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## Health Volunteers Overseas Programs Summary: 2019

**102 active projects** where **380 volunteers** completed **425 assignments**, totaling 6,769 volunteer days served.

**89 e-volunteering assignments** totaling **3600 hours** of remote mentoring and clinical consultation.

**Over 3,280 health professionals** received training and professional mentorship.

### Programs

- 11 site assessments conducted
- 8 new projects opened
  1. Hematology; Phnom Penh, Cambodia
  2. Internal Medicine; Kabale, Uganda
  3. ObGyn; Kabale, Uganda
  4. Oncology - Medical; Hanoi, Vietnam
  5. Oncology – Nursing; Hanoi, Vietnam
  6. Orthopaedics; Mwanza, Tanzania
  7. Pediatrics; Kabale, Uganda
  8. Wound Care; Kampot, Cambodia
- 4 projects closed
  1. Anesthesia; Tamale, Ghana
  2. Orthopaedics; Bolivia
  3. Orthopaedics; Malawi
  4. Wound Care; Siem Reap, Cambodia
- E-volunteering – 3600 hours across 13 specialties and over 52 projects
- 128 volunteers received funding to off-set volunteer expenses
- The Skin of Color Society became an HVO organizational partner
- 92% volunteers interested in volunteering with HVO again in the future
- 93% of volunteers surveyed would recommend HVO to a colleague
- 16 health professionals from HVO project sites received scholarships
- 45% repeat volunteers

### On-Site Coordinator's Perspective

79% of on-site coordinators (OSC) completed a 2019 survey.

- OSCs reported, on average, spending 7.3 hours/month on HVO related work.
- General areas on impact reported include:
  - 90% observed improvements in staff skills
  - 85% observed improvements in patient safety
  - 82% observed increased efficiency of care
  - 80% observed improvements in documentation/recording processes
  - 53% indicated cost savings was a positive outcome of HVO's activities
  - 41% indicated staff retention was a positive outcome of HVO's activities
- OSCs reported implementing new/revised protocols as a result of working with HVO
  - 35% - new standards of patient care
  - 33% - clinical procedure guidelines
  - 32% training curricula

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*An experience beyond dreams...the conference provided me not only with vast knowledge but it motivated me and made me feel more positive about taking neurology as my field of interest and that I should build neurology in my country [Bhutan], where currently there is no neurologist.*

Dr. Sonam Yangzom  
2019 Wyss Scholar

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*We are glad to have HVO as partners in helping develop hand therapy in our hospital. [We are receiving] more confidence, trust and referrals to our clinic from other units and colleagues. The result of this project speaks volumes looking back the hope and smile we have put on so many faces. We are really grateful.* - Robert Sowa, OSC – Hand Therapy, Ghana

## Accomplishments: A Snapshot

- **Anesthesia:** The nurse anesthesia program in Laos earned recognition by the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists; and, the first two nurse anesthetists graduated from this program.
- **Dermatology:** Four students completed a Master's of Medicine in dermatology in Uganda
- **Hematology:** The projects in Siem Reap, Cambodia and Peru conducted routine e-volunteering/case conference calls between volunteers and the site (1/wk and 1/mo, respectively)
- **Internal Medicine:** The project in Kampot, Cambodia reported improved quality of care (due, in part, to HVO), the hospital noted a 28% increase in outpatient care and a 50% increase in inpatient care.
- **Nursing:** The project in Hai Duong, Vietnam developed program and year of study outcomes for the new curriculum as well as integrated case studies for first level students
- **Oncology:**
  - Two medical oncology fellows graduated from the National Academy of Medical Sciences in Nepal. They also published several manuscripts and received ASCO merit awards.
  - In Bhutan, palliative care home visits are now conducted 3/wk by a team of 3 palliative care nurses, a physician and a social worker.
  - The first two fellows graduated from the gynecologic oncology fellowship program and passed the International Gynecologic Cancer Society exam - Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital, Nepal.
- **Oral Health:** In Nepal, digital x-rays were introduced for use in all departments which has drastically improved the quality, efficiency, diagnostic ability, and safety of the imaging.
- **Pediatrics:** Development of a triage system for the OPD at Laos Friends Hospital for Children
- **Physical Therapy:**
  - The Haitian Physical Therapy Association, an organization supported by HVO, was inducted into the World Confederation of Physical Therapy
  - Developed a twelve-month plan for an online course for the PT faculty at the University of Yangon, Myanmar (*exclusively through e-volunteering*)

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*Patients spend minimal time under general anesthesia due to improving neuromuscular block techniques, this reduces risks in many cases. – Kate Corrigan, Anesthesia - Laos*

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## External Presentations & Publications

### Presentations

- At least **25 presentations** by HVO staff, volunteers and partners on HVO's programs in 2019
- Exhibited at the WCPT Congress – the first international exhibit for HVO
  - Panel presentation by HVO staff April Pinner: *International Partnerships for Strengthening Global Rehabilitation Capacity: Models of Collaborative Education*
  - 7 poster presentations by HVO members and international partners at WCPT (included in 25 total)

### Publications

14 publications by HVO staff, volunteers and international colleagues including:

- Beth MacNairn. *Health Volunteers Overseas: A Model for Ethical and Effective Short-Term Global Health Training in Low-Resource Countries*. Global Health: Science and Practice. Vol 7, 2019.
- Ramila Shilpakar, Bishnu Dutta Paudel, Prakash Neupane, et al. *Procalcitonin and C-Reactive Protein as Markers of Bacteremia in Patients with Febrile Neutropenia Who Receive Chemotherapy for Acute Leukemia: A Prospective Study from Nepal*. JCO Global Oncology. Sept 2019.

*Our staffs are more skilled now. Because of this improvement they are more confident in the works stations. We have started distraction procedure on cleft lip and palate care which has helped us to get recognition in the dental field in Nepal. – Dr. Dashrath Kafle, Oral Health*