



Foundation of Children's Hospitals Kantha Bopha

Dr. med. Beat Richner



**Annual Report
2025**

Balance 2025

from our five paediatric hospitals



1,071,637 children treated as **outpatients**

of which 233,243 children were admitted as **inpatients**



34'889 **surgical interventions**

1,163 open **heart** surgeries or via cardiac catheterisation



1,771 cases of **tuberculosis**



22,982 cases of **dengue fever**



304 **cancer** treatments

2,723 **employees**



20,535 **birth** and 108,134 **check-ups** for pregnant women



15,089 **blood** donations

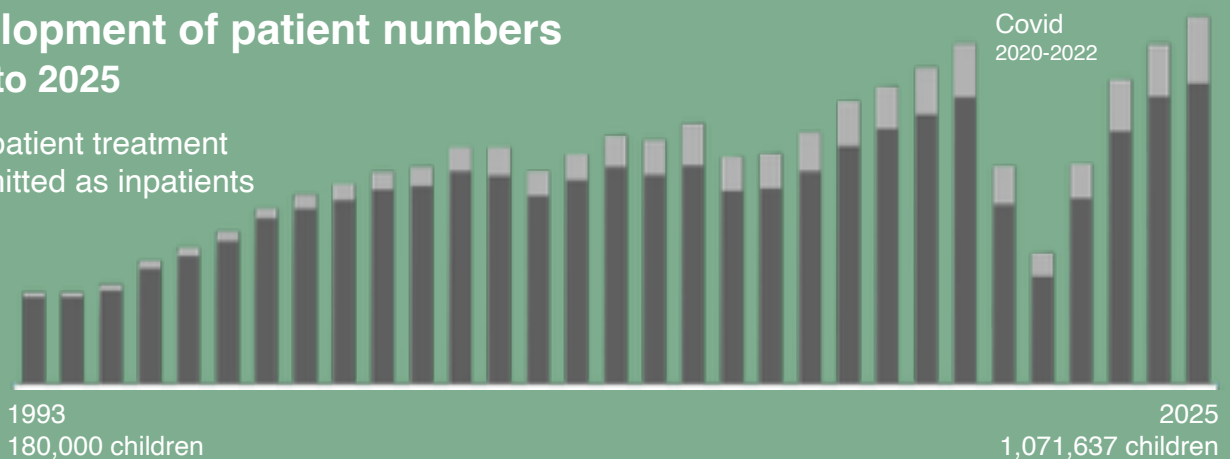


19,515 newborns in the **neonatal unit**



Development of patient numbers 1993 to 2025

■ outpatient treatment
■ admitted as inpatients



Sustainable help for children, mothers, and families



Dear readers

In 2025, our hospitals' approximately 2,700 employees once again cared for a **virtually unimaginable number of sick and injured children** by Swiss standards. Once again, more than one million girls and boys were treated as outpatients, an increase of almost 5 per cent compared with the previous year. While the number of surgical procedures remained relatively stable, the number of children admission as inpatients increased by over 25 per cent.

This means that our hospitals were able to help even more children, and the sharp rise in hospital admissions indicates that our doctors and nurses have had to deal with a growing number of serious illnesses and injuries. Our specialised teams at the maternity clinic in Siem Reap also made a significant contribution in 2025, assisting with **over 20,000 births** once again. The number of vital medical check-ups during pregnancy also increased.

You will find details of our activities in this annual report. By way of introduction, I would like to highlight a few key points:

Our hospitals are renowned for the **high quality of work provided by our entire medical team**. This is the result of thorough training and staff development, combined with targeted knowledge transfer from specialists at the University Children's Hospital Zurich and other Swiss and international institutions.



We are committed to achieving our goal of **enabling and empowering our local teams to independently perform therapies**, whether they involve specific surgical procedures, drug treatments or complex nursing care.

During the reporting year, our teams took part in various initiatives that had an **impact not only on our hospitals, but also on Cambodia's healthcare system as a whole**. At the same time, our popular programme, which offers Swiss medical students the opportunity to spend part of their elective year on a two-month clinical placement as junior doctors in one of our hospitals, facilitates a transfer of knowledge from Cambodia to Switzerland.

We conduct our **public relations work through various channels**, increasingly



also via social media. Our traditional Knie Gala continues to be a highlight of our events. The 33rd edition took place on 13 May 2025 under the big top at Sechseläutenplatz in Zurich. In September, we held an event for the members of our circle of patrons at the new University Children's Hospital Zurich, which included a guided tour of the Kispi buildings. Representatives of our Cambodian management team were also present, and, like the other guests, they were highly impressed by the spectacular architecture.

The Kantha Bopha Children's Hospitals are well known throughout Cambodia, and **almost every family in the country has had some personal connection with the 'Swiss Hospitals'**. The health authorities regard the hospitals as role models for other clinics in the country, playing a pioneering role in terms of medical quality and equipment. This is also linked to the expectation of ongoing investment in infrastructure and the quality of medical services.

In recognition of Kantha Bopha's important contribution to the health of Cambodian children and expectant mothers, the subsidies we receive from the Cambodian authorities were significantly increased in 2025. We have been assured of a further increase in these subsidies for the coming years. While this is encouraging, **we remain dependent on the generosity of donors from Switzerland and Cambodia.**

I personally, and on behalf of the entire Foundation Board, I would like to thank everyone who has supported our hospitals over the past year, thereby enabling their continued development.

Philip Robinson

President of the Foundation Board

Medicine and further training



Education, training, and continuous professional development with the transfer of specialist knowledge: Medical specialists regularly visit our hospitals to train local staff on site. The teams then work together to further develop medical specialties and optimise processes. These medical missions are important for the **education, training, and continuous professional development** of our Cambodian colleagues. Together with the chief physicians, a delegation from the Foundation Board, defined the following priorities for 2025:

- Oncology and pathology
- Gastroenterology
- Gynaecology and obstetrics
- Neonatology and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- General intensive care medicine (PICU)
- Cardiology and cardiac surgery
- Visceral surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Image diagnostics
- Nephrology

In 2025, 16 international medical and surgical missions took place from Switzerland and France. Depending on the specialty, these missions are carried out annually or every two years. Those involved are mainly doctors and experts from the University Children's Hospital Zurich as well as other medical specialists from Switzerland and abroad.

NEW CANCER WARD IN SIEM REAP

While leukaemia in children has been treated in Phnom Penh for almost two decades, in autumn 2023 the team headed by Foundation Board Member Prof. Felix Niggli began treating other paediatric cancers, including **liver, kidney and brain tumours**. A precise diagnosis is essential for the adequate treatment of such tumours. With the support of a Swiss pathologist, the laboratory at Kantha Bopha Hospital, which was previously rudimentary, has been developed further in a targeted manner.



We use X-rays, ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging, and computer tomography, among other things, to make correct diagnoses.

In 2025, there were over 360,000 examinations.



The intensive professional exchange between the on-site pathology laboratory and the pathology teams at Winterthur Cantonal Hospital and Zurich University Hospital now allows for **reliable tumour diagnoses** to be made for most children, resulting in tailored treatment. Although not all diagnostic options are always available and the therapeutic spectrum is still limited compared to Europe, effective tumour control has now been achieved in several hundred children with cancer.

In addition, **the hospitals in Phnom Penh closely work together**. For instance, if necessary, children treated in our hospital receive radiotherapy at another hospital in the city. There are also regular video conferences, known as tumour boards, where Cambodian colleagues discuss individual cases with a team of experts from Switzerland.

The progress made at our hospital in Phnom Penh has made it possible to **treat children with cancer at the Children's Hospital in Siem Reap from autumn 2025**. Our teams at both locations are highly motivated and dedicated to caring for children with cancer within the available

resources. As not all of the children can be cured, providing dignified palliative care has also become one of their important tasks.

In the near future, we plan to **introduce additional diagnostic analyses** to enable tumours and leukaemias to be classified even more precisely. This will allow us to customise therapies more specifically. There is, of course, a desire to use newer therapeutic agents in future. However, the extent to which this can be realised depends largely on their availability and cost in Cambodia.

HELP WITH KIDNEY FAILURE

The focus of our nephrology mission was to optimise treatment for children with **acute kidney failure**. Prof. Dr. Wesley Hayes, from the University Children's Hospital Zurich, and the local team looked after children with various kidney problems, such as kidney inflammation and kidney failure. A key aspect of their work involved **peritoneal dialysis**. In the intensive care unit in Siem Reap, the team demonstrated how children are treated with this form of dialysis. The intensive care nurses practised preparing and connecting the dialysis set.

Interested in a two-month placement in Cambodia during your elective study year?

Swiss medical students please contact
Dr. Seraina Prader:

seraina.prader@kispi.uzh.ch



The second focus was on **blood washing using a dialysis machine**. Using case studies, the team discussed which children would benefit most from this method. The Cambodian employees were highly committed, actively participating in the training sessions and providing positive feedback. They concluded that the mission had been extremely beneficial for the specialist staff and the children concerned.

FURTHER TRAINING IN DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING

In radiology, a team from the University Children's Hospital Zurich organised various training courses at both sites. PD Dr. Ralph Gnannt examined numerous **children with vascular malformations**. In over ten cases, he worked with the local radiologists to sclerotise the abnormal vessels from the inside. He also practised taking samples from organs or tumours.

Prof. Dr Christian Kellenberger reviewed the examination procedures for the new computer tomographs (replacement devices), discussed outdated additional images, and introduced a particularly **low-radiation programme for lung scans**. The examination

protocols for the magnetic resonance scanner were improved in collaboration with specialists from image diagnostics, neurosurgery, and cardiac surgery. For example, these protocols were developed for cases involving vascular malformations in the brain, kidneys, and urinary tract, as well as the heart. The team has also introduced a very fast chest examination that provides images in near-real time.

HOSPITAL UTILISATION

The average bed occupancy rate in Phnom Penh was 126 per cent, in our hospital in Siem Reap over 138 per cent and in the Maternité 107 per cent.

Finances and Investments



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2025

The annual financial statement for 2025, approved by the Foundation Board at the meeting on 12 May 2026, closed with assets of CHF 45,867,136.72 and a surplus of expenditures of CHF 6,463,669.43.

The organisation capital (equity) therefore decreased by approx. CHF 6.5 million to CHF 45.0 million. **This reserve ensures the funding of hospital operation in the medium term.**

The annual financial statement 2025 was carried out according to the requirements of Swiss GAAP FER 21. The audit report by PwC of 12 May 2026 contains no limitations or details and recommends that the Foundation Board approve the annual financial statement.

In our accounting, the following should be noted in particular: Due to the special political situation and the lack of legal security in Cambodia, investments are charged directly to expenditures.

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTING HEADINGS

The annual financial statement for 2025 closes with a surplus of expenditures of CHF 6.5 million. **In essence, the following factors** contributed to this development:

- Operating income increased by CHF 5.1 million from CHF 35.0 million to CHF 40.2 million. The ordinary donations in Switzerland amounted to approx. CHF 16.0 million and decreased by approx. CHF 2.0 million, primarily due to lower income from bequests (approx. CHF 1.2 million).
- Ticket contributions from the Angkor Wat temples amounted to around CHF 1.5 million in 2025 and is below the previous year's level (approx. CHF 0.3 million). Large donations decreased by CHF 0.1 million to CHF 2.7 million, while bequests declined by CHF 1.2 million to CHF 5.2 million.



We only use 3.41 per cent of our income for administration and marketing.

96.59 per cent of donations go directly to the children.



- As in the previous year, the contractually agreed **federal contribution** (SDC) for 2025 amounted to CHF 3.5 million.
- However, contributions from the **Cambodia Kantha Bopha Foundation** are significantly higher (CHF 10.7 Million compared to CHF 3.2 million in the previous year).
- The expenditures for the **operation of the hospitals** in Cambodia (Recurring operating costs) are, on a currency-adjusted basis, unchanged from the previous year, at CHF 39.5 million.
- In 2025, increased **investments** were made in medical equipment and building extensions (around CHF 4.3 compared to 2.7 million the previous year).
- As in the previous year, the «**Infrastructure expenses Switzerland**» (expenses for fundraising, general advertising expenses, and administrative costs) amounted to approx. CHF 1.1 million.
- Due to the strongly negative USD currency development in 2025, the «financial results» is CHF 3.7 million lower than in the previous year.

SUPPORT FROM CAMBODIA

The Kantha Bopha hospitals also receive considerable support and donations from Cambodia – **from both private donors and institutional donors**. The Cambodia Kantha Bopha Foundation, whose statutory purpose is to provide financial support for our hospitals, is also based there. All of the Foundation's activities and endeavours contribute to securing the hospital's operation sustainably and in the long-term.

LOW ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

The part of our administrative costs confirmed by PwC, **has averaged 3.41% over the last three years** (previous year: 3.78%), which is an efficiently low ratio and is linked to our lean and efficient organisation.

The administrative costs mainly comprise public relations work including advertisements, IT, administration of donations, thank-you letters, bookkeeping, and auditing costs.

The full financial report 2025 can be requested from us.

Foundation Board and Management



FOUNDATION BOARD

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Dr. phil., lic. oec. Philip Robinson, Zurich

Vice President

Prof Dr Michael Grotzer, Zurich

Treasurer

Tiziano Tuena, Rafz

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Geneviève F. Cattin-Studer, Birrwil

Susanna Cohen Straka, Künsnacht

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Dr. med. Alfred Löhner, Zurich

Prof. Dr. med. Felix Niggli, Uerikon

Dr. med. Seraina Prader, Zurich

Dr. med. Silvia C. Richner, Zurich

Christian Schibler, Oberrieden

Dr. iur. René Schwarzenbach, Herrliberg

Prof. Dr. med. Felix Sennhauser, St. Gallen

Dr. iur. Florian von Meiss, Zurich

Christine Zwygart, Lauerz

HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT

General Director

Dr. biol. Denis Laurent, Phnom Penh

Hospital directors

Prof. Dr. med. Ky Santy, Phnom Penh

Prof. Dr. med. Yay Chantana, Siem Reap

Vice-Directors

Prof. Dr. med. Iv Malène, Phnom Penh

Prof. Dr. med. Nguon Yaneth, Phnom Penh

Prof. Dr. med. Tek Lyvannara, Phnom Penh

Prof. Dr. med. Khun Leang-Chhun, Siem Reap

Prof. Dr. med. Keo Sokha, Siem Reap

The Foundation Board held two meetings in Zurich on 28 January and 13 May 2025, dealing with statutory matters.



«Training is very important because there is often a lack of basic knowledge.»

People in Cambodia have rarely dealt with health-related topics, explains hospital director Yay Chantana. For this reason, training sessions are held every day at 2 p.m. on all hospital wards.



PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Christine Zwygart (Chair)
Geneviève F. Cattin-Studer,
Susanna Cohen Straka
Dr phil., lic. oec. Philip Robinson
Dr Silvia C. Richner, M.D., Dr René
Schwarzenbach, iur.

The Public Relations Committee reviews and discusses all **key messages** that are communicated to the outside world – such as funding mailings, advertisements, and newsletter articles. The team also organises various events such as the Knie Gala. The committee regularly exchanges information via WhatsApp conferences and e-mail.

REMUNERATION AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Christian Schibler (Chair)
Prof. Dr. med. Michael Grotzer
Dr. phil., lic. oec. Philip Robinson
Dr. iur. René Schwarzenbach
Tiziano Tuena

The Remuneration and Audit Committee meets once or twice a year and acts as the Foundation's internal financial control. In

this role, the following areas are carefully examined and critically reviewed:

- all compensation and salaries in Switzerland
- the proposals of the General Director Denis Laurent regarding salaries of employees in Cambodia
- the annual financial statements
- the internal control system and risk assessment
- the overall investment policy of the Foundation and preparing proposals to the full Foundation Board

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Prof. Dr. med. Michael Grotzer (Chair)
Prof. Dr. med. Oliver Kretschmar
Dr. med. Alfred Löhner
Prof. Dr. med. Felix Niggli
Dr. med. Seraina Prader
Dr. phil., lic. oec. Philip Robinson
Prof. Dr. med. Felix Sennhauser

The Nomination Committee deals with **personnel issues** – in Cambodia and Switzerland.

«I'm feeling much better now.»

Six-year-old Heang Seavinh is suffering from an infectious disease of the scalp. As the wounds would not heal, skin had to be transplanted from her thigh.

You can find more touching stories about children here:
www.beat-richner.ch/en/kinderschicksale



STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Dr. phil., lic. oec. Philip Robinson (Chair)
Prof. Dr. med. Michael Grotzer
Dr. med. Alfred Löhner
Dr. iur. René Schwarzenbach
Tiziano Tuena
Dr. iur. Florian von Meiss
Christine Zwygart

The committee deals with strategic matters relating to the future of the Foundation and the hospitals - such as financing, succession planning, and further development.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING

The Foundation Board would like to thank **ECOVIS Intercontrol AG** for their accurate and transparent accounting and monthly financial statements. We are also grateful for the competent handling of transactions relating to legacies, bequests, and donation correspondence.

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG (PwC) audited the annual financial statements in 2025 (see appendix).



In 2025, we cared for 19,515 babies in our neonatology unit.

To help them to get a better start in life.

Public Relations online und offline



EVENTS

Our traditional **Knie Gala** took place on 13 May 2025 at Sechseläutenplatz in Zurich. The 33rd year of the charity event proved to be popular once again, and the marquee was well attended. As always, the net proceeds went to our hospitals.

On 25 September 2025, the Foundation Board invited members of the circle of patrons to a guided tour of the new Kispi – the **University Children's Hospital in Zurich**. During the tour, we were able to take a look behind the scenes and explore the family- and child-friendly building designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron. This was followed by an information session at the neighbouring research centre, which was also attended by guests from Cambodia, including Hospital Director Prof. Dr. med. Yay Chantana and his wife and colleague So Rany, as well as Vice Director Prof. Dr. med. Iv Malène and the General Director Dr. biol. Denis Laurent who, following brief speeches, had the

opportunity to chat with our guests over drinks.

WEBSITE

The **blog by our medical students** from Switzerland continues to be immensely popular. During their elective year, they have the opportunity to spend two months working in Cambodia. They share their experiences and impressions on the blog.

You can find the posts here:

www.beat-richner.ch/en/wahlstudienjahr

DONATION MAILINGS BY POST

Beat Richner's nieces visiting Cambodia, more children injured in road accidents and a boy with cancer – in March, June, and November 2025, our donors once again received **three letters from us by post** containing fascinating stories. As ever, the majority of our donations come from private individuals. These donation letters



Performance at Circus Knie.

Philip Robinson (left) and Michael Grotzer with Jan Reich and Rachel Puthukara – the first Swiss students in Cambodia.



are therefore an important fundraising tool for the foundation. We have a strong partner in **KünzlerBachmann**, who have a wealth of knowledge and extensive experience.

NEWSLETTER

Moving photos, informative videos and unique stories about our hospitals and our work: **we send out a newsletter three times a year**. We are delighted that the topics are proving popular and that an increasing number of people are signing up to the mailing list.

The articles are a mix of medical background stories, touching children's stories, portraits of staff and information on current events in Cambodia and Switzerland. In 2025, a newsletter was sent out at the end of February, the end of May, and mid-September.

If you are interested in our newsletters (sent out three times a year) you can subscribe here:
www.beat-richner.ch/en/newsletter

MEDIA RELATIONS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Various magazines and newspapers reported on us and our projects in 2024. The foundation also placed various advertisements to keep donors informed about current developments.

For the first time in 2025, we placed **online advertisements** on high-quality media and news portals in the Zurich region. Our advert was displayed for two weeks in April, June, and September/October. In December we increased it to four weeks. Over the course of the year, our advert was served almost 6 million times – as a result, we achieved a 33.4 per cent increase in visitors to our website compared to the previous year.

In terms of media relations, we would particularly like to mention the Swiss TV's visit to our Jayavarman VII Hospital in Siem Reap. A team from the **Puls Check programme** filmed three episodes there – for the online format popular with young people, as well as for a 'Puls' broadcast on television. Doctors Afreed Ashraf and Willi Balandies supported our staff and provided valuable assistance with the filming. Cameraman

Would you like to
join our circle of
patrons and get to
know us
personally?

You will find all
the necessary
information here:

[www.beat-richner.ch/en/
gönner](http://www.beat-richner.ch/en/gönner)



Raphael Happel and producer Thomas Kobel skilfully captured the experience without staging anything. The result is an authentic and moving insight into our hospital. The episodes cover natural births and caesarean sections, the infectious disease tuberculosis, and children suffering from heart defects. Viewers also learn more about the two founders, Beat Richner and Peter Studer, and witness just how present, revered, and missed they still are at the hospitals today.

You can watch the programmes here:
www.beat-richner.ch/en/medien

During Advent, we focused on stories of children and highlighted the diseases our team on the ground is confronted with. The campaign ran throughout the Advent season on our social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn). We reached over 260,000 people.



You can find the
three SRF episodes
of Puls Check on
our website.

[www.beat-richner.ch/
en/medien](http://www.beat-richner.ch/en/medien)

The history of our children's hospitals

Our five Kantha Bopha hospitals are exemplary, they are free of corruption, and no one is discriminated against – making them an island of justice and social peace in Cambodia. **85 per cent of all sick and injured children in the country are treated here – free of charge.** As many locals can barely afford to go to the hospital, access is open to all.

In terms of historical context, the significance of the Kantha Bopha hospitals is enormous: In 1962, the first children's hospital was built by **King Norodom Sihanouk** (1922-2012) in Phnom Penh. He named it Kantha Bopha in honour of his daughter, who died of leukaemia at infancy.

In the 1970s, assistant doctor Beat Richner worked in this hospital for the Red Cross. When the Khmer Rouge invaded Phnom Penh, he fled and returned to Switzerland. After the reign of terror, the healthcare system was destroyed and most of the doctors fell victim to the Pol Pot regime. And so, the Zurich native was asked if he would rebuild Kantha Bopha. In spring 1992, Beat Richner set up the Foundation and returned to Cambodia.

MILESTONES

Kantha Bopha I in Phnom Penh

Opened in 1992, refurbished in 2015 to include a museum, inauguration of the replacement building with cardiac surgery centre and two intensive care units for newborns (NICU) and older children (PICU) in 2019, Cancer ward opened in 2023

Kantha Bopha II in Phnom Penh

Opened in 1996, on the grounds of the Royal Palace, continuously developed

Jayavarman VII in Siem Reap

Opened in 1999, Maternité inaugurated in 2001, new extension in 2008, cardiac centre with interventional cardiac catheter examinations opened in 2011, extension of the maternity ward in 2024, cancer ward opened in 2025

Kantha Bopha IV in Phnom Penh

Opened in 2005

Kantha Bopha V in Phnom Penh

Opened in 2007



Kantha Bopha is an unparalleled success story. Since its launch in 1992, **over 22 million children** have received outpatient treatment. More than 3.1 million of them were seriously ill that they needed to be hospitalised. And 370,000 babies were born in our Maternité. In 2003, Beat Richner (1947-2018) was voted by the public as **the very first „Swiss Personality of the Year“** at the „Swiss Award“ TV gala - a tribute to his commitment. Throughout the years, paediatrician Peter Studer (1947-2020) was at Richner's side, supporting him and making a significant contribution to the development of the hospitals. Today, the operations are run by a local team in the spirit of the founders, in close collaboration with the Foundation Board.



Foundation of Children's Hospitals Kantha Bopha, Dr. med. Beat Richner

Contact

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