



HELPING
PEOPLE MOVE ON

COPE NEWS QUARTER 2 OF 2017



THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT! SIPHENGPHANH CONTINUES TO FOLLOW HER DREAM!

Siphengphanh is 23 years old and has just graduated from teacher training college in Luang Prabang province.

"My childhood dream was to be a teacher and when I finished high school I studied at teacher training college for three years. In my last year, just a few months before I obtained my diploma, I fell and hurt my leg and couldn't walk. I went to see a doctor who said there was poor blood circulation in my leg. I stayed in hospital for over two months for treatment but my leg became infected and got worse and worse until I had to have my leg amputated to save my life. On 23rd November 2016, I had my leg amputated at the 150 hospital in Vientiane, the same day as my graduation at the teacher training college.

It was very difficult to move around and I thought my dream to be a teacher would not come true due to my disability. However, luckily the doctor told me about CMR and COPE.

I stayed for another two months in the hospital and on 9th March 2017 I moved to the rehabilitation centre. I needed more treatment on my leg initially before I could be fitted with a new prosthetic leg but on 15th May 2017, I received a new leg and learned how to walk over the next two weeks. After my operation, I thought I would never walk again but now I have hope again for the future. When I go back home, I will continue my dream and apply to be a teacher at the school in my village.

On behalf of people with disabilities, thank you to CMR and COPE for providing services for us. Thank you!"



US AMBASSADOR JOINS THE MOBILE CLINIC IN A REMOTE AREA OF SAYABOULY PROVINCE

COPE together with the Government of Lao PDR's Centre for Medical Rehabilitation held two mobile clinics in May 2017, one in Xieng Khouang Province and one in Sayabouly province. During these mobile clinics, over 300 people were screened, resulting in new referrals for prosthetic and orthotic services for over 120 people. Many more benefited from on-the-spot services provided in the field such as device repairs, physiotherapy and distribution of assistive devices including crutches and wheelchairs.

COPE was delighted to welcome the US Ambassador Rena Bitter to join the USAID-funded mobile clinic in Sayabouly province. "Our support is really making a difference in these remote areas where services are not readily available," said Ambassador Bitter.

Donate to COPE



ENHANCED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS FOR REHABILITATION COMMUNITY OFFICERS

In May, COPE held training for Rehabilitation Community Officers (RCOs) to support prosthetic and orthotic, bench technician and physiotherapy volunteer staff to understand their roles and responsibilities in the rehabilitation team specifically around supporting patient follow up. This four-day training provided the RCOs with an overview of the needs around patient follow-ups, concepts of rehabilitation, mobile clinics, etc.

The training and experience has given the RCOs greater confidence and knowledge to support the field activities. As a result, our rehabilitation team is expecting more referrals and follow up services through the work of the RCOs.



IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF P&O SERVICES: QUALITY CLINIC AUDIT IN LUANG PRABANG PRC

On 12-13 June 2017, COPE/CMR technical staff conducted a two-day quality clinical audit in Luang Prabang provincial rehabilitation centre. The main purposes of audits are to improve the quality of P&O services and motivate staff to follow standard guidelines which were developed and set in 2015. Six indicator tools have been used to measure the quality of the devices and services focusing on lower limb prostheses. 10 lower limb prosthetic users were invited to participate in the audit. The evaluation methodologies include patient interview, observation, stump palpation and patient's file checking.

This clinical audit is the third audit conducted in Luang Prabang and the first round for 2017. Parallel to this activity, we also provided a free pair of elbow/axillary crutches for patients to use while they are not wearing their device such as when they take a bath.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE COPE VISITORCENTRE?

The second quarter of 2017 has gone by very quickly. COPE Visitor Centre is still the first attraction place to visit on the Vientiane Tripadvisor.

In 2017, we have already welcomed 13,640 special guests and visitors to the COPE Visitor Centre.



PEOPLE INSPIRED BY THE WORK OF COPE

"Wow, 545 euros! Thank you, Corinne and your colleagues from Cerway, Certivea, Cerqual, CSTB, l'Association HQE, and Construction 21 for your generosity. As is customary in France, Corinne's colleague wanted to give her something to remember them after she left the company. Corinne who had lived in Laos for a few years asked them if they could, instead, make a donation to support COPE. Touched by the history and reality of UXO in Laos, which most of them discovered on this occasion, they were enthusiastic about Corinne's project, and gave very generously."

Thank you very much to all our main donors and individual supporters who generously support us throughout the year.



Make a donation to COPE



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