



Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC)

Dinner with a Difference
25 April 2025

Saving children, shaping the future

A Cambodian surgeon's story
Dr Leng Nara



My journey begins

I come from Kampong Cham Province and studied medicine in Phnom Penh.

- Grew up with a dream to help children
- Graduated from medical school in 2017
- Moved to Siem Reap and joined AHC after graduation



My surgical journey: From student to mentor



2011 — First scrub during medical school



2015 — Surgical internship



2020 — Microteaching during paediatric surgery fellowship



Why I stayed

AHC isn't just a hospital — it's a mission



Passion for equity in healthcare



Deep love for children and teaching



Inspired by colleagues and mentors



Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC)

AHC is a leading children's health organisation based in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Since 1999, we've provided quality compassionate health care to millions of children, with around 350–400 children visiting AHC every day to receive health care.



What we do

In the hospital, classroom and community...



We pioneer specialty treatments rarely available elsewhere in Cambodia, caring for children with long-term, rare and acute conditions



We improve healthcare for children across Cambodia through education for health workers, community members and caregivers



We run a locally-led, strong and transparent organisation, ensuring we have the human, technological and financial resources to deliver our work in the hospital, classroom and community



Our impact in 2024

112,387

treatments by our out-patient department

16,047

consultations given and surgical procedures performed, including major and minor surgery

366,425

attendances at our prevention and health education activities in villages, schools and communes and in the hospital

US\$6 million

needed to sustain our work in 2025

As healthcare in Cambodia has changed, so have we



When AHC opened in the late 1990s, children were dying from preventable infectious diseases or from malnutrition



Now, children have more access to treatment for common illnesses at their local health centres



So AHC fills the gaps — providing specialty care for children with rare diseases like cancer, long-term conditions and life-threatening injuries



From left to right:
Surgeons Dr Leng Nara, Dr Van Thy, Dr T. Desmond Brown and Dr Sar Vuthy in 2024

“

As Cambodia has developed over the 20 years I've been volunteering at AHC, injuries have changed. We now see more serious injuries, like those from road traffic accidents.

AHC has repeatedly shown they can and will adapt, using the little resources they have to provide the best possible care for children. But they'll always need more.

Supporting AHC's commitment to excellence, teaching and service is important to me. Children need to have a place like AHC to care for them.

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Dr T. Desmond Brown

Retired orthopaedic surgeon and long-term AHC volunteer



Cambodia today

A severely injured or ill child has few options to get the right and timely care they need

Four people die and 12 people are injured from traffic accidents on average every day in Cambodia. It is the country's leading cause of death ¹

With 74% of Cambodians living in rural areas, many rural hospitals lack the resources to provide complex critical or trauma care ²

8.6 million deaths in low- and middle-income countries could be avoided with appropriate emergency care. Around 40% of deaths relate to not being able to access care ³

Without immediate care, children can be disabled for life, or worse — die.

¹ Khmer Times, 2023 ² World Bank, 2023 ³ Journal of Global Health Reports, 2019



Saved from third-degree burns

- Mengleang (2 years old) fell into a pot of boiling rice porridge — suffered third-degree burns on 50% of his body
- Initially treated at local facilities, then urgently transferred to AHC
- Arrived unresponsive and in critical condition
- Underwent intensive care, multiple surgeries and skin grafts
- Hospitalised for over 60 days
- Recovered well — active, smiling and talking again
- His mother praised AHC for their life-saving and compassionate care

Sreyphy's last hope

- 17-year-old girl from Oudor Meanchey fractured her knee in a trampoline accident
- Turned away and overcharged by two hospitals without proper treatment
- Referred to AHC as a last resort after a month of worsening condition
- AHC surgeons modified tools and operated within two days
- After surgery and physiotherapy, she now walks without pain

What we needed



What we had available



“

I didn't expect such warm and professional services. I expected them not to care about my daughter. But the doctors and nurses comforted me like I was their family. I felt warm and welcome.

After my daughter's surgery, she also received physiotherapy. We learned so much from it. I learned how to help her exercise at home, encouraging her to move frequently to regain her mobility. I am so thankful that there's a hospital AHC that takes care of every aspect of treatment.

I want every hospital to be like AHC.

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Champey

Mother of 17-year-old Sreyphy who was treated for a knee fracture after falling off a trampoline





Give a gift, save a life

US\$500

could provide one child with life-saving treatment in our intensive care unit

US\$1,800

could run our emergency department for one week

US\$2,300

could treat one child with retinoblastoma for one year

US\$6,000

could treat one child with leukaemia for a year

US\$8,000

could pay for all medicine for all children in our intensive care unit for three weeks

US\$18,000

could pay for one year of training for a specialty doctor in surgery, anaesthesia or intensive care



AHC is where all children are treated with dignity, compassion and skill — wherever they live and whatever their ability to pay.

Let's make sure no child is ever turned away.

Thank you!