



Elevating respiratory care for children in Cambodia

Bronchoscope — March 2025 appeal

A blurred background image of a hospital ward. On the left, a person is partially visible near a patient in a bed. On the right, there is a medical machine with various tubes and a control panel with colorful buttons. The overall scene is a clinical setting.

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A bronchoscope is a thin tube allowing us to see inside a child's lung. This will enable us to diagnose and treat their illness immediately and appropriately.

A bronchoscope will minimise unwanted effects from trial-and-error treatments and avoid delayed or no treatment.

Every child deserves actual diagnosis for proper treatment. Timely respiratory care is especially critical for treating children in severe conditions, such as the ones under our cancer and intensive care.”

**Dr Kong Sokchinda
AHC respiratory doctor**



Why a bronchoscope?

Rich or poor, there's still nowhere in Cambodia with proper equipment and clinicians trained in bronchoscopies to treat child lung problems.

In low and middle-income countries like Cambodia, acute respiratory infections are responsible for 30% to 50% of all paediatric out-patient visits and more than 30% of paediatric admissions¹

Most children arriving at AHC come from poor, rural areas where 74% of Cambodians live. They often arrive late or after many misdiagnoses²

Non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory illnesses) account for 68% of all deaths in Cambodia³

¹ PLOS Glob Public Health, 2023 ² World Bank, 2023 ³ World Bank, 2020

Who needs bronchoscopies?


Examples of children we've seen at AHC who need bronchoscopies:

- Children who have an airway obstruction from congenital conditions or prolonged intubation
- Children who've inhaled a foreign body into the airway below the trachea
- Children coughing up blood
- Children with various rare and chronic lung disorders
- Children who have an abnormal lung infiltrate or infection due to immune suppression from chemotherapy





**Between 10 and 22 March, we're raising US\$35,000
to start offering bronchoscopies to children in Cambodia**



Phirun's symptoms are consistent with cytomegalovirus — an infection from the herpes virus. But without a bronchoscopy, we can't confirm a diagnosis, and his health continues to suffer. He's currently on multiple medications to address various potential conditions.

[Click here](#) to read more



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Every parent who has a child with a chronic condition understands — it's traumatic to see them suffer and know you can't help.

Working in microbiology, I know the danger of treating with broad-use antibiotics. But without a bronchoscope, there's no way to be sure of what organisms we should be treating. As a parent, that's scary.

My child can't receive quality treatment without a proper diagnosis. I really hope we can get this equipment so my son and so many other children can get the best possible care.

”

Soeng Sona

Mother of six-year-old Sakarach diagnosed with bronchiectasis and Quality Lead at AHC-COMRU microbiology lab

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At Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC)

As healthcare in Cambodia has evolved, so have we.

We've improved primary care and now provide quality specialist care rarely available elsewhere in Cambodia.



Established in 2017, we run the only specialised chest clinic for children in Cambodia



After haematology and neurology, respiratory was our third busiest specialty in 2024



Our respiratory practice operates across many units including our intensive care, cancer, in-patient and out-patient units



Our impact in 2024

1,751

children treated for respiratory diseases in 2024
(41.32% increase from 2023)

1,612

children treated in our paediatric intensive care unit



We will continue growing our capacity by training clinicians across several departments in bronchoscopies, allowing more children to access this essential care for years to come

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I feel so terrified for Rainsey.
I developed an anxiety disorder
because he was always sick and cried
non-stop for months. Thankfully,
things got a bit better after he turned
one, but he's still struggling. I feel
stressed knowing that the medical
team can't best help him without the
available equipment.

”

Nuon

Mother of one-year-old Rainsey
who's had difficulty breathing in since birth

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How can you help?



Donate today

Click here to donate to our appeal.
Every dollar counts!



Spread the word

Share this appeal pack with your family, friends
and colleagues who might be able to help



Stay in touch

Follow us on LinkedIn and sign up to our
mailing list to stay updated on your impact



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I've been mentoring AHC's respiratory specialists since 2017. They're the only paediatric respiratory specialists in the country and they're ready to advance their care. I'm excited for them to begin performing flexible bronchoscopies for children in Cambodia.

Thank you so much for your support in getting the team the right equipment to begin!

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Dr Michael Wall
Emeritus Professor of Paediatrics
Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital
AHC respiratory volunteer