



# CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CENTRE

Rehabilitation surgery for disabled Cambodians  
National Rehabilitation Center, Kien Khleang.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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## WHO WE ARE

CSC aims to improve the quality of life for disabled poor people by providing free or low-cost rehabilitation surgery. Integral to CSC's mission is a program of training local surgeons and hospital staff by international experts – focusing on the development of sustainable surgical services.



*His mother said: "we are relieved that Theara will have the opportunity to walk normally, be like other young men his age, finish school, and have a good life. Thank you to the donors who helped to pay for his surgery because we could not pay for his care."*

## A Future Transformed for a Young Man with a Birth Defect

Meet Theara, a 19-year-old student from Kampong Cham in Cambodia. His parents are farmers and grow rice and vegetables. He enjoys reading Khmer literature, and when he graduates from high school, he would like to attend a university to study law. Theara was born with bilateral clubfeet, a condition in which the foot is twisted out of shape. He has difficulty walking and cannot wear shoes. His parents consulted with a local hospital when he was born, but they could not access care due to lack of money. If left untreated, his disability would be worse as he aged, which would make it hard for Theara to walk at all. He says his condition made it difficult to join in games or keep up with other kids, and stigma prevented him from socializing or forming friendships.

Theara thought he would never walk normally but was assured by the expertise of the Children's Surgical Centre surgical team, who performed a corrective surgical procedure on his legs and placed external fixators on both feet to ensure that they become properly aligned. He has been recovering in the hospital for several weeks and will keep the frames on both legs for eight to twelve weeks as his tendons heal. Theara will receive rehabilitative therapy to adjust his gait and increase strength and range of motion. Surgeons are hopeful he will recover without any pain or walking dysfunction; he looks forward to fewer symptoms from his condition and hopes to keep up with school and realize his dream of becoming a lawyer.

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He shared: "I like working with the patients who are amputees. When we can help them and fit them with a prosthetic, it gives them hope."

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### Meet Phea, CSC Physiotherapy Manager.

Phea has worked at CSC for 12 years. A normal day for him consists of pre-surgery consultations, new patient visits, and then follow-up patients who have been discharged. Physical therapy is an integral part of post-surgical care and healing. After a major surgery, many patients at CSC will need physical therapy to restore mobility and minimize pain. Phea works closely with the surgeons pre-operatively, then with the patients post-operatively, because many of the surgical procedures will still require weeks of rehabilitation with a physiotherapist after the operation to ensure success.



## Watsi has been a valued partner and donor for CSC for 10 YEARS!

Watsi directly funds life-changing healthcare for CSC patients with disabilities in Cambodia and around the world.

Check out the Watsi patient follow-up videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV5uE70vgR40x1HQ-TMlbMQ>



## Recent Visitors!

The CSC staff is happy to see the return of many surgical teams and consultants who were unable to visit during the COVID pandemic. Their presence supports the education and surgical expertise of Khmer surgeons in training and medical students.

Robert Siorpaes and Thomas Herz, Austria  
Gavin O'Neill, Singapore  
Fred Lauwers and Team, Toulouse, France  
Abhineet Jain, India

Christopher Lyon, California, USA  
Angela Herde, Australia  
Brian Moore & Ellen Interlandi, New Mexico, USA

\$25 dollars a month will cover the cost of one life-changing operation a year. **DONATE HERE** or contact [info@csc.org](mailto:info@csc.org) for other options:

<https://csc.org/donation.php>