

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Oudomxay Provincial Health Department
Oudomxay Provincial Hospital
Lao Rehabilitation Foundation

No. 2289/PH.ODX

Oudomxay, Date 06/12/22

Report of Mobile Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission in Phongsaly Province



November 14-22, 2022

Oudomxay Eye Units

in partnership with

Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc.
And SEE International

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

Subject: Result of Mobile Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission in Phongsaly Province

- Referred to Lao Rehabilitation Foundation 2022 planning and funding to provide eye care in remote areas in Phongsaly province.

In November 2022 the Eye Unit of Oudomxay provincial hospital in cooperation with the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation (LRF) offered mobile eye care and cataract surgery in 3 locations of Phongsaly province, the details are as follows:

I. TITLE

Mobile Eye Care and Cataract Surgery Mission in Phongsaly Province.

II. OBJECTIVE

- Strengthening eye health services through increasing and improving the quality of 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 Bounneu district (Provincial hospital): November 14-15, 2022
- At Yord Ou district hospital: November 17-18, 2022
- At Phongsaly district hospital: November 21-22, 2022
- At Oudomxay Hospital: November 24, 2022

IV. TEAMWORK

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Luc Janssens | President of LRF |
| 2. Phetsamone Indara, MD | Ophthalmologist |
| 3. Mr. Khamtan Phanthou Amath | 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). It included:

1. SCAN OPTICS SO-5000 TFZ Microscope
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 (iCare)
8. Glasses

VII. ACTIVITIES PERFORMED

3.1 Ongoing screening for cataract by district ophthalmic nurses

The ophthalmic nurses from 3 districts of Phongsaly went to screen the vision of older people in 50 remote villages to find patients with cataract and appoint them to be treated at a given date and location.

3.2 Eye examination by mobile team

The team performed examinations using quality modern equipment intended for eye examination, diagnosis, treatment and counseling at 3 districts hospital of Phongsaly province.

3.3 Subsidize Cataract Surgery

Cataract is the main cause of blindness in Lao PDR. There is not one cataract surgeon in Phongsaly provincial hospital and in this circumstance, the LRF aims to improve the delivery of high quality and high volume cataract surgery in Phongsaly province. Most surgeries were performed by phacoemulsification. Hard cataract cases were performed by manual small incision (MSICS) techniques with implant of intraocular lens (IOL) of standard quality.

3.4 Subsidize other sight restoring surgeries

To improve vision and to prevent blindness, the team performed surgery for patients with pterygium, glaucoma and other causes of visual impairment.

3.5 Refractive Service

The team provided spectacles to poor patients in the community as part of the outreach camp.

All patients with near blurred vision without cataract or retina diseases were given refractive exams by autorefractor and trial lens set and were provided with appropriate glasses to improve their near vision (reading glasses) at 3 district hospitals and 1 health center.

VIII. RESULTS

4.1 Ongoing screening for cataract by district ophthalmic nurses

A total of 878 (F 383) patients were screened for visual acuity at 50 villages of 3 districts of Phongsaly province, as noted below:

No	District	Qty. of village	Qty of patients	Remark
1	Bounneu	15	234 (F 89)	Appointed 86
2	Yord Ou	20	377 (F 162)	Appointed 33
3	Phongsaly	15	267 (F 132)	Appointed 41
	Total	50	878 (F 383)	

4.2 Eye examination by mobile team

A total of 656 (F 341) patients were examined, as noted below:

No	Location	Qty of patients	Remark
1	Khokka HC	117 (F57)	
2	Bounneu district	145 (F 63)	

3	Yord Ou district	201 (F 107)	
4	Phongsaly district	193 (F 114)	
	Total	656 (F 341)	

4.3 Subsidize Cataract Surgery

A total of 83 (F 39) cataract surgeries were performed. 54 cases by phacoemulsification and 29 cases by SICS, all with good outcome, as noted below:

No	Location	Qty of patients	Remark
1	Khokka HC	3 (F 3)	
2	Bounneu district	16 (F 7)	
3	Yord Ou district	30 (F 16)	
4	Phongsaly district	21 (F 10)	
5	Xai district	13 (F 3)	
	Total	83 (F 39)	

It included 2 young male children with congenital cataract

4.4 Subsidize other sight restoring surgeries

A total of 12 (F 10) other surgeries were performed, Pterygium 11 cases and Glaucoma 1 case), as noted below:

No	Location	Qty of patients	Remark
1	Khokka HC	0 (F 0)	
2	Bounneu district	5 (F 5)	
3	Yord Ou district	2 (F 2)	
4	Phongsaly district	1 (F 1)	
5	Xai district	3 (F 2)	
	Total	12 (F 10)	

4.5 Refractive Service

A total of 366 patients were examined for corrective refraction. 128 pairs of glasses were provided for presbyopia, myopia and hyperopia, as noted below:

No	Location	Qty of glasses	Remark
1	Khokka HC	80 (F 33)	80 people
2	Bounneu district	85 (F 31)	85 people
3	Yord Ou district	82 (F 40)	82 people
4	Phongsaly district	81 (F 47)	81 people
5	Xai district	0 (F 0)	
	Total	328 (F 151)	328 people

IX. BUDGET-EXPENDITURE

The actual expenditure for this mission was 39,600.00 USD, supported by Lao Rehabilitation Foundation, Inc. in cooperation with SEE International. It included:

- Medical supplies for cataract surgery from USA \$28,140.00
- Medical supplies from Laos \$659.00
- General anesthesia cost for 2 boys with congenital cataract \$143.00
- Glasses \$1,050.00
- Transportation/Accommodation for LRF team \$8,030.00
- Transportation/Accommodation for Lao team \$1,435.00
- Other \$143.00

X. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND WEAKNESSES

1. Accomplishments

- More than 1,500 people in outreach had their vision screened and more than 650 people have benefited from this eye care campaign, receiving medicine, glasses, cataract surgery or some eye care advice.
- Blind poor patients living in remote area without access to eye care have received treatment and recovered vision.
- Good visual outcome post cataract surgery
- Good cooperation between Oudomxay Eye Units and LRF.

2. Weaknesses

- The number of patients registered or on waiting list was higher than expected, thus the team had to do cataract surgery overtime often past midnight.
- Long distances and time needed to travel from Oudomxay to Phongsaly

XI. NEXT MISSION PLANNING

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

Director of Oudomxay Provincial Health Department



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Director of Oudomxay Provincial Hospital



Dr Latta VANNACHITH

Presenter



ດຣ. ພັດສະໝອນ ອິນດາລາ
Phetsamone INDARA, MD.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Photo of activities
2. List of cataract surgeries
3. Approval documents