Dentalaid was recently approached by an organisation in Cambodia requesting the provision of 12 basic sets of dental equipment and instruments and portable chairs for graduating dental nurses from the regional training school, Kampong Cham. The aim is to help the newly qualified dental nurses set up mobile dental health clinics within regional health centres.

As you can see from the images, the need for a proper dental chair is vital to the improvement of the provision of dental care in these rural communities. The portable chair will be an essential asset to newly qualified dental nurses, enabling them to carry out vital dental work anywhere in these needy communities.

The dental nurse was introduced to meet the needs of the rural population of Cambodia in particular, those with little access to medical or dental services. The nurses provide basic medical and dental care to these people who would otherwise be unlikely to receive treatment. They can also identify conditions such as oral cancer and refer them on for further treatment. The Cambodian Ministry of Health supports the continued training of dental nurses as they are considered a very appropriate and worthwhile asset for these rural areas where dentists are almost non-existent.

The nurses are trained to provide extractions, scaling, anaesthetic and simple Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART). This is basic oral healthcare that can be administered without highly technical equipment outside of a traditional dental surgery. ART is perfectly suited for taking into health centres in more rural communities who may not have electricity or running water.

Dentalaid has received generous funding of £14,400 for this important project from Dr Neil Sikka of Barbican Dental Care. It is hoped that this will be the start of a long-standing relationship with the training school as there will be nurses graduating each year who require equipment to take out into the community.

To learn more about this project or the Dentalaid Portable Dental Chair please contact Nicky at Dentalaid on 01794 325146 or nicky@dentaid.org.

Projects like this in Cambodia are vital to realise Dentalaid’s aim of reaching the needy around the World and to achieve the basic desire of everyone in dentistry – the relief of pain and improved oral health. We would like your help in carrying out this work.

Dentalaid desperately needs general funding gifts to enable it to meet its aim of providing portable equipment to similar projects in the future. Part of Dentalaid’s new strategy is working to provide a complete portable dental unit that can be used particularly in rural outreach clinics in needy communities similar to those in Cambodia.

Dentalaid needs help with funding to assist with the production of the chair in our workshops and the completion of the portable dental kits to be used alongside the chair. To make a donation please visit the Dentalaid website at www.dentaid.org or send a cheque to Dentalaid, Giles Lane, Landford, Salisbury, SP5 2BG.