



A message from Lori Housworth, Chenla Co-Founder

“Let’s buy some drinks.” Chinda’s text to the management group chat said it all. Already busy with the dengue fever outbreak, our team of doctors and nurses had received three serious ER cases within the hour. Yet facing challenges seems to motivate the Chenla team to pull together, keep a positive attitude, and work through it. Iced coffees on tap helped everyone get through a strenuous day.



Unbelievably, eight years have passed since Bill and I took the leap and moved to Kratie Province, naively envisioning a plan to meet the health care needs of children in the region. Thanks to the incredible efforts of our staff in cooperation with the local government and each of our supporters, Chenla took care of 23,919 emergency room/outpatients and 4,077 in-patients including 1,142 PICU patients, and 1,081 NICU patients in Kratie, Mondulkiri, and Stung Treng provinces during 2023.

Recovery and smiles in the pediatric ICU

Recently, the Chenla team participated in a traditional ground-breaking ceremony for the new flagship hospital in Kratie, specifically designed for pediatric care, that will open its doors in early 2025.

During a tour of the eastern side of Cambodia this summer, the Minister of Health of the Royal Government of Cambodia visited Chenla and was astounded to see the progress of pediatric care in the region’s health facilities. He requested to meet with Bill and me this fall to discuss collaboration at a higher level, with the potential to extend pediatric care to other remote government facilities.

As His Excellency noted, Chenla continues to make strides in advancing patient care. As an example, Namfah Gordon, a generous supporter and student at Brown University, has helped us obtain surfactant, a simple but highly effective treatment which makes the immature lungs of premature babies more pliable and able to exchange oxygen. This will in time help hundreds of babies in this region. In addition, two highly esteemed pediatric intensive care specialists will be arriving in September to provide continuing education for our doctors. And most importantly, progress is continuing on our ventilator-acquired pneumonia study, as we seek to prevent the development of any infections in our patients.



Ministry of Health Visit

Yet, we know unmet needs still exist nearby. In Stung Treng, we have yet to expand to the general pediatric ward, though Chenla’s Ptarmigan Foundation Neonatal Unit is full and successful. When I visit, parents express their longing to have a high quality facility to which they can bring their toddlers and older children with the same trust they have in the neonatal ward.

In addition, Ratanakiri province in the far northeast has the highest child mortality rates in the country, and rural health workers there continue to send us many critically ill children. Believing that no child should have to travel eight hours to receive life-saving medical care, we hope to begin work there in the coming year.

Multi-Province Dengue Outbreak

The Chenla team was prepped and ready for the recent dengue fever outbreak. Despite patients spilling into every available space in Kratie and Mondulkiri for over 6 weeks and counting, morale remains high (with the help of a continuous supply of cold caffeinated beverages, thank you Chinda!). Every child in need, including children coming from surrounding provinces such as Stung Treng, continues to be admitted and treated.

Major dengue outbreaks occur cyclically every 3-5 years. Although they are not surprising, they always place a huge burden on pediatric wards, with overwhelming patient numbers stretching resources thin. (See our recent video on social media). Children are especially vulnerable to severe forms of dengue, such as dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome, which can lead to life-threatening complications if not treated promptly. This risk is even greater for underweight and malnourished children, a common issue in eastern Cambodia.



Dengue Overcrowding in Kratie

A final note

We need your help very much. Your dedicated support allows us to provide life-saving care for children here and builds Cambodian public medical capacity through the passionate work of the Chenla team. As always, we are very thankful for your commitment and we remain committed as well to bring care to those who need it most in the most efficient and sustainable ways possible.

Lori, Bill, and the Chenla team

P.S. Please keep “sharing” our social media posts and newsletters. It makes a difference!



Financial Report

Total Funds for Running Costs in the Bank Jan 1 st 2024	\$301,427.00
Donor Funds Received as of Aug 26 th 2024	\$1,211,262.84
Running Expenditures 2024 to date	\$745,999.00
Average Monthly Running Costs 2024 (w/dengue fever outbreak)	\$106,571.00
Average Monthly Running Costs 2023 (3 sites)	\$99,504.00
Average Monthly Running Costs 2022 (1.25 sites)	\$55,693.00
Donor Funds Pledged for Running costs in 2024 not yet received	\$5,000.00
Funds in Bank August 26 th 2024 for Running Costs	\$805,690.00
Anticipated Monthly Running Costs remainder of 2024 including additional dengue outbreak expenses	\$560,000.00
Anticipated Funds in Bank Dec 31 st , 2024	\$250,690.00
Board Set Goal of Minimum Funds to Maintain on Hand (6 Months Running Costs)	Est. \$600,000