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A Month at The Lake Clinic - Cambodia

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The Lake Clinic Mission

The Lake Clinic (TLC) provides health care to residents of remote villages of the Tonle Sap Lake and Stung Sen River in Cambodia.



There are five floating clinics in various locations. Smaller boats are used as a means to bring health services to more isolated villages that are typically inaccessible during dry season, with mobile clinics occurring in school houses or other community buildings.



Clinic Set Up

Clinics are divided into a River Clinic crew and a Lake Clinic crew. Each crew operates/holds clinics three days a week. The communities served by the clinics vary somewhat each week, with clinic access for each community ranging from weekly to monthly. Each team is composed of Cambodian physicians, a midwife, nurse, cook and pilot. There is a dental nurse who also splits time between the two clinic crews. Foreign medical volunteers also become part of the team when available. Each clinic also has a pharmacy, which stocks a formulary of medications to treat the most commonly seen medical problems. Medications not on the clinic pharmacy formulary have to be purchased by patients independently.



The clinics provide primary care to the people they serve. When more intensive or specialized care is necessary, appropriate referrals can be made to hospitals in Siem Reap. TLC assists with transportation if needed.

Clinic Activities

Aside from providing access to healthcare, TLC also aims to improve the villagers' quality of life through providing education about hygiene and other issues which influence people's overall health.



Most clinic visits are for primary care. Children are seen for weight checks, immunizations, and deworming. Upper respiratory infections, ear infections, fungal skin infections, malnutrition, and pneumonias are common.

Adult medical problems mirror medical problems seen in the United States. Hypertension, diabetes, CVAs, chronic back or other musculoskeletal pain, abdominal pain, and depression/anxiety are prevalent.

Small procedures, such as I&Ds, laceration repairs, and burn debridement are performed. An ultrasound is available for monitoring pregnancies, evaluating abdominal pain, or performing bedside echo.