

Supplying Rehabilitation Equipment to the Social Aid Home in Rabien



Project Sites Rabien

1. Background of Project

In Poland, the Constitution guarantees aid for the disabled, and social aid policy has been developed through self-governing institutions, such as the Social Aid Home (SAH). Social Aid Home Rabien (SAH Rabien), an implementing agency of the project, is an authorized aid home for mentally disabled adults, according to the ordinance on the social aid home.

Since it is the sole institution to support the disabled in its area, SAH Rabien has significance in this region. SAH Rabien, which has been operating for almost 30 years, started to renovate the house in the 1990s to meet residents' needs. The new rehabilitation pavilion was constructed between 1994 and 1996. However, the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PFRON) could not finance all the necessary rehabilitation equipment. Under these circumstances, the Government of Poland made a request to Japan for provision of equipment and the dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to finance the rehabilitation equipment to the SAH.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

FY1998 – FY2000

(2) Type of Cooperation

Provision of Equipment

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Social Aid Home (SAH) in Rabien

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

- a) Social policy in Poland is strengthened.
- b) Social aid in rural area in Poland is developed.

- c) Social aid home activities in the regions are strengthened.
- d) The health of mentally disabled adults is improved.

2) Project Purpose

- a) Rehabilitation equipment is supplied to the SAH Rabien.
- b) Rehabilitation services of the SAH Rabien are increased to include both SAH residents and external local patients.
- c) The health of SAH residents and local patients is improved through the effective utilization of supplied equipment.

3) Outputs

The number of rehabilitation treatments is increased with the rehabilitation equipment provided.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Equipment	9.70 million yen
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3. Members of Evaluation Team

JICA Poland Office

(Commissioned to Mr. Roman Izdebski)

4. Period of Evaluation

March 2001

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

Poland shows a strong commitment to social aid for the disabled as it is guaranteed in the Constitution. Severe economic conditions of the country, however, could not finance physical therapy equipment with high specifica-

tions, which was necessary to provide good combined physical therapy treatments of such items as massage, thermotherapy, electrotherapy, muscle building, functional training, and walking training. With consideration of both financial conditions and the government policy, the project that aimed at strengthening the function of SAH Rabien through the provision of equipment is deemed to be relevant.

(2) Effectiveness

The Project provided 1,039 pieces of physical therapy equipment of 34 varieties. This enabled the SAH to conduct five types of physical therapy treatment every day. As a result, the number of treatments that can be provided by SAH Rabien increased considerably. For example, in January 2000, 963 treatments were offered, which was 40 times more than before the project. Thus, the SAH Rabien has acquired the capacity to offer wider and higher levels of physical therapy treatments. It is concluded that the project purpose has been accomplished.

(3) Efficiency

No major problems in the project implementation were reported. The results of the questionnaires to the SAH Rabien staff shows that the quality, quantity and convenience of the equipment were as good as expected, and that the project cost was also appropriate. The equipment was selected by the SAH Rabien staff at the planning stage of the project. As a consequence, the Japanese side agreed to purchase the European-made equipment as requested, judging from its cost efficiency, although Japanese-made equipment was chosen in the original plan. SAH Rabien acknowledges that this flexible approach allowed them to receive more equipment.

(4) Impact

The number of the physical therapy treatments has been increasing not only for in-patients but also outpatients by utilizing the new equipment and introducing a working system on a two-shift basis. Such efforts expanded the number of physical therapy treatments to outpatients and the outpatients' share increased from 11% of all treatment in 1998 to 15% in 2000. The number of outpatients doubled from 900 in 1998 to 1,990 in 2000. These figures prove that services of SAH Rabien are extended more to the local community and that the Project contributes to strengthening the role of SAH Rabien.

(5) Sustainability

The major concern for the sustainability of SAH Rab-



Rehabilitation exercise at Rabien Welfare Center for the handicapped

ien is finance. The central government is the main source of income at SAH Rabien, accounting for 71.6% of the total income, whereas income from in-house treatment and donations account for 21.3% and 2.5% respectively. The government, however, is not always financially stable nor can it always respond to the needs of SAH Rabien on time. For sustainable treatment activities, SAH Rabien has to depend on the treatment charges of outpatients, and funding aid from both in and outside the country.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

The Project can be referred to as a reference for future support to Poland in terms of its uniqueness, meaning that it put the social policy into effect by strengthening the social aid institution with a clear understanding of beneficiaries' needs and scope.

(2) Recommendations

To enhance the effect of the project, SAH Rabien should further widen its coverage of the physical therapy treatment in the region. Some activities, such as the attaining of skill and knowledge from JICA experts should be considered in order to retain and enhance the outcomes of the Project.