

Thanks for fundraising for COPE



Hi there!

We wanted to say thank you very much for being a part of the COPE family. By undertaking a fundraising event you are not only contributing to the rehabilitation needs of survivors of UXO accidents but you are creating awareness about the problem of UXO in Laos, a very important thing!

The COPE Visitor Centre welcomes over 17,000 visitors per year. Surprisingly 95% of people we meet do not know about the undeniable and devastating UXO problem in Laos, or anything about cluster munitions. The visitor centre and our campaigns aim to change that, and you as a fundraiser really help us do this too by holding an event.

Here at COPE we want to raise awareness of this issue by encouraging our visitors, supporters, friends and family and everyone they know to start talking and sharing information – which is easy when you get a group of friends together for a dinner, trivia night, or any other event you choose to hold!

We've put together this information pack to assist you in making your event a success. There's ideas for events, tips on how to promote your event and information on where your donated dollars go. If you need any further information at all please do not hesitate to contact us at cope@laopdr.com.

Wishing you all the best for your fundraising event!

Love from,
The COPE team

P.s Please do send us any photos or stories from your event so we can let others know about them in our newsletter and on our website 😊

Ideas for fundraising activities



Fundraising is all about having fun, right? Right!

Here are a few ideas our team has come up with for you that are easy to organise and very fun for your friends to participate in:

With friends

- Host a dinner party at home or at a local restaurant and have the ticket price include a donation
- Host a trivia night with a local restaurant or sports club with the entrance fee donated
- Get sponsored as a team or as an individual for participating in a sports tournament/athletic challenge (like climbing a mountain or doing a trek) or for completing a personal challenge (like giving up your favourite food)
- Hold a car wash with a group of friends
- Create your own arts and crafts and sell them
- Hold a garage sale and donate the profits

At work

- Host a morning tea or bake sale with proceeds donated
- Put on a short comedy show and sell tickets
- Conduct a charity auction or raffle
- Encourage your colleagues to donate an hour's wage
- Play putt putt around the office with prizes up for grabs

If you want to put your party planner or event management skills to practice here is a list of larger scale events you might be interested in organising:

- Host a fun run for your local community
- Organise a concert
- Organise a dance or ball
- Hold a fashion parade

Promoting your event



For smaller events

- Talk to your friends and family and send personal invitations
- Create a Facebook event and share the event on other social media
- Advertise the event at the venue it will be held at – for example put posters up in the local restaurant that you will hold your dinner at
- Send emails to your network of friends and family and ask them to share it with their friends and family.

For larger events

- Network with your friendship groups and invite other people to join you in organising and advertising the event
- Send a media release or call your local newspaper/magazine/radio station to let them know about the event
- Online is a great place to advertise or promote your event for free - utilise your social media networks well!
- Ask local businesses for sponsorship to get flyers and posters printed, you can also ask them for product donations for raffle prizes
- Use an online ticket purchase system such as www.trybooking.com to make it easier to sell tickets to your event.

How to donate your fundraising dollars



Donating your fundraising dollars to COPE is easy.

Head to our donate page on our website once you are ready to transfer the donation

<http://www.copelaos.org/donate.php>

You have the option to donate through 2checkout or Global Development Group.

The benefit of using Global Development Group is that donations are tax deductible for Australian and US taxpayers.

Once we have received your donation we will send you a thank you email to acknowledge receipt of your donation. We appreciate the work of all our fundraisers and like to recognise them for their hard work. Please email us and tell us about your event! If you have any pictures please send them to us so we can put these on our website and in our quarterly newsletter.

Where do my fundraising dollars go?

COPE seeks to be transparent about the way in which donations are handled and accounted for. Each donation is recorded and provided to our internal finance team. All finance records are then independently audited by an external agency at the close of the financial year. Your donation will go to a pool of funds which are distributed on a needs basis.

A large proportion of all funds we receive are used to purchase materials for the production of orthotic and prosthetic devices and new tools and machinery, as well as patient costs such as accommodation, transport and food vouchers for those that travel to see us. For prosthetics and orthotics patients this also includes covering the cost of medical care and the device. Donations also help us to provide additional support to training and staff development.

COPE is a locally run project which means all of the donations we receive go straight to assisting our patients with minimal administration costs.

Information on COPE



Where is Laos?

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is a small landlocked country bordered by Vietnam, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia.

The UXO situation in Laos

- During the Vietnam War (1964-1973), the US led secret bombing raids over Laos that has left behind millions of unexploded cluster bombs that continue to maim and kill civilians today.
- More than 270 million bombs were dropped and with an average failure rate of 30 percent, it is estimated that as many as 80 million of them failed to explode. So, while the bombings stopped four decades ago in 1973 in Laos, the country is still littered with a significant amount of unexploded ordnance, or UXO.
- Of the population of approximately six million, almost 80 percent live in rural areas. The largest sector of the national economy is agriculture, primarily based on subsistence production which is adversely affected by the widespread UXO presence.
- UXO contaminates an estimated 25 percent of all villages in Laos today and contributes daily to poverty, hunger and disability.
- One primary group of people at high risk of injury from UXO are farmers, particularly when they are opening up new land to expand their fields.
- Another group of concern that commonly encounter UXO are those who collect scrap metal. This includes a large number of children who collect scrap metal to earn extra money or to assist the family finances.
- The most common injuries victims sustain from a UXO explosion include loss of a limb, blindness, hearing loss, shrapnel wounds, and internal shockwave injuries. In the vast majority of cases, whatever the injury sustained, survivors and their families face a long, painful and costly recovery.



Who is COPE?

COPE is a local non-profit organisation in Laos that provides prosthetics and rehabilitation services to survivors of UXO accidents and other people with disabilities. COPE also hosts a Visitor Centre that provides an educational exhibit on the UXO problem in Laos, and information on COPE rehabilitation services.

COPE is dedicated to helping survivors of bomb accidents and other people with disabilities move on with an improved quality of life.

COPE Services

COPE works in partnership with the Centre of Medical Rehabilitation (CMR) and provincial rehabilitation centres to provide access to orthotic/prosthetic devices and rehabilitation services, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and paediatric services. It is the only provider of rehabilitation services in Lao PDR.

COPE provides information to Lao people about services available, and provides training and support to local staff. COPE has an extensive in service training and mentoring programme that has been established since October 2009. Volunteer mentors from around the world work with Lao staff to teach new skills and build capacity to ensure the long term sustainability and continual improvement of COPE services.

Fact sheet



What is UXO?

- Unexploded ordnance (UXO) is a generic term used for all munitions including mines that have explosive, incendiary, and pyrotechnic or gas filling, which have not yet functioned (exploded) as they were designed.

Cluster munitions

- Cluster munitions are non-discriminatory and have for more than 50 years killed and wounded innocent people - many of them children - causing untold suffering, loss and hardship for thousand in more than 20 countries. They continue to inflict injury and death for years - sometimes decades - after the end of a war. They keep large groups of people in poverty. The global food crisis increases pressure on people to cultivate areas affected by cluster munitions.
- The use of cluster munitions (shells containing 500-600 tennis ball size bombs) creates a particularly difficult and disturbing problem four decades on in Laos where bombs continue to kill and maim indiscriminately. As a developing country Laos has a lack of qualified health professionals and the infrastructure to adequately cater to severe injuries resulting from bomb accidents. Lao PDR accounts for the highest proportion of all confirmed cluster munitions casualties in the world.
- COPE is a strong advocate for a ban on cluster munitions and is an active member of the Cluster Munition Coalition.
- The Cluster Munition Coalition is the driving force behind activities for the global campaign to ban cluster munitions. On their website you will find the latest information, and ways you can have your say on the issue.
- If you are passionate about what COPE does and want to do even more to help out – great! We encourage everyone to be as involved as possible. You can start by visiting <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/> to see what kind of activities are going on in your country to ban cluster bombs.

Facts and figures from the Visitor Centre



- Lao PDR is the **most heavily bombed country** in the world per capita in history.
- More than **580,000 bombing missions** were conducted over Lao PDR. That is one bombing mission every 8 minutes, 24 hours a day, for 9 years.
- Over **2 million tonnes** of ordinance were dropped on Lao PDR during the Vietnam War between 1964 and 1973.
- More than **270 million bombies** were dropped onto Lao PDR.
- Up to **30% failed to detonate** and remained in Lao PDR after the war.
- Approximately **80 million unexploded bombies** remain throughout the country after the war.
- Approximately **25% of villages** in Lao PDR are still contaminated with UXO.
- All **17 provinces** of Lao PDR suffer from UXO contamination.
- **41 out of the 46 poorest** districts have UXO contamination.
- **More than 50,000 people** have been killed or injured as a result of UXO incidences in the period 1964-2011.
- **More than 20,000 people** have been killed or injured as a result of UXO incidences in the post-war period 1974-2011. Out of this 20,000
 - 13,500 lost a limb
 - 40% are children
- Today approximately **100 new casualties still occur annually**.
- **Usual activities causing UXO-related accidents:**
 - Handling of UXO/searching for scrap metal (24%)
 - Farming (22%)
 - Forest products collection (14%)
 - Lighting fires/cooking and other domestic activities (12%)
 - Playing with UXO (11%).