



HELPING  
PEOPLE MOVE ON

## HAPPY LAO NEW YEAR 2017/ SOK DEE PI MAI 2017



### THANK YOU FOR THE FREEDOM TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Kuzong is 17 years old and, in December 2016, he lost a leg after a UXO accident. Kuzong lives in Kangkao Village, Hua Meung District, Huaphanh Province.

“One morning I went out to the crop plantation with my older sister. It is about 600 metres away from my home. As we needed to increase the amount of the crops to sell and support the family, we planned on extending the plantation area to plant more sweetcorn. When I was clearing and preparing the land for the corn planting and my older sister was in the forest collecting wood and food, my hoe hit the UXO when I dug the land and it exploded immediately. That was the last thing I could remember” said Kuzong.

The sound of the UXO explosion made his sister, family and villagers run to see him and they found him lying on the ground with a badly injured leg. His family took him to the hospital in Vietnam as they live near the border and they stayed there for a few days. The doctor said that his leg had to be amputated due to the bad injury and infection but they didn't want to do this and it cost too much money for them. His family decided to take him back home to be treated with traditional medicine. His family tried their best to treat his leg for about two months but it got worse and even more infected. Finally, his parents decided to bring him to 150 hospital in Vientiane and Kuzong had his leg amputated.

“I moved to CMR & COPE after a month in 150 hospital and stayed at CMR & COPE for a week, I didn't know that the new leg would enable me to walk again and now I can walk freely and go back to school. Thank you very much to CMR & COPE and all donors for the donation that I was given, I truly appreciate this” said Kuzong.



## LINKING COMMUNITIES AND SERVICES

The sixth mobile clinic was conducted in November 2016 in Paklay district Xayabouly province. Funding from The Spellbrook Foundation enabled 210 people to attend the mobile clinic for consultations with the clinical team. Nearly 100 people received services on the spot such as walking aids, wheelchairs, shoe raises, and repairs of existing prosthetic & orthotic devices. A further 57 people were referred for follow-up services at fixed-site rehabilitation centres. Casting for devices was done on site for the patient to be fitted at a later date once the device had been produced.

When the devices were ready for fitting, the team returned to Paklay district and 45 clients were fitted with orthotic devices. 28 clients were also provided with walking aids. COPE also supported clients requiring prosthetic devices to attend services at the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane for fitting and training on the use of the device.



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## INCREASING ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

14 physiotherapists and occupational therapists from Salavan, Sayabouly, Oudomxay and CMR attended an intense 2-week training course on "Paediatric Physiotherapy Rehabilitation for Cerebral Palsy and Clubfoot Patients" in Vientiane in February 2017. The aim of the training was to increase the professional skills of Lao physiotherapists occupational therapists to identify and treat children with disabilities, especially Cerebral Palsy and club foot deformities, and to refer the children for appropriate Prosthetic & Orthotic devices, supportive seating wheelchairs surgical support services at the rehabilitation Centres. This training was supported by CBM



## WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE FACILITIES IN XIENG KHOUANG REHABILITATION CENTRE

Xieng Khouang PRC will see a change this year in the shape of a new building for rehabilitation services located inside the Xieng Khouang Provincial Hospital grounds. COPE CEO joined CMR senior management on a visit to observe preparations for the opening of the new building planned for mid-2017. The management team provided additional support and recommendations on patient accessibility and providing quality services to people with disabilities in the region as well as on the physical set up of workshop space to ensure an efficient and safe working environment.

The visit also provided COPE CEO with the opportunity to engage with people with disabilities accessing services at Xieng Khouang Rehabilitation Centre and personally donate assistive devices to those with lower-limb amputations and lower-limb paralysis or dysfunction.

The management trip proved fruitful for senior management teams from COPE/CMR to strengthen cooperation with PRC management and provincial health directors and other key stakeholders of physical rehabilitation services providers.





### **PROGRESS ON QUALITY STANDARDS AT PROVINCIAL REHABILITATION CENTRES**

In January and March 2017, COPE/CMR technical staff conducted two-day clinical audits at Savannakhet, Champasak and Xieng Khouang provincial rehabilitation centres. The Quality Clinical Audits are conducted to assess the quality of lower-limb prosthetic device production and services. Users of lower-limb prosthetic devices are invited to participate in the audit and voice their experience of the services received. The evaluation methodologies included patient interviews, observation, stump palpation and patient data management. All centres evaluated have seen improvements in many areas and the technical teams work together to implement recommendations to continue to progress towards providing quality rehabilitation services.



### **YOUNG PEOPLE INSPIRED TO HELP**

After spending many hours at COPE Visitor Centre last July during a 3-week trip to Laos, Luke and Kai Bitschnau, respectively 12 and 10 years old, decided to put their dual citizenship to good use by selling Australian delicacies at two local Christmas markets in Austria. Because “Christmas is about giving” they made and sold 70 kilos of potato twisters (fried potato on a stick) and chocolate muffins, raising an amazing 970 euros worth of profit.

We are very grateful for Luke’s and Kai’s dedication to support COPE in helping UXO survivors and other people with disabilities in Laos move on.

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



DONATE TO COPE



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