

Oudomxay Communities Welcome Mobile Health Teams

An American medical team from the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation joined up last week with mobile health teams from Oudomxay Provincial Hospital, Mittaphab and Setthathirath Hospitals to provide free check-ups and surgeries in Oudomxay province.

The manager of the Sustainable Comprehensive Eye Care Project from Oudomxay hospital, Dr Phetsamone Indara, said the service aims to improve the health of poor people in rural areas, especially for children and pregnant women.

During the week-long trip, Lao and American medical staff provided medical check-ups and surgeries in Nga, Baeng and Houn districts. These included eight goiter surgeries, three cleft lip and palate surgeries, 19 surgeries to fix burn scars, and 137 eye cataract surgeries.

The teams also gave dental checks to 1,362 people, including 400 schoolchildren in Hmong and Khmu primary schools. They also provided 684 ear nose and throat check-ups, 732 eye check-ups and 681 pediatric disease check-ups. In addition, 120 pregnant women had their babies' health checked by ultrasound imaging.

During the visit, Lao Rehabilitation Foundation President Dr Luc Janssens presented equipment medicine and supplies to the Nga, Baeng and Houn district hospitals, and to the Phongsaly and Luang Namtha provincial hospitals, aiming to improve medical services in these areas.

In addition, the foundation also gave school supplies to Hmong and Khmu primary schools. Dr Phetsamone said there are still many poor people in rural areas that rely on mobile healthcare teams for medical services.

The Lao Rehabilitation Foundation of the USA and the Fred Hollows Foundation of Australia provided funding of about US\$64,200 to make this trip possible.

By Times Reporters
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