



# Helping Mothers Together, A Maternal Health Improvement Collaboration in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia

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## Background

Social Capital Venture Development (SCVD) is a Cambodia Non-Government Organisation (NGO) which has been successful in delivering clean and safe water to rural communities in Kampong Chhnang. The founder of SCVD then approached KK Women's & Children's Hospital (KKH) to assist the Cambodian midwives/skilled health attendants in Kampong Chhnang. At his invitation, KKH Team conducted feasibility study trips to understand the needs and identify areas which KKH was able to assist.

## Aim(s)

The aim of the 3-years collaboration between KKH, Social Capital Venture Development (SCVD) and Kampong Chhnang Provincial Health Department (PHD) was to train skilled health attendants to enable them to better manage obstetric emergencies which would help in the long term goal of reducing maternal as well as neonatal morbidity and mortality rates. The three leading causes of the maternal mortality in Cambodia are post-partum haemorrhage (PPH); severe pre-eclampsia (PE) and sepsis which are potentially preventable with early and effective intervention.

## Methodology

By conducting the feasibility study, the team will know what are the training needs and requirement of the local community in Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia. The team leader of the project, Dr Tagore Shephali then set the objectives and plan the training programme to meet the needs. These objectives were shared and also agreed by SCVD and Kampong Chhnang PHD.

As most expectant mothers in these areas are seen and managed by the midwives/skilled health attendants first, the focus of the training is on:

- early recognition
- timely care management
- communication
- documentation and audit of practices



The training programme was adapted from KKH Combined Obstetric Resuscitation and Emergency (CORE) Training, consisted of a series of didactic lectures and scenario based simulation exercises. As the midwives were unable to communicate in English, all notes and power points slides were translated to Khmer. Morning lectures are conducted with an assistance of a Khmer translators and dual projection in English and Khmer. Skill stations and scenario-based training were conducted in the afternoons with Khmer translators' assistance. At all sessions, KKH team members will observe participants' reactions and ask questions to test for participants understanding.

During the first two training visits, KKH Team members will usually have their 'huddle' during breaks and evenings to discuss on how to adapt and improve the delivery of the training to the Cambodian midwives. Training evaluations were also conducted at the end of each training sessions so that the midwives can share with KKH Team their views on the training, areas or lectures they found useful and can adopt in their work environment.

Promising participants were then selected as Master Trainers for continuity of the training program. KKH Trainers guided these Master Trainers during the training, giving confidence for these Master Trainers to conduct the training independently. Simple training aids and manikins were purchased so that they are easily available for the Master Trainers to conduct regular training for their colleagues.



## Results

Over the three years collaboration, KKH Team worked closely with SCVD and Kampong Chhnang PHD to review and develop clinical workflows and protocols tailored to the local system eg. hand washing and the use of PPH & PE Kits in their local health centres and district hospitals. Their local Senior Nursing Staff will conduct audit to ensure compliance and data collection. By the third year, a total of **192 midwives were trained**, KKH trained 115 midwives and the Master Trainers trained 77 midwives. The training does not end there, Master Trainers now conduct regular refresher training for their colleagues. When KKH team visited the midwives at Health Centres, they shared that they **adopted the procedures taught and are using the PPH and PE Kits and are more confident in managing their patients**. SCVD shared in May 2016 that the impact of the training has **dropped the mortality rate for mothers during birth by 70% in Kampong Chhnang**, compared to 2010, which is the lowest over the last 5 years. We are encouraged by the positive feedback on our interactive style of teaching and are delighted by the outcome of the outreach training.

**Results**

- 192 midwives were trained
- 100% adoption of PPH & PE kits
- ↓ the mortality rate for mothers during birth by 70%

## Conclusion

KKH Team members involved in the outreach training has also mutually benefited from our experience in Kampong Chhnang. The success could not have been realised without the friendship and professional connections from SCVD and Kampong Chhnang PHD team. The training journey does not end here as SCVD and Kampong Chhnang PHD have now requested to upscale the O&G training for Hospital staff to deal with complex cases.

