

Surgical Mission June 8-11, 2017
KRATIE Provincial Hospital- KRATIE Province
BRIEF REPORT



Kratie is one of Cambodia's Northeastern provinces with less population, 344,195 populations on the area of 11,094 square kilometers (*Cambodia Inter-Censal Population Survey 2013*), who make their lives on the riverbanks of the Mekong. Beyond the riverbanks it is a remote place with almost no population and thick-forested areas to calm down. The provincial capital is also called Kratie and lies also on the banks of the mighty Mekong River, which emboss the province from the North to the South.

The stretch of the river around Kratie town is home to a group of rare sweet water Irrawaddy dolphins. Therefore the dolphins are the main tourist attraction of the province and the town. The river also has hundreds of green island, and circling water. Kratie town is sleepy but picturesque with sandbars and big islands out front and bends in the river. Unlike in many towns around Cambodia, the war years were fairly kind to the French architecture and the roads, at least in the town itself.

Income of households: According to wealth quintiles survey, 43.0% of Kratie population belongs to the lowest class in Cambodian quintile of wealth, while only 0.3% of Phnom Penh population belongs to it. It also shows that Kratie is 2nd worst province following Preah Vihear/Stung Treng (47.1%), and most of households are regarded as living under poorer financial situation than other areas (Table 1).

Table 1: Wealth quintiles (Distribution of population based on five wealth classes) (%)

	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest
Kratie	43.0	21.5	14.7	15.0	5.8
(Rural areas)	(23.5)	(23.4)	(23.0)	(20.9)	(9.2)
Phnom Penh	0.3	1.3	3.0	11.0	84.4
Total	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

(Source: Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014)

Education: In Cambodian society, women take care of children. However, among women aged 15-49 in Kratie province, 15.6% of them have no education background, and 50.1% have not completed 6th grade at primary school, while on the national average, 12.8% and 39.1%, respectively. It reveals that more than half of women in the province have limited education under primary school level (Table 2).

Table 2: Educational attainment of women aged 15-49 by highest level of schooling (%)

	No education	Some primary No	Completed primary Some	Some secondary Completed	Completed secondary Some	More than secondary Completed	More than secondary
Kratie	15.6	50.1	7.7	22.1	2.6	1.9	
(Rural areas)	(14.5)	(42.6)	(8.5)	(29.8)	(2.6)	(1.9)	
Kratie	15.6	50.1	7.7	22.1	2.6	1.9	1.9
Phnom Penh	4.1	23.7	5.3	39.6	7.8	19.5	
(Rural areas)	(14.5)	(42.6)	(8.5)	(29.8)	(2.6)	(1.9)	
Cambodia	12.8	39.1	8.0	31.7	3.8	4.6	
Phnom Penh	4.1	23.7	5.3	39.6	7.8	19.5	
Cambodia	12.8	39.1	8.0	31.7	3.8	4.6	

(Source: Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014)

HEALTH: Public health institutions in Kratie are managed by Provincial Health Department (PHD) and consist of 2 Operational Districts (OD) and 1 Provincial Referral Hospital (PRH). Under the 2 ODs, there are 2 Referral Hospitals (RH) in Chhlong and Snoul, 30 Health Centers (HC) and 14 Health Posts (HP). However, health situation especially for children in Kratie province has not accomplished a satisfied level (Tab 3).

Table 3: Medical situation of children in Kratie province in comparison with others

	Total fertility rate (number of children per woman)	Births delivered in a health facility (%)	Children age 12-23 months who received all basic vaccination (%)	Children under five who are stunted (%)	Infant mortality (per 1000)	Under-five mortality (per 1000)
Kratie	3.6	46	65	38	61	80
(Rural areas)	(2.9)	(81)	(71)	(34)	(42)	(52)
Phnom Penh	2.0	96	89	18	17	23
Cambodia	2.7	83	73	32	28	35

(Source: Cambodia Demographic and Health Survey 2014, Key Findings)

Kratie province borders Stung Treng, Mondulkiri, Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, and Tbong Khmum as well as Vietnam. Most of these areas are situated in mountainous environment that plunges residents into difficult access to medical service. When referral to the capital city Phnom Penh is needed, patients and families would undergo hardship more in a long travel there.

In order to address this health issue, the Kratie Provincial Health Department and Provincial Hospital have requested and facilitated **NextSteps organization** to conduct a surgical mission there to treat children who have suffered from various surgical issues.

from 8 to 11 June 2017, with collaboration from the National Pediatric Hospital Phnom Penh and supported by **GECKO, Kinderhilfe, Sudostasien e.V., Erfurt, Germany, the NextSteps Outreach Surgical Mission (NS-OSM)** was conducted at Kratie provincial hospital. The mission aimed to identify and provide a safely life changing surgery to children living with varieties of deformity ranging from physical congenital anomalies such as cleft lip-palate, clubfoot, syndactyly-polydactyly, to acquired or post-traumatic limb contractures and common general pediatric surgery such as inguinal hernia and anomaly of external genitalia organ.



The organization and activities of the outreach surgical mission are outline as the following:

Schedule, Team Members and What To Do Preparation Checklist

I- Surgical Team / Man Powers:

A total of twenty nine surgical team members from the National Pediatric Hospital, other hospitals and international volunteers have involved in the mission. These included 6 surgeons, 2 anesthetist doctors, 7 anesthetist nurses, 3 scrub nurses, 2 ward nurses, 5 national and international volunteers and 4 surgical trainees joining our mission as assistant.

II- Schedule:

Date	Timing	What	Where
June 8, 2017	05:30 (am)	Departure from Phnom Penh	NPH to Kratie
June 8, 2017	11:30 (am)	Arrival at Kratie Province, (check-in if time allowed)	Kratie province
June 8, 2017	12:00 (pm)	Quick Lunch	Local restaurant
June 8, 2017	13:30 (pm)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient consultation (5 stations) and Patient admission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General surgery consultation (Dr Hor, Chamnab, DES Nhork) - Orthopedic surgery consultation (Vuthy, Minea) - Plastic surgery consultation (Pr Vanna, Vithyea, Kim Ang) - ENT consultation (KEO VANNA, MEY Mey) - Anesthesia consultation 2. Operating theatre preparation: Anesthetists and scrub nurses to prepare operation theatres, equipment installation, Recovery room, pre and post-op preparation 3. Miscellenous activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mouth and tooth hygiene supplies - Mosquito nets distribution 	Kratie provincial hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out patient clinic - Operating theatres - Recovery room - Surgical ward
June 8, 2017	20:00 pm	Dinner	Local Restaurant
June 9, 2017	06:30 am	Breakfast	Local Restaurant
June 9, 2017	7:30 - 17:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient consultation and Patient admission to be continued 2. Conducting Surgical operations 	Kratie provincial hospital
June 10, 2017	06:30 am	1. Breakfast	Local Restaurant

June 10, 2017	7:30 - 17:30	2. Ward round 3. Patient consultation 4. Conducting Surgical operations	Kratie provincial hospital
June 11, 2017	06:30 am	1. Breakfast	Local Restaurant
June 11, 2017	8:00-11:00	2. Ward round 3. Passing notes to local team for further patient care and follow-up 4. Group photos and Mission farewell	Kratie provincial hospital
June 11, 2017	11:00-13:00	Visiting Mekong Dolphin site at Kampi	Kbal Chuor Village, Kampi
June 11, 2017	13:00	Departure Kratie returning to Phnom Penh	National Highway

III- Team Members and What To Do List

No	Name	Origin	What To Do	Partners
1	Dr Mam Vithyarith	NPH Ped Surgeon	Vice Director NPH - Pediatric Surgeon Triage, Technical Supervision	NextSteps
2	Dr CHHOEURN Vuthy	NPH Ped Ortho	Chief of Mission Coordinator	NextSteps
3	Dr Long Vanna	NPH Plastic Maxillofacial	Financial arrangement (expenses, per diem) - Accommodation - Transportation - Payment to hotel and Meals - Collect all receipts for all expenses	NextSteps
4	Dr CHOEU Hor	NPH Ped Surgeon	- Check General instruments with Scrub Nurses	NextSteps
5	TOMOHIRI ISHII	Ped Surgeon	Genral Ped surgical Team	Volunteer
6	RETH Chamnap		Assist Ped Surgical team	Volunteer
7	DR KEO Vanna	NPH ENT	ENT consultation – Equipment- Medication preparations	NextSteps
8	Dr. HEM Vannarith	NPH Anesthetist	Anesthetist preparation To communicate with Kratie Anesthetist Coordination of anesthetic works	NextSteps

9	Dr. SRENG SULLY	NPH Anesthetist	Anesthetist preparation To communicate with Kratie Anesthetist Coordination of anesthetic works	NextSteps
10	Mr. POUN Nak	NPH-OR	Assist Dr HEM Vannarith with Anesthtist works	NextSteps
11	Mr. NGov Kunthea	NPH-OR	Assist Dr HEM Vannarith with Anesthtist works	NextSteps
12	Mr. UCH EN Praseth	NPH- OR	Assist Dr HEM Vannarith with Anesthtist works	NextSteps
13	Mr. SRENG Kim	NPH- Scrub Nurse- OR	Instrumentations preparation Coordination: - Drilling - K-wire set: 1 - Wire Cutter: 1 - Skin graft set (Dermatome): 1 - Staples	NextSteps
14	Mr Vang Vansy	NPH- Scrub Nurse- OR	Surgical Equipment, trays and Hardware– work load	NextSteps
15	Mr MOK SOK RATH	NPH- Scrub Nurse- OR	Operation sterile Sheets Preparation, both reusable and disposable – work load	NextSteps
16	CHEA KIM SOUR	NPH- Ward nurse	Pain Killer (Suppositoire) , Trousses, Catheter, Aspirator, Infusions (kind of infusions)	NextSteps
17	Dr. MAM SAMBO VITHYEA	NPH	Junior Surgeon To Assist Pr LONG Vanna with Cleft Surgery	NextSteps
18	Dr. KAO CHIN Phallin	NPH	- Speech - Assistant to Financial arrangement	NextSteps
19	HENG LY Mey Mey	UHS	Surgeon Assistant	Volunteer
20	MINEA	UHS	Surgeon Assistant	Volunteer
21	NHORK	UHS	Surgeon Assistant	Volunteer
22	KIM ANG	UHS	Surgeon Assistant	Volunteer
23	UCH Vannthy	UHS 078 900 751	Help Preparation with Anesthesia work load	Volunteer
24	KUY Montha	UHS 092 209 551	Help Preparation with Anesthesia work load	Volunteer

25	EM Ekvitou	UHS 096 666 0310	Help Preparation with Anesthesia work load	Volunteer
26	MIN Moeuy	UHS 098 666 364	Help Preparation with Anesthesia work load	Volunteer
27	Mrs TITH Rathavin		Multipurpose assistants Non-medical Staff	Volunteer
28	Mr. Kristof		Multipurpose assistants Non-medical Staff	GECKO
29	Ms Lavinia Page		Multipurpose assistants Non-medical Staff	ROTARY

Total: 29 persons

IV- Activities and achievement:

- 1- In the morning of June 8, 2017, we departed Phnom Penh and reached Kratie Provincial hospital at 12:00 pm on the same day.
- 2- At 1:30 pm, we started working by dividing the team in groups:
 - a. One group (Anesthetists) took care of the preparation of the operating theatres, surgical wards, recovery room and post-operative sites.
 - b. The other group started to do patient triage, clinical consultation, screening patients for surgery for the 2 following days. At the end of the day (6pm), we had a meeting to coordinate all detailed works to be done in the next following 2 days: **Who is doing What.**
- 3- Time table of the 2 working days was designed to start from 7:00am to 5 pm. However, we could not end each day before 8 pm. Surgical procedures were conducted in 2 operating theatres.
- 4- Within the mission, we have seen 136 patients coming for consultations and seeking medical advices. Of these, 59 patients/cases underwent various surgical procedures. There were 3 patients who travelled from neighboring provinces (200 km + of distance) to receive our service. For safety reason, 2 cases with very severe deformity and impairment, where surgical procedures would be complicated, were advised to go to main surgical centers at national hospital level for treatment.
- 5- Patients who received surgical operations included Cleft lip-palate (6 cases), limb deformity (clubfoot, amniotic band) (12 cases), soft tissue tumors (7 cases), Burn contractures of limbs (9), trauma aftermath (4 cases), and surgery around inguinal regions (21 cases).
- 6- All surgical procedures, either under local, regional, or general anesthesia were safe and smooth. Immediate post-operative conditions were found no complications.
- 7- On the fourth day prior to our departure back to Phnom Penh, an attentive ward round has been conducted involving by both parties, missionary surgeons and local surgeons, where all notes of procedures, post-operative wound care and follow-up tasks have been communicated and transferred.

We found this is critical in terms of teaching, exchanging skills, and most importantly for the safety of our patients.

8- On June 11, 2017, our surgical team returned safely back to Phnom Penh.

V- Collaborations:

Local surgical team, hospital direction, and local youth group volunteers have been very helpful and facilitating for our mission. They helped us with collecting and registering patients prior to mission dates. They have also helped preparing mission site, both facility and manpower. They helped guiding patients and families toward needed services. We have exchanged technical experiences with them, and learned practical things that they have been using with their limited resources to cope with their struggle working condition. Local surgeons will continue taking care operated patients after the mission so that complete healing and follow-up would be achieved. We are grateful for such an invaluable collaboration which is critical to the success of our surgical mission.

VI- Conclusion:

Our life-changing surgical mission was considered very successful. Varieties of Fifty nine surgical procedures were conducted safely with good results. All patients who underwent surgical procedures were satisfied with the results. They were smiling, hopeful, and much grateful to the surgical team. Patient families and local staff have asked if we could conduct such a surgical mission annually to their province. We thanked them for such a wonderful collaboration. Beneficiaries of such an outreach surgical mission are those who suffered from congenital and acquired anomalies, deformities, and general surgical sickness who otherwise could not afford or have no chance to receive surgery elsewhere for the whole life.

VII- Acknowledgement:

We would like to express our warm gratitude to all mission members, local and internationals, volunteers, Kratie surgical team, the National Pediatric Hospital Board of Directors, Kratie Hospital Director and Provincial Health department for their direct and indirect contribution to this humanitarian surgical mission. We all are grateful to the Connecting with Cambodia project- NextSteps Organization, and particularly to GECKO, Kinderhilfe Südostasien e.V., Erfurt, Germany who kindly-fully-invaluably support this mission.

July 27, 2017

REPORTED By

Vuthy CHHOEURN





Report NextSteps Outreach Surgical Mission June 8-11, 2017







Report NextSteps Outreach Surgical Mission June 8-11, 2017









Report NextSteps Outreach Surgical Mission June 8-11, 2017











Parents and patients who benefited from the surgical mission would like to express their great thanks to the Connecting with Cambodia Project- NextSteps Organization, and especially to GECKO, Kinderhilfe Südostasien e.V., Erfurt, Germany for such invaluable support to make this surgical mission happened.

Such a mission brought Hopes, Smiles, and Happiness, and made a CHANGE to patient family, community, and society

