



COPE

Newsletter

June 2014

Latest news

Mobile clinic study tour

Although many people with physical disabilities access the services at Provincial Medical Rehabilitation Centres and Centre of Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane Capital, a lot are still facing difficulties accessing the services.



In June, representatives from COPE and CMR technical and management teams went on a study trip to the Prostheses Foundation of HRH the Princess Mother in Chiang Mai to learn about the work with mobile clinics there. The objectives of the study tour were to understand the mobile clinic services in Thailand and see how these could be applied to rural and remote areas in Lao PDR. In July, another study trip will take place to Vietnam. The two trips will inform a study that will determine the feasibility of possible COPE and CMR mobile clinics in Lao PDR.

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COPE is...

The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise. We are a local not for profit organisation that provides support to the Government of Laos' orthotic, prosthetic, and rehabilitation services throughout the country. COPE also supports patients who come to the rehabilitation centers. COPE advocates for survivors of bomb accidents and people with disabilities in Laos.

FAST FACTS

35%

Of COPE-supported patients who are fitted with a prosthetic are UXO accident survivors.

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COPE Services

PT/OT ToT meeting Pakse

In order to continue to build on the skills of occupational therapists and physiotherapists, COPE facilitated a peer to peer training course in Pakse in June. The goal is to allow peer-to-peer information exchange and allow the different staff at the PRCs to teach each other and share best practice. The course is organized and run by the GOL staff at the center and facilitated by the COPE CMR Coordinator who will ensure that all COPE procurement, financial and reporting guidelines are met.



This activity is supported by CBM.



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Dr Steve's visit

COPE is dedicated to helping children and adults with clubfoot gain their mobility. For some people, this involves a surgery to correct the clubfoot or burn contracture that is keeping them from walking normally. COPE and CBM ran an orthopaedic surgeon training course at Champasak provincial hospital from 28-30 April and at CMR from 2-5 May 2014. During this time people had life changing surgeries and Lao orthopaedic surgeons learned new skills and practiced with a leading orthopaedic surgeon from the UK.



As with the December 2014 Gait Training Course, the Bankeun 686 Workshop was invited to attend and benefit from this opportunity to improve their skills as they provide Orthotics & Prosthetics

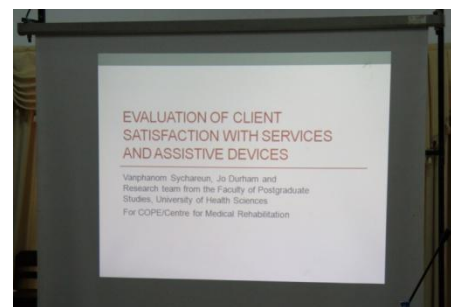


Services to Lao Military, Police and Veterans. The 686 Center has a partnership with the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Welfare.

An external International qualified Physical therapy Consultant, Maxim Chevalier, MSc, MHPE, was hired to provide the week long Training Course. He currently works at the French Clinic in Vientiane.

Xiengkhouang and a total of 266 patients were interviewed.

The results show overall, patients are quite satisfied with the service and devices they received. Most of the assistive devices were being used at the time of the survey and were reported to be in good condition. Most participants were more or less satisfied with the training they received in the use of their device. However, differences were recorded between male and female levels of satisfaction, and also between rural and urban patients. Specific areas were identified for strengthening the service delivery and in a workshop with CMR staff in May an action plan was developed to increase patient satisfaction.



Gait Training Workshop held at COPE / CMR

At the end of June 2014, a 'Gait Training Workshop' was held at COPE & CMR in Vientiane Capital for Orthotist/Prosthetists, Physiotherapists, Technicians and Gait Trainers. Representatives from the Provincial Rehabilitation Centers of Savannakhet, Xiengkhuang, Luang Prabang, Champasack and from the Center of Medical Rehabilitation here in Vientiane attended the USAID-sponsored course through COPE.

Patient survey conducted

During the last months COPE conducted a beneficiary survey to better understand how satisfied patients are with the services received, and what can be improved. Two consultants, funded by USAID, were hired to interview patients who have received services and prosthetics and orthotics devices supported by COPE through the Center for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR). Three rehabilitation centers were visited in Vientiane, Savannakhet and

Patient story.

The boy in the picture below is named Seng. He is a 12 year old student and his parents are farmers. They live in Soukhoumman district in Champasak Province. They heard about the physical rehabilitation services from the COPE and CMR outreach team who visited his district and referred him to the center. Then his mother decided to bring his son for clubfoot treatment from our local doctors.

Seng has what is called bilateral serverclub foot which means that

both feet are affected. His first operation was to correct the foot position to neutral and provide a plantar grade foot for standing and walking. The left side was done first in order to allow him stability when moving around and to limit complications.

After the surgery, Seng's foot was placed in a knee high plaster cast for 4 - 6 weeks to maintain the achieved correction. After this period the plaster cast is removed and an AFO (Ankle Foot Orthosis) is manufactured by the Prosthetic & Orthotic Department at CMR which provides extra support while the foot continues to heal. Usually the Patient will need to use the AFO for around 4 months to protect the surgery and then can be removed.



Soon the right foot will be surgically corrected and the same process will follow and by the time the right foot is fitted with an AFO the left foot will no longer need one. In another 4-6 months Seng will be able to walk freely.



His mother and him were very thankful for the support that he was given. "The clubfoot treatment is very useful for me as my foot will come back to be normal like other people. This means that I am able to walk to school freely and help my parents work in the field," said Seng.

COPE FUNRAISERS

The students studying at Vientiane College on the US-funded micro-scholarship ACCESS program recently held a fundraising event to bring the community together for a Quiz Night. The students are primarily rural impoverished teens and are part of a scholarship that focuses on studying the English language, and developing life skills. Part of their program involves community building and volunteering events. The students have taken field trips and done volunteering in such places as the Lao Zoo and the COPE Center. The students were inspired by the stories of the people from COPE and chose to organize and host an event to raise money to be donated for the purchase of prosthetic limbs. Representatives were chosen by the students to bring the money raised from the event to the COPE Center, and they were quite proud to be able to contribute to their community. A total of 5,075,000 KIP was raised and donated directly to the COPE Center for the purchase of prosthetic limbs and patient support.



Thanks so much! It's thanks to donations from people like you that COPE can help patients, including Seng, featured here.

What's going on at the Visitor Centre?

The COPE Visitor Centre has continued to promote the work of COPE and increase awareness about the impact of cluster munitions in Lao PDR and the disability awareness.



COPE Visitor Centre keeps receiving international and local visitors. The total number of visitors for April - June was 3,605 visitors which is the highest recorded for this period so far.

Many thanks to our supporters...



Australian Government
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ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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And special thanks to all the individuals, visitors and local businesses who generously support us throughout the year!