Creation and implementation of **new** Occupational Therapy Education Programme in **low and middle-income-countries**: achievements, challenges and keys for success

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Humanity & Inclusion

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achievements, challenges and keys for success

Partnerships

Rwanda
- University of Rwanda - College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS)
- University of Gent, Belgium
- WFOT
- RWOTA
- OT Frontiers
- Humanity & Inclusion

Morocco
- Ministry of Health
- Department of Human resources – Education Programmes Part of the Ministry of Health
- Humanity & Inclusion
- 3 Universities of Belgium and 2 Universities of France
- WFOT

"Humanity & Inclusion"
Main Achievements - Training

• 41 Students – 4 years curricula. First batch will be graduated this year.
• 3 lecturers already recruited.
• 10 rehabilitation centres equipped for internship and delivering OT
Main Achievements - Partnerships

- Constant support and annual visits of University of Gent on pedagogical aspects
- Summer School in Uganda in 2017 for 5 students supported by OT Frontiers and University of Gent
- OTARG: Attendance of 4 people in 2018 conference and hosting the 2020 OTARG Conference
- WFOT supporting RWOTA for the WFOT congress in Cape Town.
- Special orthosis & splints training in a rehabilitation centre for the 41 students with the Don Gnocchi Foundation
Main Achievements - Supporting OT development and creation of job opportunities

- Awareness raising about OT: 1500 flyers, 100 posters and 20 booklets edited by RWOTA
- “Annual National Workshop” with High level decision people
- 3 public rehabilitation centres have already required OT to the Ministry of Health.
- RWOTA has initiated a dynamic about the OT offer and the pricing.
- Pilot activities where OT students are included in interdisciplinary community visits (with physios, P&O, social workers,...)
- “OT Week” with TV broadcast.
Main achievements – To begin

• Creating and finding a funder for a 2 stages long term project:
  - 1 year (2016): **framing of a training and a curricula** relevant with the social-medical-cultural Morocco environment and based on the WFOT recognized level.
  - 3 years and half (2017 – 2020): **implementation of the training**

• Very first activities linked with the training, the partnerships and the OT development:
  • **Mapping of actors and identification of existing or potential resources** in Morocco
  • **Activity and market study** of professional opportunities for OT in Morocco
  • **Definition of OT**, creation of a **professional activity reference frame**, an **OT skills reference frame**
Main Achievements - Training

• WFOT accreditation obtained in 16\textsuperscript{th} December 2017
• Establishment of steering bodies (ethics and quality)
• Advertising targeting young Moroccans: motion design and video documentary in 3 languages available on YouTube, living Facebook account, website: success with 375 000 views on FB and 60 000 views of the Motion design.
• Results: 458 requests for admission for OT department (178 for the long-standing physiotherapy department). 100% of the 20 candidates admitted aware of OT via this campaign.
• Recruiting the OT coordinator (PT), 2 local permanent trainers and international volunteers via partnerships with the Universities.
• 20 students for the first batch. 3 years curricula.
• Equipment: Books for the Library, Assessments tools (software and materials), training room for daily life activities
Main Achievements - Partnerships

• All the activities are done with the Ministry. HI acts as a technical support to the Ministry.

• **Workshops** with local and international partners for all the major steps: definition of OT, creation of the curricula, organisation of internships and term-end examinations...

• Attendance of the **OTARG** conference

• **Adaptation of assessment tools** to the cultural context in relation with RIPPH (MQE and MHAvie) (work in process)
Main Achievements - Supporting OT development and creation of job opportunities

• **Flyers** for beneficiaries and for medical doctors as prescribers

• **Booklet** for the creation of an OT unit in hospital and rehabilitation centres

• Selection and preparation of **12 internships sites**: 5 public sector, 7 non-profit private sector.

• Training of **16 internships tutors and 4 no-OT lecturers** about OT and internships management of OT students

• In each internship site, students **visits** before the internship to present OT to the multidisciplinary teams

• **Equipment** of internship sites
Challenges

- To get the **scope of practice** approved by the government
- To recruit performant students for continuous education to become **junior lecturers** by 2020,
- To count on **long terms donors** as this type of project requires ideally a 10 years investment (which is challenging when counting on 3 years projects duration)
Challenges

• To promote the **development and sustainability of the training team**. The current trainers (3) are physiotherapists and nurses, assigned on a long-term basis to the OT department. Only one of them was exposed for a few weeks to the OT profession. There is no formal training plan either for the team in place or for young graduates.

• To enhance the **capacity of leadership of the national OT association**

• To set up a **Training Quality System**. (ongoing but very difficult)

• To **adapt tools** to the cultural context. (in progress but reached in 2020 at best)

• To support an International partnership with a **health management school**, which can support the Morocco University for its development and empowerment.
Key for success - what is necessary, required, critical, essential?

• To reinforce the sensitization to the level of decision makers including parliament,

• To **Support the National Association** to develop scope of practice, pricing and defend OT to the institutions and to the decision makers,

• To **integrate insurances** in the sensitization strategy,

• At least **to train 4 students** who will become junior lecturers

• To Include a **continuous development education program**

• To Support health **institutions to develop quality rehabilitation services**

• To count on a **National rehabilitation strategy** and a rehabilitation action plan in which occupational therapy appears
Key for success – what is necessary, required, critical, essential?

- A preliminary resource study.
- A motivated, qualified, trained and committed pedagogical team to become the driving force behind the project.
- Partners highly committed
- An occupational therapist project manager (lecturer and with diversified ergo practice...) throughout the project.
- An internet promotion campaign to reach young people
- Result: a batch of students highly motivated by the noble side of the profession and the new side (promise of employment...)
Madagascar,
Ghana,
..........Malawi,
..................Togo,

.........to be continued