

CANADA FUND PROJECT BRIEF

- 1. Project Title : Program for the Upgrading & Updating of Technology in Orthoses and Prostheses Making Towards the Self-Reliance of Persons with Disabilities Phase II
- 2. Location : Nationwide
- 3. Project Sector : Educational facilities and training
Social/welfare services
- 4. CIDA Contribution : Php1,509,012.00
- 5. Implementing Organization : Handicap International
Mr. Benjamin Gobin
Program Director
#42 Ponce Street, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City
Tel: (02) 812-6990
Fax: (02) 817-0147
Email: hiphils@tri-isys.com
- 6. Duration : September 15, 2004 - October 30, 2005

7. Project Description :
The latest study conducted by the Department of Health (DOH) on June 2004 revealed that 84 percent of the 1,200 households surveyed in the country have a member who is disabled, 35 percent of whom had an orthopedic disability and needed assistive devices.

The estimation calculated according to the World Health Organization (WHO) in accordance to the standard of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), is that there should be at least 2,000 Category III Prosthetic and Orthotic Technicians and 400 Category II Orthopaedic Technologist in the Philippines. This diverges to more than 80 million population of the country with the less number of orthopedic services provider (Workshops, Technicians, Rehabilitation services, etc).

There is an estimated 50-60 technicians manufacturing prosthetics and orthotics in the Philippines, and from HI's assessment, only 2 are certified prosthesis and orthosis (CPO, equivalent of category II) in the country. This reflects that the trade of Prosthetic/Orthotic (P/O) Technician does not exist in the Philippines because they are not recognized and are not integrated in the public scale. HI trained technicians manufacture orthopedic devices according to the mandate but they still need to meet international standards.

During the first phase, which was funded by Canada Fund, more than 3,000 disabled persons alone benefited and were provided orthopedic devices by 32 orthopedic technicians (12 of which were trained during the Phase I) in 15 HI partner workshops around the country in one year. These workshops increased the number of productions of orthopedic devices, especially prosthetics, because of the upgraded technology – from wood and leather to fiberglass (using polyester resin). Besides the quality and aesthetic of the fiberglass, it is recognized to be cost-effective and is available in the local market, with less time consumed for manufacturing.

The first phase taught the technicians from the different workshops the first module (fabricating below knee prosthetics) while the second phase will teach them the second (fabricating above knee prosthetics) and third (braces for body and legs) modules since the project aims to upgrade their knowledge in fabricating above knee prosthetics and increase the number of technicians who do braces.

The project will focus on developing technicians for most workshops that do not have Orthotic technician and components. This comprises 3-batches of module 3 training and 1-module 2 training based on the level of technicians in the workshop. It will also deliver a responsive approach for disabled persons in need of assistive devices and accommodate the needed interventions to facilitate their reintegration to their communities.

- 8. Beneficiaries : 3 Prosthetic Technicians, 9 Orthotic Technicians, 17 PTs

- 9. Expected Results :
 - 12 Technicians will be trained in upgraded technology in P&O
 - 40 Disabled persons will directly benefit of the devices being produced during the training
 - 17 Physical Therapists will be trained in psychomotor intervention, stump preparation, fitting and gait training
 - 17 Orthopedic Workshops will improve the quality of rehabilitation services
 - 2,448 Disabled persons will benefit from quality rehabilitation services from the orthopedic workshops
 - A catalogue of raw materials, consumables and equipment needed in the fabrication of orthopedic devices will be produced
 - A technical information system will be established (2 publications)
 - Orthopedic workshops will be supported in developing their business plans

- HI expects that upon the completion of the project activities, disabled persons are able to access:
- Quality Orthopedic Services – all orthopedic workshops are able to provide efficient and standard orthopedic rehabilitation services for disabled persons. Establish proper patient flow and intervention, standardize purchasing of materials and stock management, improve patient intervention.
 - Appropriated Prostheses, Orthoses and Assistive Devices Technology – all trained P&O technicians are able to improve the assembling of orthopedic appliances and production of components
 - Efficient and Cost Effective Orthopedic Devices – reduction in the cost of devices and using less time consuming and cheaper materials.