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Medical Programs using appropriate
technology to rehabilitate
handicapped persons

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL - AFGHANISTAN PROGRAMMES

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 1992

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- ORTHOPAEDIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR AFGHAN TECHNICIANS AND REHABILITATION UNITS IN AFGHANISTAN

- HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

- QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

- TARGET REGION: Southern Afghanistan (Helmand, Ghazni, Kandahar), South West Afghanistan (Herat).

- REPORTING PERIOD: From 01/10/92 to 31/12/92.

- RESPONSIBLE: Florence Thune - Coordinator.

1. Summary of Progress

The new collaboration with IAHC and MCI has now completely started. The accounts have been closed with both partners and the financial relation is over. Handicap International (HI) remains the technical advisor: it is important to point out that the quality of the relations is still the same and that MCI and IAHC are always looking for HI cooperation in the technical field.

Four technicians are still in training in the HI Training Center in Quetta: two technicians from Karni Manda/Musa Qala/Helmand and one from Spendai/Ghazni/Ghazni are following the Above Knee (AK) Prosthesis Training and one from Nakhouni/Punjwai/Kandahar is following the Below Knee (BK) Prosthesis Training. All these trainings will be achieved during the first 1993 semester.

The unit of Musa Qala is still in a very difficult position as USAID does not agree to support this unit as long as the situation remains unstable and unsafe in the Helmand province. The unit should be moved to Kajaki but nothing is done without the funds. This means that the technicians remain unemployed and are likely to lose their skills unless a better solution can be found: this still needs to be discussed with all the partners of the project.

2. Completed activities

2.1. Training:

Two technicians from Karni Manda/Musa Qala/Helmand and one from Spendai/Ghazni/Ghazni are following the AK prosthesis training. One of the Musa Qala technicians was following the BK prosthesis training but due to the non-starting of the Musa Qala unit, it was decided to train him in the AK prosthesis.

The new technician from Nakhouni/Punjwai/Kandahar is still following the BK training till March 1993. He is also provided with mathematic and pashto courses in order to enable him to follow easier the training.

These trainings will be finished at the end of January for one technician from Musa Qala and one from Ghazni, and mid-February for the other technician from Musa Qala. The question which should be raised now is to know what the Musa Qala technicians will do after their training. The unit is not working and they are likely to lose their skills if they don't practise in the field. This point will be mentioned in the "Projected activities" chapter.

2.2. Rehab Units/Evaluation visits:

Dara team:

Noor Ali, the rehab worker of the unit came to Quetta on October, 10th. It seems that his work is very usefull for the unit and that he is quite active. He is travelling in the Baghran district but also in other provinces such as Uruzgan and Ghure, by horse or by other transportation provided by the Commander. Most of the patients coming to the workshops are referred through him.

The supervisor of the unit arrived in Quetta on November 24th for his 5th evaluation visit. The unit is running well. Small reparations have been made on the building in order to make it more resistant during the winter. The technicians are working well but it is quite disappointing to see that one of the technicians did not want to come to Quetta for the above knee prosthesis training.

- Figures from December 1990 to October 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 37
 Above Knee Amputees: 12
 Others : 276

Number of patients referred: To hospitals in Afghanistan: 112
 To HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 10
 To HI-Quetta for others : 3

Number of devices given: B.K. Prostheses: 34
 Crutches : 297 (pairs)
 (A.K. Patients referred to Quetta).

Spendai team:

The motorbike we have provided to the unit proved to be usefull as there were more patients during the last months. The supervisor left Quetta at the beginning of October and is planning to come back in January 1993. The report of his last visit (september 1992) has been included in the last quaterly report.

- Figures from October 1990 to September 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 30 (one double
 amputee)
 Above Knee Amputees: 24
 Others : 25

Number of patients referred: to hospitals in Afghanistan: 5
to HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 2
to HI-Quetta for others : 1

Number of devices given: B.K. Prosthesis: 17
A.K. Prosthesis: 1
Crutches : 48 (pairs)

Karni Manda Team

Nothing has started yet. Following the fightings in Musa Qala, IAHC had decided to move the workshop to Kajaki but was waiting for the funds to start anything. Unfortunately USAID is not ready to give any assistance to the projects located in Helmand, due to the present situation. As a result this unit is still in stand-by and it has been decided by IAHC to stop also its assistance: the technicians will not be paid and will not be in a position to work any more. The time has come to look for a good solution. As mentioned above, this point will be raised in the "projected activities" chapter.

Nakhouni Team:

The supervisor arrived on the 10th of October for his third evaluation visit. Many patients came to the workshop but unfortunately only two technicians are working there. No news were received from Sha Khan, one of the technicians who left the Unit following a problem with his commander. Everybody was trying to find a good solution for him like re-employing him in the HI Rehabilitation Center so that he does not lose his skills but unfortunately he disappeared and nothing was heard from him until now.

The construction of the workshop is not finished yet. The technicians are still working in a temporary building, normally used by Mujahideens, which is not facilitating the work. In the new building, the walls must be covered, the doors and windows fixed and the well dugged.

The technicians are working well but are not the best ones and it would be interesting to send a technical supervision team to Punjwai in order to improve their skills or ask them to come to Quetta for refresher trainings.

The supervisor is expected in Quetta in January 1993.

- Figures from February 1992 to September 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 24
 Above Knee Amputees: 42
 Others : 75

Number of patients referred: to hospitals in Afghanistan: 22
 to HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 46
 to HI-Quetta for others : 45

Number of devices given: B.K. Prosthesis: 17
 Crutches : 72 (pairs)

Zindadjan

HI did not receive any news from this unit although two letters were sent to Ismael Khan to explain HI's position. However, Mr Rodger Doran, UNHCR medical coordinator, went to Herat and visited what remains from this unit. The building is still there as well as a part of the devices but nobody of course is working.

2.3. Partners:

In general, the collaboration between HI and its partners did not change in spite of the change in the contract. For the moment, HI is late in sending the evaluation visits reports to the partners due to a lack of staff during the month of September. Anyway, the quality of the relations remains the same. HI still remains a technical advisor although there is no more any financial relation.

MCI: it seems that this partner has no financial difficulty to run the two units as the funds were found quite quickly. MCI is opened to any kind of advice coming from Handicap International. All its training programmes are closed in Quetta and its operations have been shifted to Afghanistan. However the main office is still in Quetta. During the last meeting, it was pointed out that the HI Training Center might be shifted to Kandahar, which would avoid the supervisors to come to Quetta for their supervision visits. MCI does not see any objection to this but this idea has still to be discussed.

IAHC: only one unit is now supported by IAHC as no funds were allocated by USAID to the Musa Qala or Kadjaki Unit. IAHC is no more in a position to pay for the salaries of the technicians. It will be then necessary to find a quick solution if IAHC and HI do not want to loose these technicians. Once someone from Handicap International is able to go to Kandahar, a common trip is planned with IAHC to go to the Spendai Unit.

Jamiat Health Committee (Zindajan): nothing was heard from them during the last months but they will be contacted in case a Handicap International staff can go to Herat in the month of February.

2.4. Miscellaneous:

Mr Hafeez Ullah, who is studying in Peshawar in the GTZ/PETCOT Training Center, is still very motivated. Following the request of several NGOs and the good level of the students, Dr Sarwar, responsible for the training in GTZ has decided to finish the course before the planned date, which was February 1993. Finally the exams will be held in January 1993 (the theoretical part will be on the 14th of January, and the practical one will be on the 16th). However, the final results will be given only in February and during this time, Mr Hafeez will stay in Peshawar to receive more practical courses in GTZ.

Contacts / Visits: * Ms Florence Thune, HI Coordinator, went to Peshawar in October to attend a UNHCR workshop on the assistance to the disabled refugees and took this opportunity to meet HI's partners and discuss about the project.

* Mr Patrick Delperdange, technical advisor of the HI training center, went to Peshawar in November to spend some time with Mr Hafeez Ullah and assist him during his studies in Peshawar. He had also the opportunity to meet many people relating to the project and to other activities for disabled in Afghanistan (Sandy Gall's Appeal for Afghanistan, GTZ,...).

3. Uncompleted activities

The technician from Dara/Baghran/Helmand did not show up and thus was not able to attend the AK training planned for him. It seems that he is not ready to come to Quetta because of personal and family problems.

Nobody from Handicap International was able to go to one of the units for a monitoring visit. HI is waiting to go to Kandahar for a first exploratory mission and will take this opportunity to send someone to Punjwai, and maybe to Ghazni if the weather makes it possible.

Handicap International had proposed in the last quarterly report to write a final document about the collaboration with IAHC and MCI as well as about the project of these two last years. As this report will gather the experiences and the comments of all the people who worked on the project, it will take quite a long time to receive all the ideas from everyone. The comments from the former HI coordinator in Pakistan, who is now working in Madagascar, are still expected. We hope to achieve this document for the end of February.

4. Unanticipated activities

Due to the non-activity of the Musa Qala unit, the technician who was attending the refresher BK training was able to stay longer and thus to receive the AK prosthesis training.

5. Projected activities

* For the moment two technicians from Musa Qala are in Quetta to follow the AK prosthesis training, which should be achieved during the two first months of 1993. It is known now that the Unit from Musa Qala (transferred to Kajaki) will not be funded by USAID, as long as the situation remains unsafe in the Helmand province. These technicians have not been paid for the month of December and will not be also for January. In these circumstances, we are likely to loose them because they may not stay in Quetta. It is important to point out that these two technicians are amongst the best of all the ones who were trained by Handicap International in Quetta: so it would be really a pity to see them leaving.

One of the best solutions would be to transfer them to a place where they could be usefull. The first idea was about the Punjwai Unit, in the Kandahar province, where a lot of new patients are registered but only two technicians are working there. It might be possible to send the two technicians from Musa Qala to Punjwai where they could replace the ones working in Punjwai. These ones could take this opportunity to come to Quetta and receive a refresher training about the below knee prosthesis. The second idea was related to the Handicap International workshop in Quetta. For the moment more and more new amputee patients are registered in the Center and it may increase again during the following months due to the closure of the ICRC orthopaedic workshop in Peshawar. The technicians from the HI prosthesis section find it difficult to cover on time the production: thus the two technicians of Musa Qala could be temporarily hired by HI in this section in order to cover the needs.

These two solutions remain theoritical and have to be discussed with the partners. After a few meetings, a decision should be made, which would be applicable until the situation in Helmand becomes quieter and makes the re-opening of the unit possible.

* A trip to Kandahar is planned during the month of February. Three persons from the HI staff will spend two weeks in the city in order to assess the needs and to see what it is possible to do regarding the shifting of HI activities in this place (Training Center and Rehabilitation Center). This team will include Mr

Patrick Delperdange, Technical Advisor of the Training Center, Mr Mirwais Farahi, Administrator of the Training Center and Mr Arif, Purchase Officer. They will take the time to go to Punjwai and visit the unit. If the weather makes it possible, they will go also to Ghazni to visit the unit of Spendai. After two weeks, they may be joined by one experimented staff from the HI Headquarters who should take over from them after their departure.

* Like Kandahar, Herat is one of "HI's targets" in the South West of Afghanistan: it is time to go there and make an evaluation visit in this province where we had been working for a long time. A direct flight is now in service between Islamabad and Herat, through UNOCA. This flight would allow someone from HI to go safely to this city to assess the present situation. It may be done after the visit to Kandahar, in February. More details will be given in the next report.

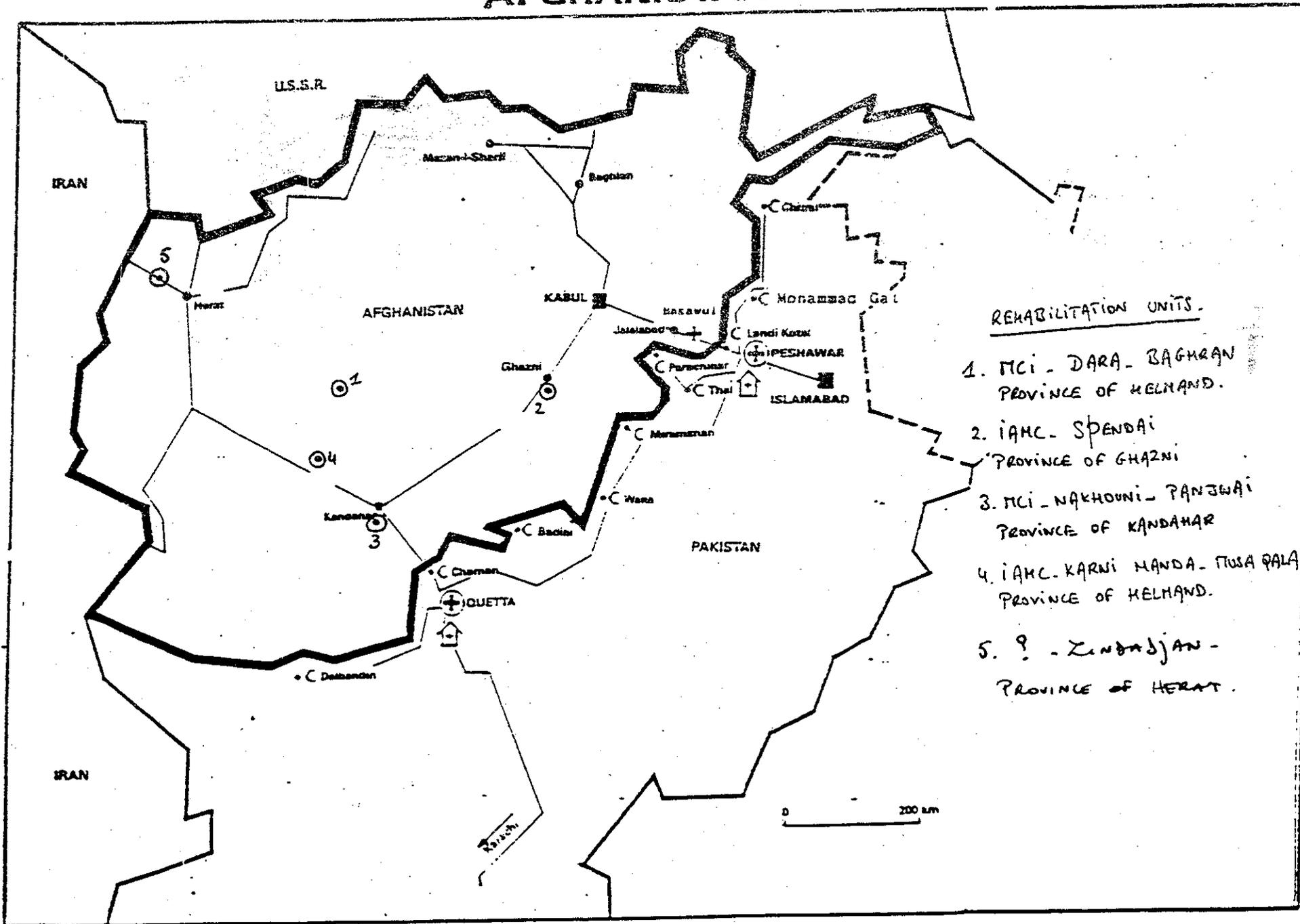
* An other idea which has to be discussed would be to send Mr Hafeez Ullah (student in Peshawar) to all the rehabilitation units in Afghanistan. He could stay in each workshop during one month in order to train the technicians in the field and assess the problems they are facing in the running of the workshop or in the technical part of the work. It would be the first time that an HI staff could spend some time with the technicians in the field. This proposition is not definitive and still needs to be discussed with all the involved people.

* Provided that the technicians from Musa Qala could be shifted to Punjwai, HI is planning to make refresher trainings for the technicians of Punjwai. It would be on the manufacture of the below knee prosthesis and could be held during the month of February or March.

ANNEXES

- 1) QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT
- 2) H.I. MONTHLY CUMULATIVE EXPENSES WORKSHEET
- 3) SITUATION MAP OF THE REHABILITATION UNITS

AFGHANISTAN



- REHABILITATION UNITS.
1. MCI - DARA - BAGHRAN
PROVINCE OF HELMAND.
 2. IAHK - SPENDAI
PROVINCE OF GHAZNI
 3. MCI - NAKHOONI - PANJWAI
PROVINCE OF KANDAHAR
 4. IAHK - KARNI NANDA - TUSA QALA
PROVINCE OF HELMAND.
 5. ? - ZINDAJAN -
PROVINCE OF HERAT.

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HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL - AFGHANISTAN PROGRAMMES

QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT

JULY to SEPTEMBER 1992

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- ORTHOPAEDIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR AFGHAN TECHNICIANS AND REHABILITATION UNIT IN AFGHANISTAN
- HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
- QUARTERLY NARRATIVE REPORT
- TARGET REGION: Southern Afghanistan (Helmand, Ghazni, Kandahar), South West Afghanistan (Herat).
- REPORTING PERIOD: From 01/07/92 to 30/09/92.
- RESPONSIBLE: Florence Thune - Coordinator.

1. Summary of Progress

Without any doubt the most important event of this quarter was the signature of a new agreement between Handicap International and its partners, MCI and IAHC. The former agreement finished on August 31st, 1992. This date marked the end of the financial collaboration with the partners but also the reinforcement of the technical collaboration.

Three new trainings have started in July with technicians from all the units. These are new or refresher trainings concerning the manufacture of the below knee and above knee prosthesis. The head of the prosthesis section of the HI Rehabilitation Centre for Afghan Refugees is responsible for the technical part of the training whereas the expatriate supervisor of the training Centre takes in charge the teaching of the basic physiotherapy exercises.

In July Handicap International had the pleasure to welcome Ms Ariel Ahart and Mrs Diana Jelich from IRC Peshawar who were coming to Quetta to make an evaluation of the entire project. They spent a few days in Quetta to meet all the individuals concerned by the project in Baluchistan or inside Afghanistan. Their visit made possible for Handicap International to get external comments on its activities which will be helpful for the writing of a final report concerning the first two years of the project.

For the first time since August 1989 Handicap International got the opportunity to send two staff members (one expatriate and one Afghan) to Afghanistan. After their trip to Kandahar they went to Punjwai where they visited the unit (see comments in the "Rehab Units" part). This unit received also the visit of Dr Iman from MCI.

2. Completed activities

2.1. Training:

A new training for the manufacture of above knee (AK) prosthesis has started in August with two technicians (one from Karni Manda/Musa Qala/Helmand and one from Spendai/Ghazni/Ghazni). One technician from Dara/Baghran/Helmand was supposed to attend this training but he did not show up until now.

A new technician was hired for the Nakhuni/Punjwai unit to replace the one who has been killed a few months ago. Since the month of July he has been attending a below knee (BK) prosthesis training which will last eight months (until March 1993). He is doing a very good work and showing a high motivation.

A refresher training is going on with a technician from Karni Manda/Musa Qala/Helmand about the manufacture of the BK prosthesis. This training will be finished in October.

Unfortunately all these trainings have been quite disturbed except for the new BK training. As a matter of fact the two technicians from Musa Qala have been called twice by their Commander to go to Chaman for "personnal" reasons. Handicap International has sent a letter to express its worries concerning these "disappearances" and to explain to IAHC that the training could not go on if the technicians were always absent. Since this time it did not happen again until September 28th when the two technicians left once again...for Musa Qala. Officially they were called by the Musa Qala Commander for only one week. Handicap International strongly hopes them to come back!

Moreover the technician from Spendai left also for two weeks because of a death in his family. He should be back at the middle of October. As a result the only training still going on is the one with the new technician from Punjwai. All the other ones will be delayed due to the absences of the trainees. Hopefully this is not a bad presage for the new agreement signed between Handicap International and its partners.

2.2. Rehab Units/Evaluation visits:

Dara team:

The 4th evaluation visit of this unit started in June but was not reported in the last report. Some small work has been done in the workshop, regarding the roof and the walls damaged by the rain. Still the floor of the workshop needs to be concreted. Only one technician was present in the workshop during a few days as one technician was sick, another one was in training and the supervisor was in Quetta for this evaluation visit. This one thinks that the number of patients might increase as the Musa Qala workshop has been looted during the fightings, which would push the patients from this region to come to Baghran.

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However it seems that patients have security problems to come to the workshop as Baghran is surrounded by districts where fightings are going on. The security inside the district is good (leadership of only one commander)

The technicians have requested that the crutch maker should be trained to the manufacture of the BK prosthesis as they think that only one technician is not enough to produce BK prosthesis regarding the number of patients (but the second technician to be trained for AK didn't start yet the training).

- Figures from December 1990 to May 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 32
Above Knee Amputees: 10
Others : 214

Number of patients referred: To hospitals in Afghanistan: 77
To HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 9
To HI-Quetta for others : 2

Number of devices given: B.K. Prostheses: 29
Crutches : 234 (pairs)
(A.K. Patients referred to Quetta).

Spendai team:

The Supervisor arrived in Quetta on September 21st for its 6th evaluation visit. Several patients (Below knee and Above knee amputated patients) have been registered during the period reported but only a few of them have been discharged. The local manager of the Training Centre in Quetta tried to convince him that the technicians should work with more than one patient at the same time. He sent also a letter to the Spendai workshop to explain the rules and the way to increase the production.

A motorbike has been bought in order to try to increase the number of patients registered and discharged. It seems that this new "outreach activity" did not bring the expected results (one patient discharged per technician per month from July to September). However HI made the decision to refund this motorbike to IAHC (from the available 92 budget) to give one more time a new chance to this unit.

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HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

- Figures from October 1990 to September 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 30 (one double
amputee)
Above Knee Amputees: 24
Others : 25

Number of patients referred: to hospitals in Afghanistan: 5
to HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 2
to HI-Quetta for others : 1

Number of devices given: B.K. Prosthesis: 17
A.K. Prosthesis: 1
Crutches : 48 (pairs)

Karni Manda Team:

The second evaluation visit took place in August. At this time the workshop was not yet finished as the surrounding wall and the well for the water had not been constructed and the roof not recovered. However the fightings of the month of June seemed to cancel any hope of seeing this building achieved. As a matter of fact, all the tools and material have been stolen during the fightings and the beginning of the production had to be once more delayed. No patients were seen and even registered until now. The supervisor brought to Quetta a list of the remaining tools and is now waiting for the resupply of the workshop.

However IAHC is planning to transfer the workshop from Musa Qala to Kajaki as they have already transferred their clinic and this for security reason. This point is still under consideration as this transfer would need to be funded and HI is not any more in a position to make any financial decision regarding the project. This has to be discussed between IAHC and IRC.

Unfortunately, as explained in the "training" part the two technicians of this unit who were in training in Quetta have left for at least one week. After the disappearance of the material, will the technicians of this unit meet the same fate?

Nakhouni Team:

It was the second evaluation visit for the supervisor of the unit who came to Quetta at the end of July. The facilities provided to the technicians to work were not very good at this moment. The building was too small and too dark (the supervisor was working outside to be able to fill all his documents!). However they were transferred later on to an other temporary building until the definitive one is built.

One new technician is being trained in Quetta to replace the one who had been accidentally killed a few months ago.

The technicians received courses from the MCI clinic (math and pushtu writing). It has been decided to purchase a motorcycle for the Unit and to use it for an outreach purpose as well as for the relations with the shura and other agencies.

One unexpected evaluation visit from the local manager of the training centre and one HI physiotherapist expatriate took place in Punjwai on July 29th. They were coming from our rehabilitation centre in Quetta with a UNHCR mission to try to evaluate the needs of the disabled people in Kandahar. During this stay they got the opportunity to go to Punjwai.

At this moment the technicians were in a very small building without any light to be able to work correctly. However it seems that the work done there was very good either regarding the quality of the prosthesis or the administrative management of the patients (technical cards, patients registration,...). The HI physiotherapist checked the physio exercises which were very well done by the technicians.

Dr Iman from MCI went also to Punjwai on August 23-24 and sent his report to HI office. The construction is going on. According to this report "the building will be ready for use by end of November". One of the technician stopped working in the workshop because of some political tensions with the Commander of the region. We are trying to solve positively this problem. It seems that the workshop is receiving a lot of patients who are in need of a prosthesis

- Figures from February 1992 to June 1992:

Number of patients seen: Below Knee Amputees: 18
Above Knee Amputees: 31
Others : 62

Number of patients referred: to hospitals in Afghanistan: 20
to HI-Quetta for prosthesis: 35
to HI-Quetta for others : 36

Number of devices given: B.K. Prosthesis: 11
Crutches : 68 (pairs)

2.3. Partners:

MCI: Two technicians from MCI units should be now in Quetta to follow their training but only one is there. The technician from Baghran is still expected. The collaboration is very good with this partner except maybe for the financial reports which are always taking some time to reach HI office.

The new agreement with this partner has been signed in September. As mentioned in the last quarterly report MCI is now funded directly by USAID for the running of the units. A letter has been sent to warn that all financial reports should be sent to HI at the end of the month of October which is the dateline for HI to submit a final financial report to IRC for all expenses regarding the units.

IAHC: Many meetings were held between HI and IAHC during this quarter. Once again financial problems and arguments were raised especially concerning the Unit of Musa Qala/Helmand. HI was asked by IAHC to refund the material which has been stolen during the recent fightings and also to participate in the relocation of the workshop. As HI is no more a funder for IAHC, the decision has been made that all these points would be solved directly between IAHC and IRC. IAHC has sent a budget proposal to IRC in order to be funded from September 92 to August 93 for the running of the two units. This proposal is still under consideration.

The new agreement has been signed with IAHC in September. Thus the collaboration between IAHC and HI will remain at the technical level (see new agreement attached).

Jamiat Health Committee (Zindajan): The supervisor and one technician from Zindadjan/Herat unit came to Quetta on 2nd of July. It has been confirmed with them that HI would not transfer the prosthetic workshop from Zindadjan to Herat as ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) has already started the building of one orthopaedic centre.

At the same time a meeting was held in HI office with Ismael Khan (Commander of Herat) Representative in Peshawar. It has been explained that HI was ready to come again to Herat but would deal only with patients suffering from poliomyelitis or other disabilities but amputations as ICRC production would be enough to meet the needs of the amputated patients. It has been said also that HI would go to Herat through the official way which means through Kabul and the Ministry of Health in order to be registered in due form.

2.4. Miscellaneous:

USAID has approved the extension of the project and the grant till February 1993 (extension of six months). The remaining money will cover the running costs of the training centre in Quetta as well as a part of the training in Peshawar of the former local manager of the Quetta Centre. This one is in Peshawar until March 1993 and is studying orthotic and prosthetic mid-level technology in GTZ/PETCOT.

More details have been sent in June to BBC London about the new kind of production in the units (above knee prosthesis). BBC broadcast this information in Pashto on July 2nd. This service should be used once again before the end of the year or at the beginning of 1993 to inform the disabled about the production of above knee prosthesis in the Helmand units.

Contacts / Visits: * two HI staff members went to Kandahar and Punjwai to visit the unit located there (see "rehab units" part)
* Ms Ariel Ahart and Mrs Diana Jelich came to Quetta to carry out an IRC audit of the project. Their definitive report should reach HI office during the month of October.

* Meeting with Ismael Khan Representative in Peshawar (see above).

* Mr Javeed and Mr Yonus from IRC Peshawar came to Quetta for a financial audit. One of the aims of this audit was also to clarify which amount of money would remain from the grant allocated by USAID to the project at the end of August.

3. Uncompleted activities

The same technology is still used in the workshops. It has been decided to postpone the use of a mid-level technology for a few reasons: no electricity in the units, no presence of any HI expatriate to supervise such a new technology and need for the technicians to be very familiar with the technology used for the moment before using any other one.

The construction of the Musa Qala workshop is not finished yet but it seems that the situation in Musa Qala will not push IAHC to achieve it. The workshop itself might be relocated to another village.

4. Unanticipated activities

To a certain point the "non-starting" of the Musa Qala Unit could be considered as an unanticipated activity. The end of the first agreement was reached without any single device produced by this unit. Moreover the time spent to discuss about the construction of this workshop and to build it seem to have been useless. The only victims of such a delay are once more the patients in need of orthopaedic devices to recover a normal daily activity.

5. Projected activities

All trainings but the new BK one should be finished before the end of January 93 (date already delayed due to the absence of the technicians) providing that the two technicians from Musa Qala are coming back to Quetta within a reasonable period of time.

Handicap International will try to send another person inside Afghanistan in order to have the possibility to see by its own eyes the work done in the rehab units in this country. Hopefully the political situation will improve so that this hope becomes reality.

A brief report (to avoid any duplication with the IRC evaluation report) will be written by HI staff about the past two years of the project (from 1990 to 1992). The aim of this report will be to present all the difficulties or the good results faced by HI during the implementation of the project: Which lesson can be learnt from this kind of collaboration? What would be done if HI had to start again a collaboration like this one? Which advice should be given? This report should be achieved during the month of November.



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= **OCTOBER to DECEMBER 1991.** =
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Quetta, January 1992.

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- ORTHOPAEDIC TRAINING CENTRE FOR AFGHAN TECHNICIANS AND REHABILITATION UNITS INSIDE AFGHANISTAN.
- HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL.
- QUATERLY NARRATIVE REPORT.
- TARGET REGION : Southern Afghanistan (Helmand, Ghazni and Kandahar), South-West Afghanistan (Herat).
- REPORTING PERIOD : From 01/10/1991 up to 31/12/1991.
- RESPONSIBLE PERSON : Francois De Keersmaecker - Coordinator.

1. Summary of progress.

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- The Technician from Nakhouni who came to continue his training is still working in our Quetta Training Centre. He got a very nice level as he had a important follow-up during this additional training.
- We asked some Technicians (the weakest), from the 2 Units which haven't started yet their activities, to come to Quetta to have a refreshal training of 1 month at the end of this year 91. We got 2 Technicians from Nakhouni and 1 from Karni Manda. They will manufacture 1 prosthesis and after go back to their Unit to join the Technicians who will already have started the work, when the materials have arrived there.
- The Technician from Spendai who came for the retraining in September 91 to be Technical Supervisor of his Unit left the training after 2 weeks because of personal problems. And the Technician called from Dara never came. Finally, this retraining has been cancelled.
- The fourth evaluation visit from the Spendai Unit took place during the month of December 91. The Supervisor of Dara didn't come ; we didn't see him since the end of the second evaluation visit in June 91. But, at the end of December 91, we had a radio contact with this area and we have been told that the Supervisor and a Technician are on the way to Quetta.
- We started the Above Knee prosthesis training for the Technician of Spendai who came with his Supervisor for the evaluation visit. The Technician from Dara will join this training when he will be in Quetta.

2. Completed activities.

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2.1. Training.

- Only 1 Technician from Nakhouni came for the additional training and he is still here. He is now a very good Technician and he will be able to advice his fellows. As the ban about Afghanistan is now lifted up, he will soon leave Quetta with the materials and start the Workshop production with the Technician who remained there (2 are under refreshal training and will join them later) and the Supervisor.
- The retraining for 1 Technician from Spendai and Dara didn't take place, as they failed to show up.

- 3 Technicians (2 from Nakhouni and 1 from Karni Manda) are under refreshal training on the Below Knee prosthesis.
- The Technician from Spendai started during this last week of December 91 the complementary training on Above Knee prosthesis which is planned to be finished in the second half of April 92 (4 months).
- The materials for the Unit of Nakhouni and Karni Manda are still in the Training Centre store.
For Karni Manda, we got the autorisation to send the materials more than a month ago, but difficulties to get the permit and now fightings on the way between Kandahar and Helmand prevent the Partner from sending it. They hope to do it soon, despite the bad weather during the winter.
For Nakhouni, the uplifting of the ban will allow MCI to send the materials in the first days of January 92.

2.2. Evaluation visits.

The fourth evaluation visit took place in early December 91 for the Supervisor of Sendai only.
The Supervisor of Dara has been blocked on the way for security reasons and is now on his way to Quetta.
We had also the visits of the Supervisors from the 2 Units not yet working.

Dara Unit :

- We had some more information about this Unit through a nurse of the MCI Hospital of Dara, early in November 91, and through a radio contact in December 91.
The nurse reported the bad security conditions on the way to Quetta (he came through Uruzgan). According to what he said, everything was running well in the Unit, but for the lack of patients. He was not very critical though.
The radio contact allowed us to encourage the Supervisor to come to Quetta despite the problem on the way, through another and longer way, if necessary. We were informed about 14 new patients fitted with devices since the last evaluation visit in May 91. But this figure must be confirmed during the evaluation visit, with the photographs taken.
- We didn't receive any feedback about the work of the former Supervisor as Outreach Worker, for the identification of the amputees and their reference to the Dara Unit.

- The construction of the Guest House is finished but we are waiting for some photographs, before we pay the last instalment.
- With those 14 patients registered and fitted with devices, the total number of prostheses made should be around 25. We don't have the exact production figures, as we are waiting for the arrival of the Supervisor.

Spendai Unit :

- The interview of the Supervisor and the photographs he brought confirmed that they improved the welcoming of the patients and the work conditions of the Technicians.
- The contacts with other projects running in the area are good, and the collaboration between all the IAHC Supervisors looks fruitful.
- Despite a good advertisement campaign, the number of patients is not increasing. We had a meeting with the Commander of this area to encourage him to be more involved, to provide facilities for the patients and to spread the information through his Commanders.
- The security conditions around Ghazni city are improving as the Supervisor didn't report any bombardment or fight close to the Unit.
- There have been some troubles with a Technician who doesn't want to continue to work. Since he has changed his mind, some tools have disappeared. But our Partner is now aware of this and they will find a solution.
- As the Supervisor of the Unit can not spend all his time in the Workshop because he is responsible of the advertisement for the Unit and because he is also in charge of a MCH project of our Partner in the area, they decided to hire a storekeeper, in order to avoid other thefts.
- The fourth Technician, trained during the training session which ended in July 91, has been integrated without any difficulties and he already had the opportunity to treat patients.
- Figures from December 90 to November 91:
 - Number of patients seen: Below Knee amputees: 16.
 - Above Knee amputees: 11.
 - Others: 10.
 - Number of devices given: Below Knee prostheses: 14.
 - Crutches: 24 (pairs).

Nakhouni Unit :

- The Supervisor visited us in November 91. But the Workshop activities were still to be started, so it was just a knowledge control.
- At a meeting organised by the Supervisor with the Commander of the area, the latter confirmed that he will give to the team a temporary house to start the work when the materials arrive. The construction of the Workshop is submitted to the construction of the MCI clinic and will certainly not start before the spring.

Karni Manda Unit :

- The Unit Supervisor visited us in December 91 and the IAHC Supervisor for this area, in November 91. There also the activities haven't started yet. But the construction, reportedly finished in July 91, is only now nearly completed.

Zindajan Unit :

- We received a video showing the results of the bombardments on Zindajan by gouvernement troupes. The Workshop is completely destroyed.
- We had also a phone call from the Supervisor. He was in Iran but we asked him to go back to the Workshop to get some information about the present situation and to bring back all the documents and photographs related to their work since they left Quetta in January 91. We expect his arrival in the next weeks.

2.3. Partners.

- MCI: . For the same reasons as before, we never had a feedback from Dr Qassem working in the Dara MCI clinic. He is normally helping the Unit team for the daily management.
 - . The uplifting of the ban in the last days of December 91 will allow them to send the materials inside, as it would have been done in August 91.
 - . MCI continues to pay the salaries as planned.
 - . We had meetings with them to still try to increase the support to the team and get more patients.

- IAHC: . Around mid-November 91, we got the authorisation for IAHC to send the materials. Facing some problem to get the permit, trying to join some materials to finish the construction and now wishing to avoid fights on the way, they didn't send the materials yet.
- . The construction of the Workshop will be completed when they receive the doors and windows going together with the raw materials to Afghanistan.
- . There are some tensions between IAHC and HI because of some misunderstanding on how funds must be provided and the supervision must be done. These problems are expected to be solved as soon as possible.

2.4. Miscellaneous.

- Visits: . The Commanders of Ghazni area (Spendai Unit) and Punjwai area (Nakhouni Unit) visited us. We tried to get them more involved in the running of the project.
- . Ms Nancy Hardy from USAid/Islamabad came to visit the programme, as well as Ms Lisa Lauman, from IRC/Islamabad.
- . Mr Serge Rochatte from HI/Lyon (France), technical consultant, came to discuss some improvements related to the cosmetics of the prostheses.
- . Mr Pascal Simon from HI/Brussels (Belgium), Programme Director, came to assess the work we have done. We agreed on the necessity to continue to support the Units, to try to improve the services offered and to get more patients. Despite the numerous difficulties we are facing, we are willing to go on with our project, even if the start is slow, and the progress is not much faster than it has been.
- Replacement: . Mss Beatrice Le Van Trucc, administrator of the Training Centre has been replaced at the end of November 91 by Mss Bartha Boualam, French citizen.

- Idea: . We started to discuss with the Partners about the possibility to create some income generating projects around the Units, involving perhaps the handicapped people themselves. It is also a mean to try to increase the number of patients and the quality of our work. HI is always interested in such projects which include a service (prostheses) and a production facility (carpentry, leather work,...), that would perhaps provide part of the funding.

- Travel: . Mr Hafeez Ullah, Manager and Teacher of the Training Centre, went to Peshawar for 3 weeks to follow a training on the prosthetic technologies used at the ICRC and SGAA Workshops. He found it very interesting and we are sure it will enlarge his views and approach of the orthopaedic devices.

. Mr Francois De Keersmaeker, Coordinator, went to Peshawar for 1 week in order to be informed about future projects for the disabled people inside Afghanistan. Indeed, we want our Units to be included in those projects.
He tried also to get the Agencies working inside Afghanistan to advertise about our Units.

. Mr Patrick Delperdange, Technical Supervisor of the Training Centre, also went to Peshawar for 2 weeks to supervise the training of Mr Hafeez Ullah and to have a look on the work done by the sister agencies.
He had also several meetings about the promotion of our Units in Afghanistan.

3. Postponed or cancelled activities.

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- The evaluation visit for Dara didn't take place yet. According to the radio contact we had, the Supervisor must now be on his way to Quetta.

- The 1 month retraining for the 2 Technicians from Dara and Spendai has been cancelled. The Technician from Dara never came because of security problems preventing him from travelling. The one from Spendai came but has to leave for personal reasons. We didn't plan to organize again such a retraining because, for the moment, we are busy with several refreshal trainings and with the Above Knee prosthesis training. Also, we didn't want to further reduce the number of workers in the Units.

- The Karni Manda Workshop will be finished as soon as the doors and the windows bought in Quetta will be fitted into place.
- The materials for the Karni Manda Unit, which were authorised to be sent through IAHC, are still in Quetta, as our Partner faced several delays. We will try to have the materials sent there in the next week, despite the uncertain weather conditions.
- We were told by USAid in the last days of December 91 about the uplifting of the ban. It is a good news which will permit MCI to forward the materials to the Nakhouni Unit soon.
- The training planned for the Taloqan/UNOCA project is cancelled until further notice, following news about a training in Peshawar that will start at the beginning of 1992.
- The 2 Supervisors from Nakhouni and Karni Manda visited us, but the evaluation was short as the work didn't start yet in those Units.

4. Unanticipated activities.

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- We decided not to give the Above Knee training at the planned date because the Units of Nakhouni and Karni Manda would not have been working yet. As the number of Above Knee amputees reported by the team of Spendai was high, we decided to do 2 trainings.
 - . From January to April 92 for 2 Technicians (Spendai and Dara), the first training.
 - . Later, around July 92, the second training for 2 Technicians of the last 2 Units, when they will have been working for a few months.
- Mr Hafeez Ullah has been selected by UNESCO to attend to a seminar "Youth in action" held in Paris for 3 weeks during the month of December 91. It was a good opportunity for him to improve his general knowledge about the help to the unprovided people and it had no consequence on the work of the Centre, as the Administrator and the Technical Supervisor were present.

5. Projected activities.

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- The 2 Technicians from Nakhouni will finish their 1 month refreshal training at the end of January 92.

- The Technician from Karni Manda will also finish his refreshal training at the same date. The second Technician of this Unit, who needs a refreshal training will do it when he will comes with the Supervisor for the first evaluation visit.
- The first training on Above Knee prosthesis for the Technician of Spendai already started. The training for the Technician of Dara will start when he arrives.
- The second training on Above Knee prosthesis for both Units of Nakhouni and Karni Manda will start around July 92, .
- We expect the Supervisor of Dara and the Technician who must follow the Above Knee prosthesis training to arrive within a few days.
- The fifth evaluation visit for Spendai is scheduled in mid-April 92, after the rain season.
- The first evaluation visits for Nakhouni and Karni Manda will take place 1 1/2 month after the sending of the materials, normally around the second half of February 92.
- The efforts to increase the number of patients in the Units will continue on the same basis as before : better spreading of the information in the area around the Workshops, involvement of the Commanders in the problems faced, contacts with the other agencies working inside Afghanistan, improvement of the facilities allowing the patients to reach the Unit, extension of the services offered,...
- We expect the arrival of the Supervisor of Zindajan in the following weeks, to have a better idea about what was and is hapening there (Workshop, Technicians, materials sent in April 91,...). All the projects of expenditures for this Unit, regarding reconstruction or sending of materials, have been cancelled until a clearer situation can be pictured.

ANNEXES

- 1) Quaterly Financial Report.
- 2) HI Monthly cumulative expenses worksheet.
- 3) Situation map of the Rehabilitation Units.