



Organisation to Improve Communication and Swallowing Services in Cambodia (OIC)

REHABILITATION WORKSTREAM

Australia–Cambodia Cooperation for Equitable Sustainable Services - Phase 2

OIC'S ACCESS 2 WORK

OIC Cambodia is building a speech therapy workforce and services for the estimated 600,000 Cambodians with communication or swallowing difficulties, most of whom cannot access support outside Phnom Penh's small private sector. The project trains health, education and disability workers to identify, refer and support people with these difficulties and has established speech therapy services within government provincial referral hospitals, inaugurated in Kratie in January 2026 and Kampong Speu in April 2026. OIC also develops Khmer-language resources, referral pathways and an evidence base on speech therapy needs to guide the long-term development of a qualified Cambodian workforce.

KEY OUTCOMES

-  Build a Cambodian speech therapy workforce and resources.
-  Establish province-based government speech therapy services for communication and swallowing needs.
-  Build and use an evidence base for speech therapy needs and services in Cambodia.

KEY DETAILS



Duration

Jan 2024 – Jun 2027



Locations

Kampong Speu, Kratie

Project Spotlight

Speech Therapy Unit in Kampong Speu

A child-friendly Communication and Language Support Room opened at Kampong Speu Provincial Referral Hospital in April 2026. Children with speech, language and hearing difficulties receive assessment and therapy, with referrals to partners for subsidised hearing devices.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE (to June 2026)

796

Community members
reached with awareness
sessions

47

Speech therapy
practitioners trained

2

Speech therapy clinics
opened in Provincial
Referral Hospitals

-  Speech therapy gained its first formal recognition in the Health Workforce Development Plan.
-  Cambodia's first speech therapy competency framework was developed alongside the first national mapping of services.
-  158 children were identified as potential clients, and 38 children began speech therapy treatment at the two new Provincial Referral Hospitals Communication and Language Support rooms in 2026.
-  Referral pathways now link community workers, special education schools and health centres to the new clinics, with children with severe hearing loss connected to partners providing free hearing devices.

WHO BENEFITS



Direct

Health and rehabilitation workers trained in speech therapy. Service users, including children, receiving speech therapy services.



Indirect

Families, carers and communities of persons with communication difficulties.



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*Speech Therapy helps children overcome communication difficulties.
Parents get practical knowledge of how to assist their children.*

Dr Long Viseth, Director, Kampong Speu Provincial Referral Hospital

CONTACTS



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ACCESS 2 Program

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