



Members of Project Lokun taking stock of medical supplies during their preparatory trip to Pursat last month. The NUS medical school's students have raised \$40,000 for the mission but need another \$18,000. PHOTO: PROJECT CAMBODIA 2012

NUS mission to aid 6,200 Cambodians

By **MELISSA PANG**

A TEAM of students will be visiting Cambodia for three weeks in December, in what will be the National University of Singapore (NUS) medical school's largest medical mission.

The 84 students from the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine will provide medical aid to more than 6,200 Cambodians – the biggest number of beneficiaries from a single trip.

But more funds and resources are needed before the mission can go ahead. The students have raised \$40,000 from activities such as food sales and movie screenings, but need another \$18,000 to hit their \$58,000 target. More doctors – at least 11 –

are also needed for the mission.

Three groups from NUS – Project Sa'Bai, Project Lokun and Project Battambang – are working together for the trip.

Mr Rohan Puthran, 20, one of the organisers, said they hope to sustain the projects by linking up with non-governmental organisations in Cambodia for the treatment of chronic illnesses.

"We also want to empower them to take care of themselves while we are not there," said the second-year medical student.

During the three-week mission, the team will carry out health screenings and talks for adults and children.

It will visit Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu, Pursat, Pailin and Poipet. Pailin was one of the most

heavily mined areas during the the Khmer Rouge rule.

Though mine-clearing has boosted the region's safety, landmine and poverty-related problems remain.

Dr Priscilla Lee, a general practitioner in private practice who has been mentoring the students, said past projects have left an indelible imprint on Cambodia.

"It is a testament to what our students can achieve. They have given the people... hope and a renewed belief in the goodness of mankind. This has contributed to the healing of a country ravaged by war and genocide."

To find out more about how to contribute to this mission, e-mail projectcambodia2012@gmail.com
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