



HELPING  
PEOPLE MOVE ON

## COPE NEWS QUARTER 4, 2017



### HELPING CHAMBO TO ACHIEVE HIS DREAM TO BECOME A PILOT BY RETURNING TO SCHOOL

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017, ChamBo lost his leg in a motorbike accident. He was so sad after the amputation because he was very worried that he would not be able to walk again and do things that he used to do. He was shy about joining with other friends because of his disability. Luckily, his aunt told him about CMR/COPE services. “I can’t believe that I will be able to walk again. I am so happy. Now I am ready to go back to school and play with my friends. In the future, I would like to be a pilot, so I can travel around the world” said ChamBo.



## FUNDRAISER BY PUPILS IN MEATH, IRELAND

Our family visited COPE Visitor Centre in Vientiane when on our trip to South East Asia last year. It was one of the special places we were lucky to see along the way. We learned so much from your amazing exhibition. Myself and my family think that the work COPE carries out is incredible.

We wanted to share this information with our friends. So myself and my sisters organized a cake sale in our school recently, with the help of our school Principal Mr. Kennedy and our teachers in Scoil Cholmcille, Meath, Ireland. Pupils and parents very kindly baked and everybody involved donated so generously. We raised EUR400 which we are delighted to send on to you, in the hope that this contributes towards making a difference to somebody in need of COPE/CMR assistance.



## CLUBFOOT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

From 14th to 16th November 2017, COPE & the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation technical team conducted a 3-day training workshop in Ponseti clubfoot management in line with the development of a national clubfoot management programme. Rehabilitation professionals working in the Central and Provincial Rehabilitation Centres participated in the training with support from our donor, CBM. Clubfoot is a treatable condition that affects an estimated 220 children each year in Laos. Clubfoot occurs when the foot is twisted inward and down during development in the womb. The Ponseti method of treatment is very effective and involves manipulation and casting of the feet over several weeks. The casting process is then followed by bracing which is essential in order to maintain the corrected position of the foot and to prevent relapse of deformity as the genes that cause clubfoot may be active until a child is four years of age. The Ponseti method is a very specific technique; in order to gain the desired results, it is extremely important that it is performed accurately. The refresher training for rehabilitation professionals contributes to ensuring that children born with clubfoot continue to receive the best treatment.



## MOBILE CLINIC FOLLOW UP IN XIENGHONE DISTRICT, XAYABOULY PROVINCE

Since the mobile clinic conducted earlier in the year, the team in Luang Prabang have been working hard to produce all the devices ready to give to patients. In early October, COPE, CMR and Luang Prabang Provincial Rehabilitation Centre (PRC) staff conducted the follow-up visit to Xienghone to distribute the devices to patients. Xienghone District is a remote rural area in northern Xayabouly province, 2 days' drive from Vientiane. The team loaded up the vehicles with all the new devices produced and set off. Provincial and district health coordinators helped us to inform the patients that we were on our way so that they could attend the clinics to receive their devices. In total, 71 devices were distributed directly in the field and 11 patients who needed more complex rehabilitation support, such as gait training to learn how to walk again, were brought back in our vehicles to the PRC to receive their device and additional support.

## PAEDIATRIC REHABILITATION TRAINING IN XAYABOULY AND SALAVAN PROVINCES

In quarter 4, COPE and CMR conducted training on paediatric rehabilitation in Xayabouly and Salavan provincial hospitals. The training supported local provincial rehabilitation teams to be able to offer basic rehabilitation to reduce the distance children need to travel for these services. As well as providing basic rehabilitation equipment to support the provincial rehabilitation department, the training will also allow the provincial hospital staff to identify childhood disabilities and know about treatment options available at the PRCs to encourage referrals to appropriate services.





(The Israeli Ambassador, second from the right)

### **WHAT'S ON AT THE COPE VISITOR CENTRE?**

During the fourth quarter of 2017, we have been pleased to welcome a number of special guests and visitors to the centre. In the fourth quarter, we welcomed over 7,000 visitors to the COPE Visitor Centre.

In early December, we welcomed H.E. Mr. Nadav Eshcar, Ambassador of the State of Israel and his delegation.



### **MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Having trouble thinking of a unique gift for loved ones this Christmas or New Year? COPE can help you provide one of the best presents anyone could imagine. By making a donation online or buying a donation card or gift in our Visitor Centre in Vientiane, you can help people with disabilities in Laos change their lives through improved mobility. Simply click on the Donate button below and follow the links to our donation page below:

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**



**X'mas Decoration**



**Post cards**



Thank you very much too all main donors and all the individuals, visitors and local businesses who generously support us throughout the year!

**DONATE TO COPE**



*Contact us at:*

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