



Health Volunteers Overseas Review of Programs & Activities: 2018

Summary of Activities:

In 2018, HVO had **101 active projects** where **411 volunteers** completed **449 assignments**, totaling **7,169 volunteer days served**. As a result, **over 3,000 health professionals received training and mentorship**. Other activities included:

Programs, Projects & Volunteers

- ✓ 11 Wyss & Warfield scholars awarded
- ✓ 44 volunteers awarded fellowships through HVO
- ✓ 20 volunteers awarded Doximity funding
- ✓ 4 new projects opened
 1. Oncology, Uganda
 2. Physical Therapy, Myanmar
 3. ObGyn, Cambodia
 4. Pediatrics, Nepal
- ✓ 6 projects closed
 1. General Dentistry, Cambodia
 2. Oral Surgery, Cambodia
 3. Orthopaedics, Cameroon
 4. Oral Health, Nicaragua
 5. Oncology, Vietnam
 6. Orthopaedics, Ethiopia
- ✓ 16 site assessments conducted
- ✓ HVO's e-volunteering initiative launched – 9 e-volunteering assignments
- ✓ Rita Feinberg Fellowship launched: 4 initial fellowships identified (recruitment initiated in 2019)
- ✓ 3 most active program areas (by # of assignments): anesthesia, orthopaedics, internal medicine
- ✓ 92% of volunteers surveyed are interested in volunteering with HVO again in the future
- ✓ 97% of volunteers surveyed would recommend HVO to a colleague
- ✓ 40% repeat volunteers

External Presentations & Publications

- ✓ 7 poster or panel abstracts submitted and accepted (co-authored by HVO staff and volunteers)
- ✓ 3 external publications authored or co-authored by HVO staff
 - [Perceptions of Orthopedic Volunteers and their Local Hosts in Low and Middle Income Countries: Are we on the same page?](#) Co-authored by April Pinner & Meng Xiong (HVO staff), Sanjeev Sabharwal, MD, MPH, in addition to others. Published in the *Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma*, October 2018.
 - [Invest in Health Systems by Investing in Health Workers](#), Authored by Nancy Kelly, HVO Executive Director. *September 8, 2017, IntraHealth VITAL*.
 - [Universal Health Coverage: Filling the Gaps through International Partnership](#), Authored by Nancy Kelly, HVO Executive Director. *April 30, 2018, Pyxera Global Engagement Forum*.
- ✓ The completed e-book for the HVO sponsored Research Topic, [International Partnerships for Strengthening Health Care Workforce Capacity: Models of Collaborative Education](#) released Aug 2018.



On-Site Coordinators' Perspectives:

Impact

73% of on-site coordinators completed a 2018 survey. General areas of improvement reported as a result of HVO's activities include:

- ✓ 91% observed improvements in staff skills
- ✓ 88% observed improvements in staff attitudes
- ✓ 86% observed increased efficiency of care
- ✓ 85% observed new techniques introduced and utilized
- ✓ 84% observed improvements in patient outcomes
- ✓ 82% observed improvements in patient safety

Specific accomplishments for 2018

- ✓ Clinical protocols developed for management of all hematological malignancies – Hematology, Tanzania
- ✓ First shoulder arthroscopy surgery and formative assessment tool added to residency program curriculum – Orthopaedics, Bhutan
- ✓ Clinical guidelines and assessment form for stroke patients implemented – Physical Therapy, Haiti
- ✓ Development and implementation of nursing chemotherapy assessment form approved and implemented by nursing department as a standard of care practice – Nursing/Oncology, Bhutan
- ✓ Clinical protocols in orthodontics implemented and adoption of conscious sedation for the first time in the dental department – Oral Health, Nepal
- ✓ Introduction of the Wright-Giemsa stain for a better cytological evaluation of bone marrow smears in hematological diseases, new to the hospital – Hematology, Peru
- ✓ Initiation of emergency medicine residency program and EMT/EMR program – Emergency Medicine, Bhutan
- ✓ Developed documentation processes for counseling sessions and anxiety management in a group setting – Mental Health, Bhutan
- ✓ Implementation of a new protocol for management of flexor tendon repairs – Hand Therapy, Ghana
- ✓ Integration of CAD/CAM computer technology enabling fabrication of crowns without using wax lost technique – Oral Health, Tanzania
- ✓ Epidural analgesia protocol implemented in maternity department – Anesthesia, Cambodia (Kampot)

The program is excellent and has helped us tremendously in our hematology department, which is still at its infancy stage. Training and overall support provided from HVO program has enabled us to grow as a department and improve overall patient care. – Nasser Ahlam; Hematology, Tanzania

Challenges

The most significant area for improvement (reported by 56% of on-site coordinators) was better alignment of **volunteers' teaching and training topics with sites' curriculum and schedules (if/when appropriate) and ensuring topics are appropriate to trainees' skills and knowledge and local resources.** This goal will require strengthening communication among HVO staff, project directors, and the on-site coordinators.

Volunteer Interactions

On-site coordinators overwhelmingly reported volunteers were respectful of cultural variances, committed to their work and understanding local practices, flexible, and prepared for their assignments. 52% of on-site coordinators indicated HVO sent the right number of volunteers and 46% felt it was too few.

We are exceedingly grateful and the volunteers this year were special indeed! Please let them know we said that, they really were amazing. – Patience Muwangu; Nursing, Uganda

We are grateful for the support we had in 2018 from HVO and the volunteers. On behalf of KCMC, I am glad to say thank you very much to all of HVO management and organization for the effort they put to make all visits very successful. – Temu Rogers; Orthopaedics, Tanzania