

Sub-Saharan Africa

Omega Initiative

Implementing Partner: PACT Inc.

Funding Period: September 2001 - September 2006

Amount: \$8,000,000

Purpose: Provide funding and technical support for a broad range of rehabilitation services for war-disabled civilians in sub-Saharan Africa through large and small sub-grants.

In September 2001, USAID awarded a cooperative agreement to PACT to manage this \$8 million initiative. PACT is partnered with Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) in this venture. PACT serves as the lead organization, responsible for overall program management and coordination, while VVAF provided technical oversight to the program. VVAF is also involved in direct implementation through the Amhara Rehabilitation program in Ethiopia.

The key elements of the Omega Initiative include the mandate to award, manage, and support sub-grants to local and international organizations to support its broader program goal, provide technical assistance to award recipients and other organizations, and develop a website: www.omegainitiative.org, to disseminate relevant rehabilitation information.

The Omega Initiative has awarded six large grants in countries that have been seriously affected by conflict, and has recently expanded coverage to include Uganda through the provision of small grants in the northern city of Gulu. In total, twenty-eight small grants have been awarded in seven sub-Saharan Africa countries, including ten in Gulu as of October 31, 2005.

Following is a list of sub-awards provided through the Omega Initiative since 2001, and an account of the major accomplishments achieved under each sub-award.

ETHIOPIA

Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

This four-year, \$2,452,154 subgrant was designed to increase access to and quality of rehabilitation services at both the Dessie and Bahir Dar orthopedic centers. It will also increase the availability of wheelchairs in the region, improve access to social and economic opportunities for PWDs, expand networks of organizations of and for PWDs, and advocate for increased attention to disability issues.

Accomplishments

- Provided rehabilitation services to 195 individuals in Dessie
- Trained and mentored local staff including physical therapy (PT) assistants, and physiotherapy students from the Gonder University
- Built and launched an orthopedic workshop in Bahir Dar
- Produced and distributed 110 wheelchairs
- Completed a disability baseline survey of 65,358 households in five major towns in the Amhara region. A total of 6,626 PWD were identified, of whom 3,505 (53 percent) had physical disability
- Provided forty people with small business loans; engaged thirty PWDs in micro-finance, providing training and credit service; and established disability clubs in nine schools

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Cheshire Services Ethiopia (CSE)

This one-year, \$40,896 subgrant, awarded in March 2005, was designed to provide walking appliances for children and youth with disabilities, to provide children with disabilities with corrective surgery services, and to organize a small orthopedic workshop.

Accomplishments

- Provided appliances for 965 beneficiaries through biannual mobile outreach
- Provided corrective surgery services for twenty-nine children
- Equipped and organized one small orthopedic workshop in Awassa in the southern part of the country

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Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO)

This one-year, \$42,605 subgrant, awarded in March 2005, provides physical therapy students the opportunity to use their knowledge and skills into clinical practice.

Accomplishments

- Placed forty physical therapy (PT) students in clinical practice between February and April 2005



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Handicap International - Belgium

This three-year subgrant for \$792,024, awarded in August 2002, aims to strengthen the capacity of the Rehabilitation Center for Handicapped Persons (CRHP) physical therapy department to provide quality treatment and mentoring to ensure that CRHP orthopedic workshops produce high-quality appliances, including tricycles and walking aids. The program also worked

to strengthen links with existing community-based networks and other orthopedic centers in Kinshasa.

Accomplishments

- Completed two-year and three-year trainings of nineteen PT Assistants and twelve prosthetics and orthotics (P/O) technicians, respectively
- Introduced and trained staff on the production of forty-four new types of appliances and eleven new types of mobility aids
- Trained CRHP management on fundraising
- Established a coordination platform for rehab service providers in Kinshasa (Liaison Nationale des Organisations de Réadaptation [LINOR])

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International Polio Victims Response Committee (IPVRC)

This two-year, \$335,945 subgrant awarded in April 2004 was designed to ensure service delivery at the Congolese Association for Orthopedic Assistance to Young Disabled Persons (l'Association Congolaise pour l'Assistance Orthopedique aux Jeunes Handicapés or [ACAOJH]). Other objectives include rehabilitating and re-equipping two brace shops in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, and helping disabled children reintegrate into formal schools.

Accomplishments

- Trained twenty-two IPVRC/ACAOJN staff in finance, governance, strategic planning and resource mobilization
- Provided orthopedic appliances to 685 individuals
- Provided school fees support for thirty-nine children
- Developed a cost recovery system and started testing of the beneficiary services fund to cover operational costs

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Red Cross/DRC

This one-year, \$19,565 grant, awarded in June 2004, was designed to add a physical therapy service to the Kelembe Lembe Center and introduce follow-up to patients served at the orthopedic center.

Accomplishments

- Provided PT services to 117 individuals at the center
- Provided follow-up services to sixty-three beneficiaries

SIERRA LEONE

Handicap International/France

This three-year, \$1,124,715 project, awarded May 2003, was designed to ensure that affordable high-quality prosthetics, orthotics, rehabilitation, and follow-up services are available to people with disabilities, in part by developing and strengthening the national capacity to provide such services.

Accomplishments

- Provided rehabilitation services to 2,513 individuals in Freetown, Kono, Kailahun, and Bo
- Established a satellite orthopedic workshop in Kono and a rehabilitation unit in Kailahun
- Identified and provided upgraded training to eight community-based rehabilitation (CBR) staff and started CBR services in Kono and Kailahun
- Supported the training of thirty-five mid-level therapists and twenty-nine orthopedic technicians



Christian Aid for Under-Assisted Societies Everywhere (CAUSE)

This two-year, \$312,225 project, awarded in April 2003, was designed to support the socioeconomic reintegration of amputees, war wounded, and other vulnerable people in Kono and Kailahun Districts through advocacy and community sensitization efforts, as well as sports and recreation activities.

Accomplishments

- Provided socioeconomic support to 1,104 PWD in Kono and Kailahun through IGA support and sports and recreation activities
- Trained ten social workers in Kono and Kailahun



Leonard Cheshire International (LCI)

Omega provided two grants to LCI in 2004 and 2005 in Kabala. The first sub-award provided \$23,851 in April 2004 for a one-year project designed to facilitate access to education to physically disabled children, provide training in income generation to the parents of disabled children, provide orthopedic and prosthetic services for the physically disabled, and provide vocational training for disabled young people.

The second, September 2005, eleven-month sub-award provided \$33,190 for activities that support the integration of disabled children into formal schools and provide learning materials for those schools; facilitate the economic empowerment of parents of children with disabilities and of youth through business loans and skills training, respectively; and facilitate access to physical rehabilitation services to PWDs.

Accomplishments

- Provided physical rehab services for 150 individuals in Kabala in collaboration with Mercy Ships/New Steps
- Provided school support for fifteen disabled children
- Distributed 300 units of furniture to five primary schools in Kabala that have integrated twenty-five children with disability
- Started a revolving loan scheme targeting mothers of disabled children
- Provided skills training for ten disabled youth, seven of whom later started their own businesses

World Hope International (WHI)

This August 2004 sub-award provided \$46,000 for a one-year project designed to provide microcredit loans to PWDs; promote the building of partnerships and relationships between civilian victims of war, polio disabled, and their communities; and contribute to the national resettlement and reintegration programs for internatally displaced persons (IDP).

Accomplishments

- Provided loans to 312 disabled persons in Makeni, Magburaka and Bombali in the Northern province. Loan repayment funds will be recycled to continue the microcredit activities
- Trained seventy-eight individuals in business development

SOUTH SUDAN

Medical Care Development International (MCDI)

This September 2003, thirty-three-month sub-award provided \$1,041,344 to expand access to and improve the quality of orthopedic and physical therapy services in Rumbek County and adjacent regions in southern Sudan, and increase the social and economic reintegration of civilian victims of war.

Accomplishments

- Completed renovation of the physical rehabilitation unit
- Provided physical rehabilitation services to 370 individuals (in 2004-05) in Rumbek country and environs
- Provided professional training for ten repairmen with ICRC, two orthopedic technicians, and two PT aides at Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC)
- Provided skills training and facilitated job placement for thirty-nine people with disabilities

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Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM)

This February 2005, one-year, \$50,000 sub-award sought to identify children and adults with disabilities who are “hidden” from traditional services, increase the communities understanding of disabilities issues and ownership of services for PWDs, and facilitate the delivery of home-based services.

Accomplishments

- Identified 1,000 PWD in Mundri County through an initial data collection exercise
- Trained thirty community-based rehabilitation (CBR) volunteers and seven CBR supervisors in CBR and data collection
- Provided fourteen mobility aids to PWD in Mundri (wheelchairs, tricycles, and crutches)

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TANZANIA

Disabled Organization for Legal Assistance and Socioeconomic Development

This September 2004 one-year, \$18,050 sub-award was designed to provide legal services and advocacy support for PWDs and organizations for PWDs.

Accomplishments

- Trained ten paralegals and twenty representatives of disabled persons' organizations on the legal rights of PWDs
 - Provided legal aid services to fifty PWDs in Tanzania
 - In collaboration with DPOs and the National Electoral Commission (NEC), DOLASED assisted in designing and developing Tactile Ballot Folders for use by blind voters December 2005 Tanzanian general elections
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REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Caritas Brazzaville

This September 2005 ten-month, \$38,223 sub-award was designed to improve the capacity of two Caritas-supported rehab centers in Bacongo and Mougali to deliver quality physical rehabilitation services and orthopedic appliances to PWDs.

Accomplishments

- Signed memorandums of understanding with two Kinshasa-based local rehab service providers to provide capacity building for staff in the PT and orthopedic departments
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KENYA

Bethany Crippled Children's Center

This January 2004, seventeen-month sub-award provided \$19,227 for work in remote areas of Kenya to maintain and promote the availability of medical and rehabilitative services through regular mobile clinics. The project also aimed to train health care practitioners.

Accomplishments

- Screened 6,013 individuals and provided services (either surgery and/or appliances) to 2,652
- Trained six orthopedic and three PT students from KMTC on clinical attachment

Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK)

Omega has supported APDK through two grants in 2004 and 2005 for work in Kenya. The first sub-award provided \$50,000 for a fifteen-month project designed to train upcountry-based orthopedic technologists to provide mobility aids to PWDs, and to train recipients of business tricycles and help them in starting up small businesses.

The second September 2005 sub-award for \$200,000 was designed to train technologists and technicians to prescribe and produce wheelchairs and to develop and produce a range of high-quality wheelchairs/tricycles to meet the specific needs of PWDs.

Accomplishments

- Distributed 312 mobility aids to seven regions in Kenya
- Provided business skills training for 112 recipients of business tricycles and developed a business training manual
- Trained 200 PWDs on the use and maintenance of mobility aids
- Trained six field-based orthopedic technologists in wheelchair maintenance and repair

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NARAP/Kangemi Rehabilitation Center

This February 2004, fifteen-month sub-award provided \$13,000 to provide orthopedic tools and equipment to produce or repair prostheses or orthoses for individuals from Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps.

Accomplishments

- Delivered 163 appliances to 159 individuals in Dadaab and Kakuma
- Developed a monitoring tool and followed up on the progress of fifty-five beneficiaries

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Kenya Wheelchair Basketball Federation (KWBF)

This March 2004, \$50,410 sub-award was designed to provide new basketball wheelchairs and practice space for Nairobi’s national team and organize and promote games.

Accomplishments

- Delivered twelve new international standard basketball wheelchairs
- Increased membership from twenty-nine to forty-seven athletes in Nairobi. The number of match spectators from among the Kenyan public has also increased
- Established five new teams in five major towns of Kenya, attracting 122 additional players countrywide
- Hosted one tournament against the Tanzania national team and a second one for the under-twenty-two World Junior Championship qualifiers match for the Afro-Arab Zone.

PCEA Kikuyu Orthopedic Center

This February 2004 fifteen-month sub-award provided \$16,666 to provide correctives surgery and follow-up services to children with mobility impairments.

Accomplishments

- Improved functionality and mobility of fifty-nine children through corrective surgery and rehabilitation



Jaipur Foot Trust

This June 2004 one-year sub-award provided \$46,142 to train one KMTC orthopedic technician and provide equipment and materials for the center. The project was also tasked with improving patient care through PT and gait training and following up with beneficiaries to gauge the impact of the project.

Accomplishments

- Purchased new equipment for the center and trained three technicians in the use of ICRC technology to make improved quality prostheses
- Fit 775 individuals with prostheses. Provide all recipients with received gait training
- Instituted a system of collecting beneficiary feedback, and used the information from 381 beneficiaries to improve product quality and service delivery



Kenya Programs of Disabled Persons (KPDP)

This June 2004 sub-award provided \$5,307 for a four-month project to develop a manual to guide the implementation of a microcredit project.

Accomplishments

- Developed a comprehensive manual that KPDP can use to pilot a microcredit project targeting the disabled

UGANDA

Gulu Project

This fifteen-month, \$350,000 project, initiated in June 2005, is staffed by one full-time, Gulu-based disability advisor. The project is a funding and mentoring mechanism and is available to provide small grants to local organizations. The objectives of the project are to stimulate local initiatives, strengthen the capacities of local organizations, and to provide funding and technical support for a broad range of rehabilitation services for war-disabled civilians through large and small sub-grants.

Accomplishments *(4 Months: June 1- October 1, 2005)*

- Provided funding to ten organizations totaling \$202,795 with a target number of 4,786 disabled beneficiaries
- Held three coordination meetings to address landmine survivors as partners, sports for persons with disability, and wheelchair production and delivery
- Visited forty-one different organizations visited (23 are disability organizations) and standard information collected from each and information provided to the district rehabilitation officer