



HELPING
PEOPLE MOVE ON

COPE NEWS JANUARY-JUNE 2018



A RETURN TO FARMING FOR MR BOUNMARK

My name is Bounmark Keophaseth, age 51. I live in Nongpakhead village, Phatoumphone district, Champasak province. I am a teacher and farmer with four children. I grow rice and cassava as my main source income to support my family and help my children to go school. I have one and a half hectares of rice paddy and I plant five hectares of cassava every year.

Unfortunately, I got bone cancer in my right leg. For the first two months, I didn't know what happened. My feet were swollen painful. I treated the swelling with traditional herbs and took some medicine at home but it got worse and worse.

One month later, I had my leg amputated at the 150 hospital in Vientiane. I was very sad and worried about the future for my family and children. But on 1st May 2017, I moved to the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation in Vientiane to be fitted with my first prosthetic device and I came for a check up in June 2018. My prosthetic leg supports me a lot, I can now walk freely, go to school to teach and work in my farm planting rice and cassava to increase the income for my family.

Thank you so much to CMR & COPE for supporting me and my family and giving me hope again, I feel like I have a new life now I have a prosthetic leg.

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MOBILE CLINIC IN KHAMMOUANE PROVINCE

COPE and the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) conducted a mobile clinic in two districts in Khammouane province, Nongbok and Boualapha, with the support of USAID. The mobile clinic cycle was conducted from February 11-17th, 2018 and the follow up from March 11-16th, 2018. Overall, 135 people were screened during the mobile clinic and 73% of people screened were eligible for P&O services. Of those eligible for P&O services, a total of 32 received services during the mobile clinic camp including device repairs and physiotherapy. 69 users were referred for follow-up services either at the district or fixed-site rehabilitation center. During the follow up, 51 referred service users received prosthetic and orthotic devices. COPE and CMR will continue to follow up the remaining service users to ensure they receive the prescribed devices.





QUALITY MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

In late 2017, the World Health Organisation (WHO), in collaboration with the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) and USAID, published the WHO Standards for Prosthetics and Orthotics accompanied by an implementation manual to support countries to develop/improve high-quality, affordable prosthetics and orthotics services.

Following this, from 28th February to 1st March 2018, COPE organised a quality management seminar with representatives from the Lao Ministry of Health and all five government rehabilitation centers. The objective of the seminar was to align Lao-context quality clinical audit tools to global World Health Organisation standards in all steps of prosthetic and orthotic service delivery. COPE and the Centre for Medical Rehabilitation have since conducted the first round of Quality Clinical Audits using these adapted tools in all centers to monitor the continuing increase in quality of prosthetic and orthotic services in Lao PDR.



VIP VISIT

On 10th May 2018, Dr. Thongphet Sithivanh, director of the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) and MS Bounlanh Phayboun, COPE CEO, were honored to welcome HSH Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the International Peace Foundation, to the COPE Visitor Centre. The tour presented the history of UXO and the ongoing effects on the people in Lao P.D.R. with a focus on prosthetic and orthotic rehabilitation services to UXO survivors and people with disabilities and how COPE supports people to move on.



113-KM HALF IRONMAN RACE FOR COPE!

Matteo Saya visited the COPE Visitor Centre at the end of last year and was inspired by our work. As a result he has signed up to a 113-km Half Ironman race in September 2018 this year, consisting of a 1.9-km swim, a 90-km bike ride, and a 21.1-km run as a fundraiser for COPE. You can read more about his challenge on his fundraising page: <https://www.give.net/race4COPE>

If you feel inspired to hold a fundraiser for COPE, please do get in touch with us!



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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