

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Oudomxay Provincial Health Department
Oudomxay Provincial Hospital
Lao Rehabilitation Foundation

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Report of Strengthening Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission In LuangPrabang and Oudomxay Provinces



May 05-21, 2022

Oudomxay, LuangPrabang Eye Units

in partnership with

**Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.
And SEE International**

To: Director of Oudomxay Provincial Public Health Department
Director of LuangPrabang Provincial Health Department
Director of Oudomxay Provincial Hospital
President of Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. USA.

Subject: Result of Strengthening Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission
In LuangPrabang and Oudomxay Provinces.

- Referred to Lao Rehabilitation Foundation 2022 planning and funding to provide eye care in remote areas and strengthening eye care in Oudomxay and LuangPrabang provinces.

In May 2022 the Eye Unit of Oudomxay provincial hospital in cooperation with the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation (LRF) offered strengthening eye care in LuangPrabang and Oudomxay Provinces and cataract surgery in 3 locations of Oudomxay and LuangPrabang provinces, the details are as follows:

I. TITLE

Strengthening Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission in LuangPrabang and Oudomxay Provinces.

II. OBJECTIVE

- Develop and strengthen eye care personnel capacity
- Strengthen eye health services through increasing and improving quality of medical equipment and treatment for the main causes of blindness and vision impairment.
- Provide sight restoring interventions and reduce avoidable blindness in Lao PDR

III. LOCATION AND DURATION

- At LuangPrabang Provincial hospital: May 6-11, 2022
- At Oudomxay Provincial hospital: May 3-17, 2022
- At Houn district hospital: May 18-20, 2022

IV. TEAMWORK AND ASSISTANTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Luc Janssens | President of LRF |
| 2. Phetsamone Indara, MD | Ophthalmologist |
| 3. Mr. Phonethavy Inthavongsa | Ophthalmic Nurse |
| 4. Ms. Khamman Yabee | Ophthalmic Nurse (Houn district) |
| 5. Mr. Ajee MeeJaseur | Nurse Assistant |

VI. INSTRUMENTS AND MEDICINE

This mission was performed using quality modern equipment intended for cataract surgery, refraction exams and effective medicines for treatment. Equipment and supplies were provided by LRF in cooperation with SEE International (Surgical Eye Expeditions of USA) and Fred Hollows Foundation. It included:

1. SCAN OPTICS SO-5000 Microscope (Provided to Oudomxay Eye Unit)
2. Phacoemulsification machine (AMO Sovereign Compact)
3. Surgical instruments, equipment and supplies
4. IOL and medical supplies for cataract surgery

5. Medicine for eye care service
6. Autorefractor (Retinomax)
7. Tonometer (IOP test)
8. Glasses

VII. ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

1. Develop and Strengthen Eye Care Personnel Capacity

1.1 Teaching Technical Cataract Surgery by Phacoemulsification

The supervisor, Dr. Phetsamone instructed and supervised the practice of Phacoemulsification for 3 ophthalmologists of LuangPrabang Eye Unit at a beginner level in regards to:

- Incision construction (Sclero corneal, Limbal incision, Paracentesis)
- Capsulorhexis
- Hydro procedures
- Divide and conquer nucleotomy
- Four Quadrant divide and conquer
- Phaco Chop
- Aspiration and Irrigation
- Intraocular lens (IOL) implantation

2. Strengthen eye health services through increasing and improving quality of medical equipment and treatment for the main causes of blindness and vision impairment.

Lao Rehabilitation Foundation (LRF) provided medical equipment (SCAN OPTICS SO-5000) to Oudomxay Eye Unit to improve quality of medical equipment and also provided HEINE XHL 6V bulb (for Indirect Ophthalmoscope) to LuangPrabang Eye Unit.

3. Provide sight restoring interventions and reduce avoidable blindness in Lao PDR

3.1 Finding Cataract Cases

The ophthalmic nurse from Oudomxay and LuangPrabang eye units teamed up with local ophthalmic nurses to screen the vision of older people in 40 remote villages to find patients with cataract and appoint them to be treated at a given date and location.

3.2 Technical Cataract Surgery

Surgeries were performed by phacoemulsification. Hard cataract cases were performed by manual small incision (MSICS) techniques.

3.3 Refractive Service

All patients with near blurred vision without cataract or retina diseases were given refractive exams by trial lens set and were provided with appropriate glasses to improve their near vision (reading glasses) only in Houn district.

VIII. RESULT

1. Develop and Strengthen Eye Care Personnel Capacity

1.1 Teaching Technical Cataract Surgery by Phacoemulsification

3 ophthalmologists of LuangPrabang Eye Unit (Dr. Bounphion, Dr. Thongphet and Dr. Houmphan) and 1 ophthalmologist of Oudomxay Eye Unit (Dr. Mrs. Sengla)

were trained and practiced under supervision at basic beginner level how to perform:

- Incision construction (Sclero corneal, limbal incision, Paracentesis
- Capsulorhexis
- Hydro procedures
- Divide and conquer nucleotomy
- Four Quadrant divide and conquer
- Phaco Chop
- Aspiration and Irrigation
- Intraocular lens (IOL) implantation

The 3 surgeons will continue to practice by themselves in LuangPrabang Eye Unit, their progress will be monitored in November or December 2022.

2. Strengthen eye health services by the increase and improvement of quality medical equipment and treatment for the main causes of blindness and vision impairment.

Lao Rehabilitation Foundation (LRF) provided medical equipment (SCAN OPTICS SO-5000) to Oudomxay Eye Unit to improve the eye care facility and the quality of medical equipment. Provided by Dr. Luc Janssens, President of LRF, it was received by Dr. Houmphanh InthamoungKhoun, Director of Oudomxay Public Health Department and joined by Director, Deputy Director and Ophthalmologists of Oudomxay Provincial Hospital.

Dr. Luc Janssens provided HEINE XHL 6V bulb (for Indirect Ophthalmoscope) to LuangPrabang Eye Unit, it was received by Dr. Bounphion Viphongxay, Head of LPB Eye Unit.

3. Provide sight restoring interventions and reduce avoidable blindness in Lao PDR

- A total of 324 (F 173) patients were screened for visual acuity at 40 villages of LuangPrabang (districts) and Oudomxay (districts).
- A total of 129 (F 68) patients were examined
- A total of 84 cataract surgeries were performed. 66 cases by phacoemulsification and 18 cases by SICS, all with good outcome.
- A total of 13 other surgeries were performed, Pterygium 9 cases, Glaucoma 2 cases and eyelid correction 2 cases).
- A total of 45 patients were examined for corrective refraction. 38 pairs of glasses were provided for presbyopia.

IX. BUDGET-EXPENDITURE

The actual expenditure for this mission was 54,222 USD, supported by Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with SEE International. It included:

– Medical equipment SCAN OPTICS	\$15,828.00
– Medical supplies for cataract surgery from USA	\$19,320.00
– Medical supplies from Laos	\$619.00
– Glasses	\$192.00
– Transportation/Accommodation for LRF team	\$16,580.00
– Transportation/Accommodation for Lao team	\$1,383.00
– Other	\$300.00

X. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WEAKNESSES

1. Accomplishments

- This mission was a good opportunity for 3 surgeon of LPB Eye Unit to develop the cataract surgery by Phacoemulsification technique.
- More than 300 people had their vision screened and more than 200 people have benefited from this eye care campaign, receiving medicine, glasses, cataract surgery or some eye care advice.
- Quality of eye care in Oudomxay Eye Unit facility was improved by receiving a good quality operating microscope.
- The mission significantly helped needy blind people.
- Good cooperation between Oudomxay-LuangPrabang Eye Units and LRF.

2. Weaknesses

- Since more than two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, LRF could not provide health care in Laos. Transportation also became challenging.
- It took a long time and was difficult for running official visa and free tax documents for medical equipment donations.
- The participation of 3 surgeons from LPB eye unit could have been better in preparing for cataract surgery by Phacoemulsification (medical equipment and technique).
- The COVID situation made it difficult for patients to come to the hospital and other facilities.

XI. NEXT MISSION PLANNING

- Continue teaching local surgeons and provide mobile eye care (cataract surgery by phacoemulsification) in Xiengkhouang or other province during November – December 2022.
- Continue refraction exams and provide eyeglasses as needed.

Director of Oudomxay Provincial
Health Department



ດຣ. ສິມພອນ ຊາວມ້ງວີ

Director of Oudomxay
Provincial Hospital



ດຣ. ສຸລິເດດ ກິງຄຳ

Presenter

ດຣ. ເພັດສະໝອນ ອິນດາລາ
Phetsamone INDARAME

ATTACHMENT DOCUMENTS

1. Photo of activities
2. List of cataract surgeries
3. Othe approval documents