

Chapter 3. Project Evaluation and Recommendations

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3-1 Project Effect

The MOHP had refined its emergency medical service providing system, e.g. deploying the ambulances that were procured under the Japanese grant aid in 1988, to wrestle with the recently growing injuries. By those efforts, they deal with 470 thousand dispatches with 697 ambulances, as of 2002, in the 11 governorates which are to be covered by the Project.

The conditions of vehicle, on the other hand, are so poor, e.g. a lot of them are more than 10 years old, that they can not keep up with the rapidly increasing need for transportation services by ambulance. The need will increase year after year.

The current number of ambulances in 11 governorates is fewer than half of the number set by the MOHP (1 vehicle/25,000 population) as a standard to deploy an ambulance, and many of them are too old for use. In order to support the present emergency medical system, it is necessary that, at least, current number of ambulance vehicles be kept.

Table 3-1 shows possible effects expected by implementation of the Requested Japanese Assistance.

Table 3-1 Effects of the Requested Japanese Assistance

Actual situations/ Problems	Measures taken by the Requested Japanese Assistance	Effects/ Improvements
Many of the ambulances are more than 10 years old, driven over 150 thousand kilometres. Patient's space inside the vehicle became too old. They can not keep up with the rapidly increasing need for transportation services by ambulance. The need will increase year after year.	Renewal of the workable ambulances older than 10 years (procured in 1994 or earlier) and procurement of medical equipment used in the vehicles	Level of emergency transportation services in the 11 governorates does not decline or stay on the same level. Number of ambulances is secured enough to catch up with the rapidly increasing need for emergency transportation.

Therefore, implementation of the Requested Japanese Assistance will produce the following effects.

(1) Direct Effects

Renewal of the old ambulance vehicles will help decrease the number of vehicle troubles caused by superannuation of vehicles, provide more reliable emergency transportation services and make more proper provision of transportation services possible which were not possible with their old, malfunctioning vehicles. The number of dispatch will equal to or exceed the number of 2002.

(2) Indirect Effects

The quality of emergency transportation services being sustained, people of the Project site will be able to continue to receive appropriate emergency medical treatment at each medical facility. The ambulance procured will help continue to provide other services such as pay-transportation of oxygen to patient's house.

3-2 Objectives and Recommendations

Emergency transportation services of Egypt have reached a certain level by the efforts of the government. Yet, it is necessary to overcome the following barriers.

(1) Human resources

As of 2002, there are 2,683 EMTs in emergency transportation services using 697 ambulance vehicles, that is, 3.8 EMTs per vehicle. As long as they continue to dispatch 1 EMT on board, the current system will work. But the working conditions vary from one governorate to another, e.g. in some governorate, EMTs work on two shifts.

The number of EMTs shall be increased to meet the growing need of emergency transportation services and to improve the quality of services.

(2) Expansion of competence of EMT

Law allows the EMT to perform such treatments as defibrillation, tracheal intubation, V-line securing, etc. only under direct instructions of doctor. Expansion of competence of EMTs by law, however difficult it may be, shall be necessary for further development of emergency medical services of Egypt.

(3) Publication of emergency call number

Emergency call, dial 123, has contributed to improvement of people's accessibility to emergency medical services. On the other hand, however, some measures to prevent wrong dialling or "prank call" must be taken, which represents some 97% of the whole out coming calls.

(4) Maintenance of ambulance

Vehicle Maintenance Workshop of Emergency Main Centre shall need to make a repair ledger for each ambulance, do some preventive check-ups, make equipment check list, etc.

(5) Policy for disaster management

Strict enforcement of traffic laws and academic instruction on injury prevention and control, as well as expansion of emergency medical services, are expressly stated in “Injury Control and Prevention” in “Healthy Egyptians 2020 Initiative”, which is also a part of the goals the Project intends to achieve. It is important that some preventive measures be further promoted to decrease the number of accidents and to reduce the tragedy.

