



## USAID Okard ໂອກາດ

### **Case Study: Laos' Commitment to Rehabilitation: the Ministry of Health Showcases their Progress at the 3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 Meeting**

Since the first “Rehabilitation 2030 - call for Action” in February 2017, Laos has made great strides towards implementing the Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative to improve access to quality rehabilitation services for all. Recognizing this great progress, the World Health Organization (WHO) requested Dr. Khamsay Detleuxay, Director General of the Department of Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Ministry of Health (MoH) in Laos, to present some of these achievements during the opening sessions of the 3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 meeting in Geneva this past July 2023. During the two-day meeting, Dr. Khamsay Detleuxay was among a distinguished group of representatives from various countries to learn about the new tools and guidelines designed by WHO to support the member states to facilitate the implementation of the Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative.

USAID Okard supported the Chief of Party’s attendance at the event, further reinforcing the commitment to the objectives of the Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative and serving as one voice representing INGOs collaborative role. This collaborative effort between the Ministry of Health and USAID Okard showcases a multi-faceted approach to advancing the cause of improved rehabilitation services, with both government and non-governmental stakeholders contributing to the discourse for greater access to quality rehabilitation services. Moreover, the joint participation of MoH and representatives of USAID Okard provided an opportunity to better understand the possibilities of USAID Okard Phase II to support the MoH to effectively implement these tools and guidelines.

One noteworthy takeaway from the event was a recognition of the importance of a comprehensive rehabilitation meeting in Laos, for all stakeholders engaged in rehabilitation work to convene. This would serve as a forum for stakeholders to share their experiences, address challenges, and exchange best practices in the field of rehabilitation. It would also serve as a platform for collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to improve the quality of rehabilitation services available in Laos.

This type of forum would be a significant step towards achieving the goals of the Global Rehabilitation 2030 Initiative in Laos, which aims to strengthen rehabilitation services worldwide. By bringing together stakeholders from various sectors, including healthcare, social services, and education, this meeting promises to ensure that persons with chronic conditions or disabilities have access to quality rehabilitation services, enabling them to participate fully in society.

Overall, the proposed rehabilitation meeting in Laos is a positive development that demonstrates the country’s commitment to improving rehabilitation services and promoting disability-inclusive development. This case study highlights the importance of global partnership and collaboration in achieving universal health coverage and advancing disability inclusive development.



Photo 1: Representatives from Laos, Dr. Khamko Chomlath, Dr. Khamsay Detlueyay, Dr. Thongphet Sithivanh, Bernard Franck attend the WHO 3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 Meeting – Photo by WHO Organizers

Photo 2-3: Representatives from Laos, Dr. Khamko Chomlath, Dr. Khamsay Detlueyay, Dr. Thongphet Sithivanh, Bernard Franck attend the WHO 3rd Global Rehabilitation 2030 Meeting - Photo by Bernard Franck, Okard Chief of Party