat all children like your own, and it really shows.”



“ I have experienced so many wonderful things at AHC. I want to work here with the nursing process, high standards and values in saving lives every child with respect and compassion. ”

**Kry
Nursing student intern at AHC**



AHC's impact

April 2023 – September 2023



130,358

total attendances at preventative education sessions for caregivers, health centre staff, school children and other community members



14,776

total AHC staff attendances at continuing professional education sessions



33

government health facilities strengthened



6

research publications in peer-reviewed journals internationally



Strategic Goal 3

Run a locally led, strong and transparent organisation.

Building stable and reliable income to fund AHC's mission

July 2023 marked one year since the start of launch of the Patient Contribution Scheme. For the first six months, AHC piloted a \$5 contribution across all services.

Following the success of the pilot, we began suggesting higher contributions for in-patient services in January 2023.

In six month from April to September 2023, contributions have totalled **US\$263,595**, with no drop off in the number of children seen at the hospital.

Illustrating the positive reception of the scheme,

- 79% of families contributed
- 21% of patients received free care.

Annually, contributions from families now cover 10% of our overall operating costs.



“

I worried about the cut on my daughter's left leg so I came to AHC. Thankfully, it was not serious and we were able to go home.

I am happy to contribute my money and help families who may have children staying at the hospital for a long time. If I go elsewhere, I need to pay more and this way I'm also helping others.

”

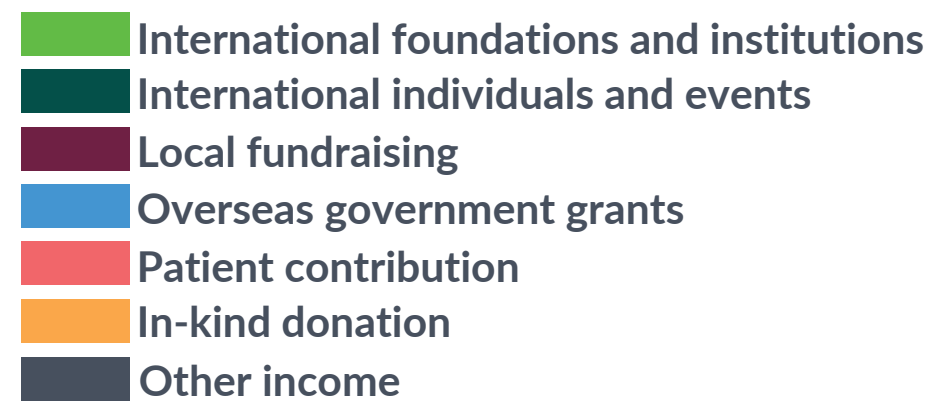
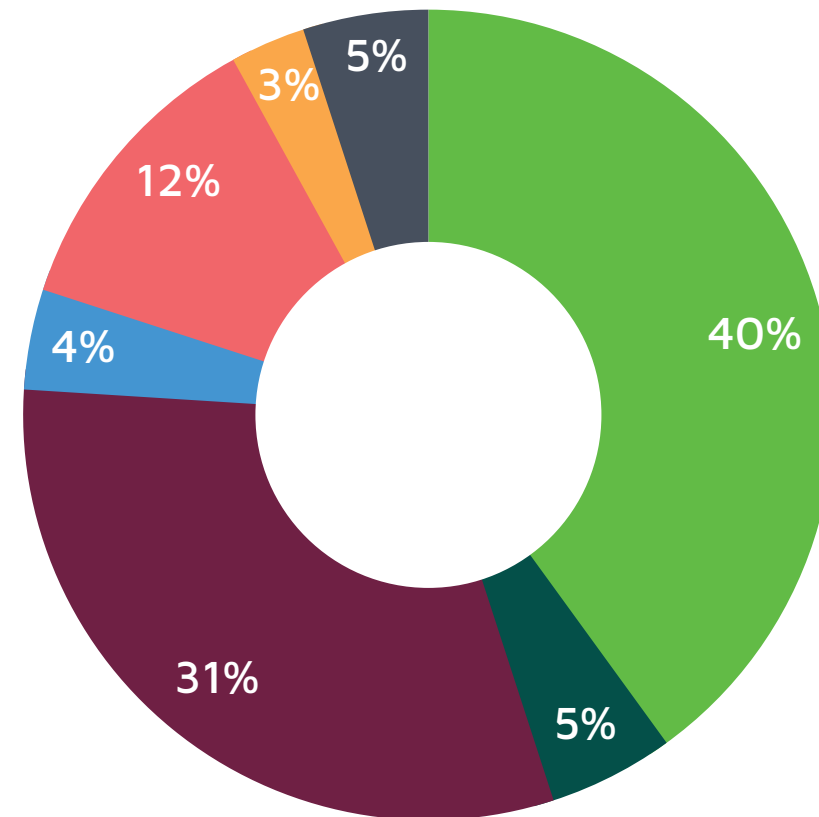
Samnang

Mother of six-year-old Rachana who received treatment for a leg infection

Financials

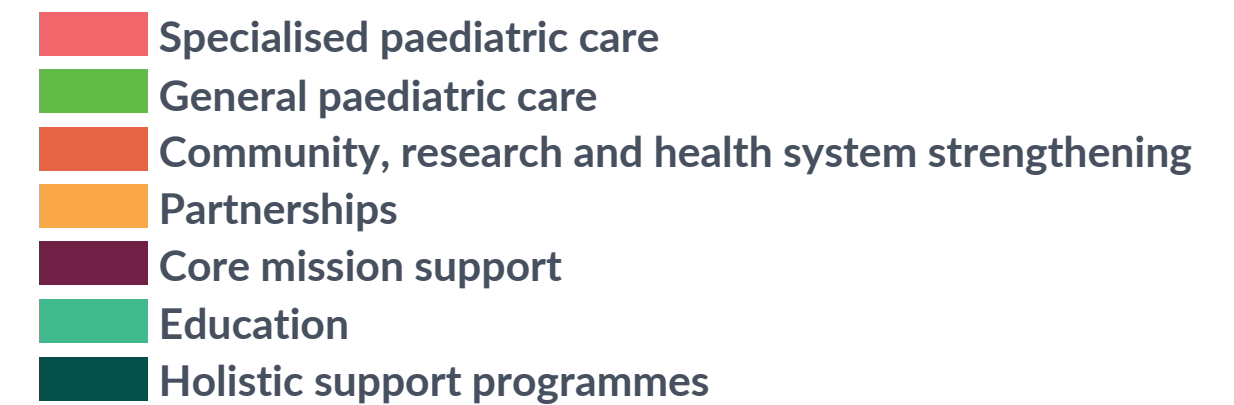
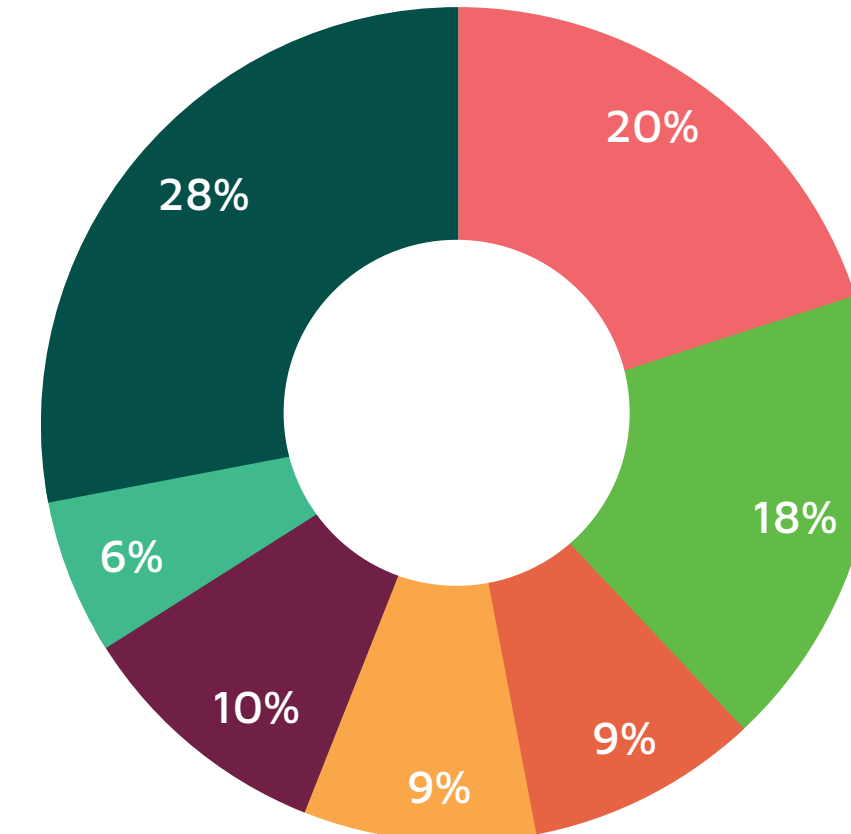
Source of funds

Total funds raised
April - September 2023: US\$ 2.34 mil.



Use of funds

Total funds used
April - September 2023: US\$ 2.52 mil.



The figures above excluding in-kind donation received from The Royal Government of Cambodia.



Looking forward to the end of 2023

AHC will launch an appeal highlighting the need for more than medical care and the vital work of our physiotherapy, nutrition and medical social work units at AHC.