

REPORT

of

Plastic Surgery, Cataract Surgery And Refractive Service Mission

at

**Bokeo Provincial Hospital
Tonpheun, Pha-Udom, Paktha and Meung Districts
LAO, PDR**

February 1-14, 2010

A Cooperation Between

Bokeo Provincial Hospital,

Lao Rehabilitation Foundation (LRF)

Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF)



**The Fred Hollows
Foundation**

- Refer to the agreement letter of Bokeo Provincial Hospital and Provincial Public Health Department No. 007 of November 3rd 2009.
- Refer to the agreement letter of Administration Office and Therapy Department, Minister of Public Health No. 070 of January 28th 2010.

I. Background Information

1. Activity, Location and Duration

❖ Activities:

- o Surgical repair of Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate, burn and traumatic scar reconstruction.
- o Refractive Service with donation of reading glasses for retired persons and handicap people.
- o Eye care service with cataract surgery.

❖ Location:

- o At Bokeo Provincial Hospital: to provide cleft lip/cleft palate repair, scar repair and cataract surgery.
- o Pha-Udom and Paktha districts: to provide refractive service and cataract surgery.
- o 3 districts (Huixay, Bandan and Tonpheung) are also provided with cataract surgery service.

❖ Duration:

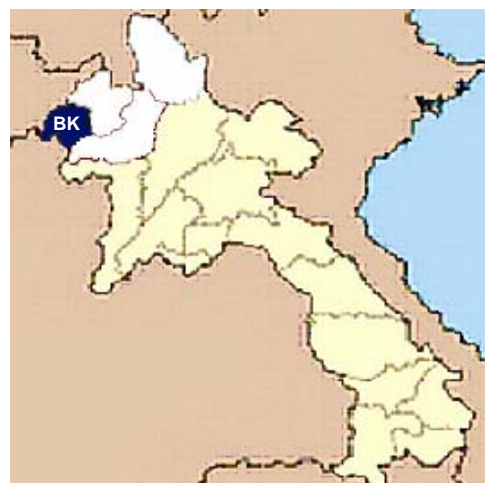
15 days (1-14 Feb, 2010)

2. Bokeo Province

Bokeo provinces is one of the 4 Northern provinces of Laos, that borders with Myanmar and Thailand. High mountains cover 85% of the land. The population is 156,000 and many poor people live in remote areas. The economy is mainly agricultural and farming.

The public health system includes 1 provincial hospital, 1 military hospital, 5 district hospitals and 30 health care centers.

Laos and Bokeo provinces map



(BK= Bokeo)

Cleft lip/cleft palate is a congenital condition that creates many problems with pain, speech deficiency as well as innumerable hardships, especially for children.

In the past, cleft lip/cleft palate cases were sent to Thailand for surgery, supported by fund from GTZ. Sending patients to Thailand was difficult and did not provide Lao surgeons with the opportunity to develop surgical skills in this area.

This mission is a cooperation between Bokeo Provincial Hospital, the Ophthalmology team from Oudomxay Province, Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, USA, and Fred Hollows Foundation, Australia.

II. Responsible Units

1. Bokeo Provincial Hospital is responsible for:

- Advertising, informing and registering patients
- Preparing the environment for patients and Team work
- Securing agreement documents from Ministry of Public Health
- Requesting documents from Ministry of Foreign Affair for visa to Laos.

2. The Lao Rehabilitation Foundation is responsible for funding:

- Transportation of US team and Lao team
- Accommodations in Bokeo for the US team
- Per diem for Lao team
- Medicine and supplies for patients
- Cost of surgery plus hospitalization and transportation expenses for poor patients
- Glasses for refractive service
- Cost of medicine and supplies provided by the hospital

3. The Fred Hollows Foundation is responsible for funding:

- Per diem for Lao Eye team
- Medicine for eye patients
- Cost for cataract surgeries

III. Objective

1. General objective

- To decrease the prevalence of blindness, cleft lip/cleft palate and burn or traumatic scars.
- To broaden coverage of health services for people in remote area, ethnic minority groups and the urban poor.
- Good cooperation with US expert doctors for developing surgical skills of Lao medical personnel.

2. Specific objective

- Improve the life of patients by surgical repair of cleft lip/cleft palate, burn and traumatic scar reconstruction.
- Improve patients' vision by refractive service with donated glasses.
- Improve patients' vision by cataract surgery with IOL.
- Teaching new technical skills to Bokeo surgeons for cleft lip/palate and cataract surgery.

IV. Target of patient to service

- Surgery to repair cleft lip/cleft palate 23 cases
- Burn or traumatic scar reconstruction 12 cases
- Cataract surgery 140 cases
- Surgery for other eye diseases 30 cases
- Refractive service with donated glasses 460 people

V. Technical activity

1. Preparing

- 4 months to prepare (Sept 2009 to Jan 2010). LRF and Lao coordinator met the head of Bokeo Public Health and Provincial Hospital to inform them of the purpose, plan activities and get agreement from the Therapy Department of MoH and Administrative office of MoH.
- Register patients by advertising and informing districts of Bokeo province.
- Prepare equipment, supplies, medicines, budget and teamwork with USA.

1.1 Team work

The team includes 23 people as follows:

- **Lao team (15):**

- Surgeon 01
- Anesthesiologist 01
- Ophthalmologist 02
- Ophthalmic nurse 01
- Nurse assistants 08
- Local staff 02

- **USA team (8):**

- President of LRF 01
- Expert surgeon 01
- Anesthesiologist 01
- Nurse assistants 02
- General assistants 02
- Coordinator (Lao) 01

(Listing of Name on attach file)

1.2 Location and date of service

- **Cleft lip/cleft palate, burn and traumatic scar reconstruction service:**

Date: 3-8 Feb, 2010 at Provincial Hospital

- **Refractive service with donated glasses:**

Date: 10 Feb, 2010 at Pha-Udom District

Date: 11 Feb, 2010 at Paktha District

Date: 13 Feb, 2010 at Meung District

- **Cataract surgery:**

Date: 1-2 Feb, 2010 at Huixay District Hospital

Date: 3-4 Feb, 2010 at Tonpheung District Hospital

Date: 5-8 Feb, 2010 at Provincial Hospital

Date: 9-10 Feb, 2010 at Pha-Udom District Hospital

Date: 10-11 Feb, 2010 at Paktha District Hospital

Date: 13-14 Feb, 2010 at Meung District Hospital

2. Activities performed

To provide good service to all patients, with no regard to gender, age, ethnicity or religion. Free of charge for all patients.

The teams use manual and automated equipment to examine and treat the patients divided into 3 categories:

2.1 Surgery to repair cleft lip/cleft palate and scaring

Specialized surgeon, anesthesiologist and assistants from US join Lao team to:

- Check and prepare pre-operated cases
- Operate cleft lip/cleft palate repair, burn and traumatic scar reconstruction by specialist surgeon with modern techniques.
- Taught new plastic surgery techniques to Bokeo Hospital's surgeon for cleft lip/cleft palate repair and burn contracture release.



Dr. William McClure is teaching Lao surgeon about plastic surgery technique



President of LRF, *Dr. Luc Janssens* is taking child patient to operation room



Dr. William McClure and *George Janssens* are operating on a cleft lip case



US joint Lao team to operate cleft lip in operation room



Child's *parent* and *doctors* are taking care of a *child* in the recovery room after surgery



Child 3 years old, *Before* surgery



The same patient one day after surgery

2.2 Cataract surgery

1 Lao ophthalmologist and 1 ophthalmology residency (2nd year) ophthalmic nurses with local staff to:

- Screen vision of all patients to be serviced.
- Diagnose eye diseases with advice
- Operate cataract cases by technical Mininuc with IOL.
- Teach cataract surgery to Bokeo ophthalmology residency.



Ophthalmologist, **P. Indara, MD** is examining eye with mobile slit lamp



P. Indara, MD is advising patients how to take care of post-operated eye



P. Indara, MD and S. Heuangvilay, MD are operating cataract



Cataract post-operated cases 1st day at Bokeo Provincial Hospital



Cataract post-operated cases 1st day (**Kui ethnic**)



Cataract post-operated cases 1st day at Pha-Udom District Hospital



Cataract post-operated case 1st day is happy with good vision (**Museum ethnic**)



Cataract post-operated case (**Go back home by tractor**)

2.3 Refractive service

Lao eye team from Bokeo and Oudomxay provinces joined with provincial team, districts public health and 2 districts' official organization to correct retired persons' vision, handicap persons and older politicians to service:

- Screening vision with refractive service (Presbyopia) and distribute the donated glasses.



President of LRF, **Dr. Luc Janssens** and Head of Pha-Udom district, at the opening of **Refractive Service**



Participants, retired and handicap persons in meeting room for **Refractive Service**



Refractive Service with donated **glasses**

2.4 Other activities

Lao Rehabilitation Foundation donated the medical equipments and medicines for Bokeo Provincial Hospital, Pha-Udom and Paktha districts hospital.



Donated equipment for **operation room**



Donated medicine for **Bokeo Hospital**



Donated medicine for **Pha-Udom district hospital**



Donated medicine for **Paktha district hospital**

VI. Results

1. Surgery to repair cleft lip, cleft palate, burn and traumatic scar reconstruction

41 cases were registered and 39 surgical procedures were performed as follows:

No.	Items	Unit	Qty.	Notice
01	Cleft lip repair surgery	Case	16	General anesthesia 24 cases
02	Cleft palate repair surgery	Case	6	
03	Cleft lip/palate repair surgery	Case	1	
04	Repair lip	Case	2	
05	Scar reconstruction surgery	Case	8	
06	Other	Case	6	
	Total		39	

(Pictures of pre and post surgery cases are attached)

2. Cataract surgery service

No.	District	No. Serviced	No. Operated	
			Cataract	Other
01	Pha-Udom	148	21	7
02	Paktha	30	6	4
03	Huixay	46	7	4
04	Meung	57	3	2
05	Tonpheung	110	20	10
06	Provincial Hospital	178	29	11
	Total	569	86	38

(Listing of cataract surgery performed are attached)

3. Refractive service

No.	District	No. Serviced	No. donated glasses	Notice
01	Pha-Udom	231	226	
01	Paktha	168	164	
03	Meung	27	13	
	Total	426	403	

VI. Budget (Expense)

No	Items	Unit	Qty.	Amount (\$)	Notice
I	Preparing:	Ps			
	1. Transport and accommodation of Dr. Luc with assistant to Bokeo		2	2,000.00	
	2. Advertising and registration of the patients			500.00	
II	Practicing:				
	1. Transport of US team (5 trans-pacific)		5	6,000.00	Donation
	2. Transportation of US team (2 Asia)		2	1,000.00	
	3. Accommodations US Team		12x8D	2,880.00	
	4. Transport and accommodation of Lao team		1	250.00	
	5. Per diem for Lao team		1	500.00	
	6. transport of patients		20	2,000.00	

III	Surgery 1. Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate 2. Cleft Lip Repair 3. Cleft Palate Repair 4. Scar repair/Other	Case Case Case Case	1 16 6 12	Donated expenses 6,000.00	Free of charge to patients
IV	Eye Surgery 1. Cataract 2. Other eye diseases	Case Case	86 38	2,666 570	Free of charge to patients
V	Refractive service 1. Glasses	Ps	403	4,030	Donation
VI	Medical equipments and medicines: 1. equipments for OR 2. equipments for Dental 3. equipments for ENT 4. Medicines for BK hospital 5. Medicines for Pha-Udom district hospital 6. Medicines for Paktha district hospital			2,700.00 600.00 1,800.00 6,500.00 700.00 700.00	Donation
VII	Other			1,000.00	
	Total			\$42,396.00	

(Forty two thousands three hundreds and ninety six US dollars)

VII. Outcome

- Good cooperation between Bokeo Provincial Hospital and Lao Rehabilitation Foundation.
- Non profit organization's only interest is to help or rehabilitate poor people.
- Mission has decreased the number of cleft lip/ cleft palate and cataract cases in Bokeo province and Northern Laos.
- All operations were successful and there were no complications.
- Has provided a better future life for patients, especially for children and teenager patients who have been operated.
- Has improved vision by refractive service with glasses and cataract surgery.
- Specialized US plastic surgeon and anesthesiologist have improved the skills of Bokeo's surgeon and anesthesiologist.

VIII. Some Problems

- There were long delays in getting official documents from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affair.
- It was difficult to inform and finding cases from province to districts and from districts to villages.
- The number of cases cleft lip/ cleft palate of Bokeo province were not as targeted, thus we had to find cases from other provinces (Huaphan, XiengKhuang, LuangPrabang, Xayabury, LuangNamtha...), increasing the original budget.
- Surgery was cancelled for some cases because of systemic diseases; the team could not wait for those patients to recover and continued to operate on other patients.

IX. Next Plan

- Under consideration.
- To write proposal with planning activity 5 months in advance.
- Make team work and increase budget to find cases in outreach.

X. Introduce and Inform

- Northern provinces Department of Public Health, especially Bokeo province to continue cooperation with Lao Rehabilitation Foundation and other Foundations or NGOs.
- Ministry of Health to create a more comfortable environment for foreign teams and to facilitate health care mission by finding funds from Foundations, NGOs, inter-country or foreign based businesses who would like to help improving health care in remote area, especially in Northern Laos.


Director of Bokeo Provincial Hospital



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ດຣ ຄຳຜະຫຍາ ພິມປັນຍາ
Dr Khamphagna PHOMPHANYA

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ດຣ ໜຈັນ ວິສອດທິພັນ
Nouchanh VISOUTHIPHANH

**President of Lao Rehabilitation
Foundation**



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Dr. Luc Janssens