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## Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP)



**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER - MAR. 2021**

**USAID/LEPP**

The Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) provides Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) access to federal surplus property to support their humanitarian and development projects abroad. LEPP utilizes an innovative model of recovery and reuse to support a variety of development projects that promote sustainability in developing countries. LEPP is managed by USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA), which is part of the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation's Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships (LFT) Hub.

### First Quarter LEPP Property Transfer Highlights

A variety of items valued at \$9,653,220.64 were procured through LEPP in the first quarter of FY 2021. Most of the property was earmarked for regional hospitals and health care

centers that serve remote populations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

World Help, in partnership with LEPP, procured over \$5 million worth of military grade surgical sterilizers to be disbursed to Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Zambia. These items will be used to sterilize medical and surgical instruments used in rural hospitals and clinics. Many health care centers in rural areas do not have surgical sterilizers, so health care workers are forced to hand wash their surgical instruments or go without the supplies they need. Having an adequate method for cleaning medical and surgical instruments will help mitigate bacteria spread and improve operational efficiency for many facilities World Help is working to assist.

In addition, CharityVision, in partnership with LEPP processed nearly \$700,000 worth of Olympus endoscopes (colonoscopes and gastroscopes) for Haiti. For 5 years, CharityVision has partnered with one of only four Haitian gastroenterologists. This requisition was one of several in CharityVision's latest effort to upgrade endoscopy services to the people of Haiti.

Other federal surplus property CharityVision requisitioned includes a C-Arm X-ray worth \$160, 217 for use at the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. The Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute provides orthopedic services to the entire Dar es Salaam region and is the only hospital of its type in Tanzania. CharityVision also requisitioned nearly \$150,000 worth of surgical instruments and ophthalmic equipment to support regional hospitals and health care facilities in the Philippines.

## PVO Spotlight on World Help



World Help PVO partner Josh Brewer tours the Kiboga Hospital facility in Uganda with Kiboga staff to determine existing needs.

For 34 years, the Limited Excess Property Program (LEPP) has been helping to strengthen local outcomes by providing federal surplus property to Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) working in over 70 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. LEPP believes in the importance of building strong partnerships with our PVOs as together we make an impact on the beneficiary communities we work with. As our PVO partners continually strive to impact the world by offering disaster relief, humanitarian aid, and emergency preparedness where needed, we want

to highlight the good work they are doing as well as the good people who are doing the work. Therefore, starting with our March newsletter, we will be featuring our PVO partners in a "PVO Spotlight." In this segment you will learn more about our PVO partners — their challenges, successes, and what inspires them — as they work every day to develop programs that create sustainability in underserved communities. Our spotlighted PVOs will also provide some tried-and-true tips for other PVO partners on how to use federal surplus property to successfully support their programs.

In this issue, we are featuring Josh Brewer, Director of Aid and Relief with World Help.

**Q: World Help is one of our longest-standing PVO partners. We appreciate your partnership! Can you tell us a little about your program and your role?**

**A:** World Help's Gifts-in-Kind (GIK) program was established in 1993 with some of its first container-shipments going to aid equipment- and supply-deficient hospitals in rural Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Iron Curtain. Throughout the program's nearly 30-year lifespan, World Help has been able to mobilize over 650 40 ft. containers of relief aid to more than 20 countries. Donations are valued at nearly \$250 million and have impacted over 20,000,000 people.

**Q: What types of humanitarian aid or development programs are utilizing the property donated through LEPP and transferred by your organization?**

**A:** Consistent with our strategy from the early years, World Help positions its GIK program to focus on the most vulnerable areas and communities where there is no access to basic and critical aid. Currently, the organization works to support dozens of rural and under-resourced health care facilities in over 10 countries, including Zambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, and Uganda. Most of these countries receive property transferred via LEPP. Property ranges from exam tables to X-ray machines to incubators. With the new 607 requests, we plan to extend our program to Peru, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe.

**Q: What community challenges/problems do these programs work to address? Can you share with us any statistical data related to the problems/challenges?**

**A:** While statistical data for health care access and treatment vary from country to country, we have observed one consistent theme: most rural hospitals and clinics in developing countries do not have the resources to provide adequate care to their communities. When a community is plagued by disease or their hospitals do not have access to affordable equipment and supplies, the community suffers, and the crippling cycle of poverty continues. The work we do at World Help is so important because it offers people a chance, a hand-up, and hope to end the cycles of poverty that have kept communities crippled for generations.

**Q: What have the programs/organizations/institutions been able to accomplish with property donated through LEPP?**

**A:** Many of the health care facilities we target and assist are severely marginalized, either due to limited resources, being under-staffed, corruption, or other circumstances. By providing equipment and supplies, at no cost, these facilities can re-appropriate resources to other areas, such as offering better services or hiring more doctors. This totally transforms the effectiveness and efficiency of the facilities, resulting in better care for patients and more lives saved. Over the past 10 years, World Help with LEPP's support, has mobilized more than \$75 million in equipment and supplies to the field in more than 100 shipping containers, providing hundreds of thousands of people with the help they need.

**Q: Do you have any examples of smart, flexible, and creative solutions implemented by local stakeholders who were actively engaged in the planning and implementation process of projects that made/make use of property donated through LEPP?**

**A:** World Help in partnership with LEPP enabled 20 fish farms in Guatemala to raise tilapia in the winter months and increase production to more than 2 million pounds of fish – in and out of season. The fish farms received sewage ejectors and tanks from LEPP that were re-engineered to heat and cool water to appropriate temperatures during harsher months when

farmers are unable to farm tilapia. These creative solutions were implemented by local stakeholders who were actively engaged in the planning and implementation of the aid program. The results speak for themselves:

- Since the project began in 2011, 2 million people have been positively impacted.
- Year-to-date, more than 95,000 people have been positively impacted in 2020. (Extreme drought since 2017 caused a 50% reduction in production).
- More than 2.3 million pounds of tilapia have been produced in the past 9 years as a direct result of the property received from LEPP.

**Q: How is COVID-19 impacting your programs? Are you using LEPP property in your COVID-19 response? If so, how?**

**A:** Due to COVID-19, the need for medical equipment and supplies has never been greater. We are hearing from several locations that equipment and supplies we distributed prior to COVID-19 have dramatically increased the health care facilities we support's abilities to prepare and confront the virus head-on. Items that have proven to be especially beneficial during this pandemic are ventilators and PPE items, such as masks and gloves, which we were able to mobilize late last year and early this year.

In addition, World Help has been able to distribute more than 90,000 hygiene kits, supplied via LEPP, ahead of COVID-19. This has allowed our teams to respond quickly and efficiently to help protect vulnerable people and stop the spread of the pandemic throughout several developing countries.

**Q: I understand you have worked with World Help right out of college. In your 10 years working with World Help and partnering with LEPP, how has the relationship grown? How has the partnership's impact on your development projects changed or evolved?**

**A:** From our first year of partnership with LEPP in 2010 where we transferred just over \$2 million (original acquisition cost) worth of property to today where World Help transfers more than \$17 million worth of property (FY 2019), we have had an increase of more than 800 percent, or an average growth rate of 80% year over year.

In addition to the financial growth, since we've partnered with LEPP, World Help has seen its outreach grow from a focus solely on Guatemala to outreach in 10 countries. Thanks to LEPP, World Help went from assisting one health care facility in Guatemala to assisting more than 40 health care facilities around the world.

As if that were not enough, the LEPP program has given our national partners a platform to reach more people as national and regional governments have taken notice of the outreach and have engaged with us at a level we would never have imagined. Currently, governments, specifically the ministries of health agencies in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Uganda, have all offered support and opened doors for our program because they see the benefit it is having on so many people.

**Q: What is most gratifying about working with World Help and partnering with LEPP?**

**A:** I want my life to mean something. Ever since I was a kid, I have had a desire to help people. At World Help, our mission is to help people and we do that every day, especially those who are vulnerable and cannot help themselves. Knowing that what I do every day plays a role in accomplishing that mission, well, I couldn't ask for more.

Our strategic partnership with LEPP allows us access to products and resources that we

would not otherwise have access to. These resources have allowed us to meet the strategic needs in areas we otherwise would not be able to. Moreover, our partnership with LEPP has given both World Help and its national partners a larger platform to reach more people and make broader connections which has propelled our outreach.

**Q: In your experience, what was a particularly memorable humanitarian project World Help has supported with LEPP donations? Why was it memorable?**

**A:** I believe our ongoing work to help outfit rural hospitals and clinics with the equipment and supplies they desperately need is likely the most enduring project we have implemented. It is no exaggeration to say that there are dozens of health care facilities that have been able to dramatically improve their care and services as a result of our assistance and LEPP donations. This creates healthier communities and reverses the crippling cycles of poverty.

**Q: Doing great humanitarian work requires a lot of energy! In your program travels, where did you enjoy your best cup of “Joe” for a quick pick-me-up?**

**A:** Unfortunately for this question, I don’t drink coffee. But I do take a healthy portion of energy supplements with me wherever I go. I can add them to a bottle of water, and they keep me going! Due to COVID-19, I have not travelled much lately, but on one of my last trips, I must have gone through an entire box as we crammed four countries in Central Africa into about a six-day trip!

**Q: I’m sure your work is extremely rewarding but also has its challenges. Can you give me an example of a challenge you’ve faced in your work and how you’ve overcome it?**

**A:** There is always a challenge when you face a seemingly never-ending need for basic relief for underserved people. On average, our organization is only able to fulfill around 25% of the requests for assistance each year. While helping to provide the basic necessities to thousands is rewarding, knowing that we are only scratching the surface is challenging. It is why partnerships like our partnership with LEPP are so important; they help us continue to do everything we can to help as many as we can each year.

**Q: As one of our longest standing PVO partners, can you give some tips for other PVO partners on how you’ve used property donated through LEPP to successfully support your programs?**

**A:**

- 1. Invest in the Area Property Officers (APOs) and Holding Locations** – Cultivating relationships with key people within the supply chain process has proven to be highly beneficial to operating a successful program and ensuring the highest ROI.
- 2. Get on the Cycle Early** – As the program and competition from other agencies continues to grow, the earlier you get on the cycle, the better your chances are to secure the property you want and need. Be careful to observe screening windows and cycle refresh and upload timelines.
- 3. Do Your Due Diligence Up Front** – Spend the extra time you need at the beginning of the process to verify and validate your orders. Be sure to push the holding locations and APOs to obtain the product information (condition, quantities, brand/make, etc.) you need to make a sound decision. Once the property has left the holding station, you will have a hard time returning it.

4. **Involve the Mission When and Where You Can** – While the level of engagement and participation varies from mission to mission, you should make an effort to invite missions to engage and participate with your program(s). For example, you can ask them to join field visits and/or physical handovers to your project sites. Missions have the potential to be a major support to your program efforts and can help you make connections that might not otherwise be possible.

*Thanks so much for taking the time to help us learn more about your program and your passions, Josh. We look forward to many more years of partnering with World Help to continue to serve underserved communities. -- The LEPP Team*



Property donated to the Kiboga Hospital through LEPP includes exam tables, ventilators, vital signs monitors, microscopes, and EKGs.

## LEPP Ophthalmic and Dental Equipment Donations Help Provide Treatments to Underserved Communities throughout Tanzania

LEPP impacts populations in developing countries by providing scarce medical, dental, and ophthalmic equipment and supplies to institutions that bring affordable health care services to low-income populations. One example is CharityVision Tanzania, in collaboration with LEPP's partner CharityVision International, which has benefited from LEPP transfers of ophthalmic and dental equipment for use in several hospitals throughout Tanzania. Many of the beneficiaries reside in areas with limited access to preventative care and medical treatment which could contribute to negative health outcomes in their communities. Here are some of the hospitals that received donations through LEPP and the impact it has had in the lives of so many.

### **Kamanga Hospital**

Kamanga Hospital is located in Mwanza, a port city on the shore of Lake Victoria in northern Tanzania. The hospital serves over 10,000 patients per year, reaching remote areas in Shinyanga and Simuyu. Through LEPP, the hospital received an anesthesia machine, an

operating table, a checkup table, an operating generator, and 10 monitors. Before receiving donations through LEPP, Kamanga Hospital was limited to prescribing eyeglasses to patients as they lacked the necessary equipment to perform cataract or other ophthalmic surgeries. Thanks to property donated through LEPP, Kamanga Hospital now has a fully functioning operating room and was able to hire an ophthalmologist to provide surgical services to those in need.

### **Morogoro Hospital**

Morogoro Hospital is a general regional hospital in the Morogoro Region of Tanzania. It serves 1,000,000 patients per year in Gairo, Kilombero, Kilosa, Mvomero, Ulunga, and the Morogoro Township. In the past, Morogoro Hospital lacked the equipment necessary to provide advanced dental treatment to its patients. The hospital had to refer both private and government patients to other hospitals for treatment, resulting in a loss of revenue. With dental equipment donated through LEPP, Morogoro Hospital can now provide patients with the advanced dental treatment they need.

### **Medewell Hospital**

Medewell Hospital is located in the Kibaha District of the Pwani Region of Tanzania. The hospital serves 10,000 patients per year in the Pwani Regions, Bagamoyo, Kibaha, Kiluvya, Milandizi, Tumbi, Kibamba, and the outskirt regions of Dar es Salaam. The hospital received an autorefractor through LEPP, which is a machine that automatically determines the correct lens prescriptions for patients. Before receiving the autorefractor, the hospital had to use other equipment that resulted in less accurate prescriptions for patients and a waste of lenses. With the donations made through LEPP, Medewell is now able to provide patients with the accurate lens prescriptions they need.

### **Ilembula Hospital**

Ilembula hospital is located in the city of Ilembula and serves 10,000 patients per year in the Ilembula Township, Njombe, Mafinga, Makambako, Tukuyu, Mufindi, Kidugula, Chunya, Chimala, and the outskirts of Mbeya. The hospital received an operating microscope through LEPP to replace the old, unreliable operating microscope the hospital had previously used. With the old microscope, it was difficult for doctors to detect premature cataracts, so patients were told to return in six months when the cataract matured. As cataracts mature, symptoms become worse and can sometimes lead to blindness. With the new microscope, doctors can detect premature cataracts and provide the necessary cataract treatments for patients that can help prevent blindness.

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## **LEPP Partners with CharityVision International to Make a Difference**

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As donations made through LEPP help CharityVision Tanzania provide life-changing eye and dental treatments in underserved communities, here are some personal stories on the tremendous difference these donations have made in two beneficiaries' lives.

### **Asha – Dodoma City, Tanzania**

Asha, normally a friendly, outgoing woman, has become increasingly isolated. Asha has battled with cataracts for several years and describes her experience as being in a dark and lonesome place. Asha's son and daughter moved in to take care of her and she is grateful for their support



during some of the darkest times of her life. Asha is beyond grateful for the cataract surgery she received through CharityVision Tanzania with ophthalmic equipment made possible through LEPP. She says the surgery saved her.

*“You saved me, you saved me. I cannot express how I feel. I am no longer alone.”*  
— Asha



*“I was treated so well, and I am so grateful for these eyeglasses. It’s like I can breathe again.”* — Masima

### **Masima – Dodoma City, Tanzania**

Fourteen-year-old Masima made a special promise to her mother that she would finish her studies so they could enjoy a better life. Masima has worn eyeglasses with high prescription lenses since she was very young, but since she broke her eyeglasses a few years ago, she has been unable to replace them. Going without eyeglasses has presented a huge challenge for Masima. She has poor depth perception and suffers from constant, severe headaches. Thankfully, Masima was provided a new pair of prescription eyeglasses through CharityVision Tanzania with the help of LEPP donations. Now, Masima can continue her studies and pursue a better life for her and her mother.

## **Laptop Computers Donated through LEPP Help Optimize Patient Care for a Children’s Hospital in Guatemala**

The Children’s Hospital Juan Pablo II in Mixco, Guatemala (Hospital Materno Infantil Juan Pablo II) has been providing medical services in Guatemala since 1985. The hospital provides health care services to children and adolescents from birth to 17 years of age in more than 20 pediatric specialties as well as reproductive health care in the areas of gynecology and obstetrics. In addition, Juan Pablo II provides general health care services, including clinical laboratory, pharmaceutical, and X-ray services, and runs an emergency



room for patients in critical conditions. With financial assistance from private funds and the local government, the Children’s Hospital Juan Pablo II receives patients from all departments within Guatemala and provides quality medical care to more than 125,000 patients a year.

Food For The Poor in partnership with LEPP donated 125 computers to the Children’s Hospital Juan Pablo II to be used in the hospital’s clinics and other areas of care. With the donated laptops, the hospital’s medical team is now able to update patient files digitally at the time of service, which has helped to optimize patient care and administrative services. In addition, the laptops donated through LEPP provided a timely solution for health care workers and other staff who were required to work from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The computer resources allowed hospital staff to continue their work remotely without compromising patient care.

Marcela Figueroa, coordinator of the pharmacy department, expressed the positive impact the donated laptops have had in her work area.

*“We have benefited in multiple ways. Previously, there was only one desktop computer and each medical staff person had to write down their data and carry it around on paper until the computer was available. Once [the computer] was available, they would have to transfer the data into the computer. Now, everyone can enter data directly into the laptop computer at the time of service. This change has been significant, and we are very grateful to Food For The Poor and LEPP.”—Marcela Figueroa*



Dr. Maritza Quex, Hospital General Director, reviewing annual operational strategies.



Alex Tun Enriquez, Pharmacy Assistant, dispatching medications and performing inventory control.

**[Read the LEPP FY 2020 Annual Report.](#)**

**Your stories, photos, videos, and news releases are always welcome. Help us spread the good news about your work and partnership with LEPP. Also, LEPP PVOs and Missions, please notify us of your upcoming LEPP-related public diplomacy events. Please send information to [LEPP@USAID.gov](mailto:LEPP@USAID.gov).**

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