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Disability Support Program

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BREC:	Blue Ribbon Employment Council
CDC:	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDM:	Camp Dresser McKee
CRS:	Catholic Relief Services
DAI:	Development Alternatives Inc.
DOET:	Department of Education and Training
DOFA:	Department of Foreign Affairs
DOH:	Department of Health
DOIT:	Department of Industry and Trade
DOLISA:	Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
DPO:	Disabled People's Organization
DSC:	Disability Steering Committee
DSP:	Disability Support Program
F&A:	Finance and Administration
IR:	Intermediate Result
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
NBS:	Newborn Screening
PWD:	People with Disabilities
TA:	Technical Assistance
VNAH:	Vietnam Assistance to the Handicapped
VPHA:	Vietnam Public Health Association

I. DSP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Qualitative Impact

In Danang, DSP signed its MOU with DOLISA on March 21, and was informed that the final formal approval from the People's Committee was expected in early April. The Project's three teams moved quickly to begin working with DOLISA, DOET, and DOH counterparts to harmonize work plans and develop budgets. These will go into a subgrant agreement to be submitted to USAID for approval.

The project's IR2 team (Specialized Services) engaged a local consultant team to conduct an assessment of human resource development needs in rehabilitation. 84 rehabilitation technicians and 14 rehabilitation doctors participated through a questionnaire, 3 in-depth interviews (for leaders), 4 focus-group discussions, and 8 cases of skill evaluation following a checklist. Some initial findings are reported in the Lessons Learned section below. The team also initiated planning for an assessment of inclusive and special education, scheduled to begin in late April with assistance from the Hanoi University of Education.

The IR3 team (Public Health) was busy with preparations for visits from three CDC teams (now scheduled for May, June, and July) to develop recommendations for DSP's work plans on NBS, birth defects and cancer surveillance. DSP contracted the Birth Defects Center at Hue University to conduct a literature review of NBS and BDS in the central region, and also contracted two National Cancer Institute experts to conduct a literature review and rapid assessment of cancer surveillance. The IR1 team (Social Work/Case Management) finalized plans for a training of master trainers from Danang, Dong Nai, BinhDinh, and Hue in social work case management for PWD that will be held in early May.

In addition, the project worked with the Danang Disabled People's Organization to finalize a grant agreement to support organizational development of the DPO and its branches, as well as a DPO employment initiative. DSP is also providing support for a public event the DPO is planning for Vietnam Disability Day on April 18.

In Dong Nai, DSP supported a workshop on March 6 to initiate the province's Disability Action Plan. The project provided STTA to Dong Nai during the week of March 25 for School to Work Transition Program at the provincial school for disabled children. DSP also made plans with Dong Nai partners to support a Disability Day sports event for PWDs on April 18, identify PWDs in the most urgent need of direct assistance, and prepare for a disabilities assessment to be conducted by the Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA) next quarter. In Binh Dinh, DSP sent a draft MOU to the provincial DOLISA office for review and comment, and made plans for the VPHA rapid assessment and for a visit from DSP and USAID staff next quarter.

Quantitative Impact

In collaboration with GVN's Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (DOLISA), DSP conducted assessment visits to 58 PWD households in 7 districts of Danang and identified 38 households as priorities for DSP's first provision of direct assistance. Needs included assistive devices (braces, wheelchairs, and hearing aids), corrective surgery, home improvements, livelihood support, and educational support for children. DSP is working with DOLISA to deliver assistance to the first 21 families by the end of April.

In collaboration with local NGO VietHealth, DSP conducted a screening activity in Cam Le district to detect disabilities and develop interventions for CWDs from age 0-6. Children's needs for social, health and educational support were identified. 108 CWDs under 6 years old were enlisted for rehabilitation and educational interventions. Detailed data on these cases are being entered into the GVN's Disability Information System for future follow-up.

Project Administration

DSP revised and resubmitted its year 1 work plan and M&E plan with revised indicators. USAID approved the work plan on Feb 5. The project hired its Finance and Administration Manager (Phan Ngoc Anh), and received and installed its new computer and IT system (with STTA from DAI systems specialist Cecile Hipos). DSP also received STTA from DAI (Matt Buzby) to train staff in the process and templates for subgrants and other funding agreements.

Next Quarter's Work Plan

Project Management/Administration

- Formal project approval expected from Danang People's Committee
- Project to be formally launched in Hanoi on April 17 in joint event with BREC
- STTA (Peter Layde) expected to assist DSP in evaluating CDC birth defects team inputs and incorporating them into work plan
- STTA (Tom Kane) expected to assist development of research tools for VPAH disability assessments and provide technical support to M&E Team Leader

DANANG

- Detailed work plans agreed on with DOLISA and subgrant issued, after approval by USAID
- A district rehabilitation department will be upgraded with equipment and accessibility renovation
- Training of 25 master trainers in social work and disability case management completed
- Training in social work and disability case management of 168 case managers and 28 supervisors from all districts in Danang initiated
- Training in disability classification and determination for 200 Members of community disability classification councils (in accordance with Circular 37 of the disability law)
- Refresher training for 40 physical therapists initiated
- Direct assistance to 38 PWDs provided
- Subgrant to Danang DPO issued to build organizational capacity and support employment initiative
- Support provided for Danang DPO and Ngu Hanh Son District DPO for Disability Day event on April 16
- Inclusive education assessment completed
- Training for teachers who will then conduct early disability screening for an estimated 10,000 children in kindergartens and primary schools in HoaVang district
- Initial Rapid Assessment of birth defects surveillance system completed, with technical support from CDC
- Initial Rapid Assessment of newborn screening system completed, with technical support from CDC

DONG NAI

- Support provided to complete province Disability Action Plan
- Support provided for Disability Day Sports Event
- Rapid Disability Assessment completed by Vietnam Public Health Association
- Support provided to help formally establish Dong Nai Provincial DPO
- Support continued for School to Work Transition program at Dong Nai School for CWDs
- Direct Assistance initiated to PWDs

BINH DINH

- MOU completed with BinhDinh DOLISA
- Rapid Disability Assessment completed by Vietnam Public Health Association
- Assistance provided to DOLISA for completing Disability Action Plan

II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (Qualitative Impact)

Main activities and accomplishments during the quarter

Danang

- MOU with Danang Disability Steering Committee signed on March 21.
- Project approval by City People's Committee expected on April 5.
- Technical teams now engaged with DOLISA, DOET, and DOH counterparts to harmonize work plans and develop budgets. These will go into a subgrant agreement to be submitted to USAID for approval.
- Engaged local consultant team to conduct assessment of human resource development needs in rehabilitation. The assessment has been accomplished with participation of 84 rehabilitation technicians and 14 rehabilitation doctors through a questionnaire, 3 in-depth interviews (for leaders), 4 focus-group discussions, and 8 cases of skill evaluation following a checklist. Data inputting is in process.
- Planning for CDC visits to develop recommendations for work plan on NBS, birth defects and cancer surveillance (now scheduled for May, June, and July).
- Contracted Birth Defects Center at Hue University to conduct literature review of NBS and BDS in the region in preparation for the CDC visits.
- Also contracted National Cancer Institute experts to conduct literature review and rapid assessment of cancer surveillance in advance of CDC visits.
- Planning for training of master trainers from Danang, Dong Nai, BinhDinh, and Hue in social work case management for PWD. Training to be organized first week of May.
- Planning initiated for an assessment of inclusive and special education scheduled to begin in late April with assistance from the Hanoi University of Education; the assessment will assist Danang to develop and carry out a capacity building strategy in inclusive education.
- Planning for support of Danang DPO event on Disability Day on April 18.
- Subgrant agreement with Danang DPO in process.

Dong Nai

- Supported March 6 Workshop (attended by USAID) to initiate province Disability Action Plan.
- STTA provided to Dong Nai during week of March 25 for School to Work Transition Program.
- Planning for support of Disability Day sports event for PWDs on April 18.
- Planning for rapid disabilities assessment by Vietnam Public Health Association (VPHA).
- Planning for first distribution of direct assistance to PWDs.

BinhDinh

- Draft MOU sent to DOLISA in March.
- Planning for rapid assessment by VPHA.
- Planning for visit with USAID in April.

Project Management/Administration

- Revised year 1 work plan submitted; USAID approved Feb 5.
- Revised M&E plan with additional indicators submitted.
- New computer and IT system installed in office (via STTA from DAI).
- STTA from DAI received to train staff in use of management information system and develop process and templates for subgrants and other funding agreements.

Lessons Learned

DSP's assessment of rehabilitation human resources in Danang found that essentially all of the city's rehab therapists (57% female) are physical therapists; there is no occupational therapist or speech therapist. Training in these specialties is thus badly needed, as well as training in advanced physical therapy techniques.

In Dong Nai, at the workshop to initiate the province's Disability Action Plan development, it was found particularly helpful to have a representative from the National Coordinating Committee for Disabilities (NCCD) participate. The presentation made by this representative helped the Dong Nai group to focus on essential areas quickly and expedite the process of developing their plan.

The technical assistance provided by DSP to Dong Nai DOLISA for the workshop on a School-to-Work Transition Program at Dong Nai School for Disabled Children demonstrated the value of having all stakeholders in the room. The purpose of the workshop was to develop, provide training for, and begin implementation of a school-to-work model that supports young people with disabilities in a transition from school to gainful work. 10 children with disabilities, 11 parents, 11 teachers, and 3 members of the school management board attended. The workshop produced a student-centered action that will be followed up by the team, including participation in a job fair at the Dong Nai Employment Service Center on April 10.

III. PROGRAM PROGRESS (Quantitative Impact)

In collaboration with GVN's Department of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (DOLISA), DSP conducted assessment visits to 58 PWD households in 7 districts of Danang and identified 38 households as priorities for DSP's first provision of direct assistance. Needs included assistive devices (braces, wheelchairs, and hearing aids), corrective surgery, home improvements, livelihood support, and educational support for children. DSP is working with DOLISA to deliver assistance to the first 21 families by the end of April.

In collaboration with local NGO VietHealth, DSP conducted a screening activity in Cam Le district to detect disabilities and develop interventions for CWDs from age 0-6. Children's needs for social, health and educational support were identified. 108 CWDs under 6 years old were enlisted for rehabilitation and educational interventions. Detailed data on these cases are being entered into the GVN's Disability Information System for future follow-up.

IV. MONITORING

During the quarter, the following activities were carried out:

- Revised M&E plan with additional indicators submitted.
- Data Quality Assessment Tables for core indicators submitted.
- Gender baseline study planned.

Planned M&E activities next quarter include:

- Develop the M&E system and software to keep track of activities and beneficiaries (both service providers trained and PWDs benefiting from DSP). This system will be based on DAI's Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS).
- Oversee Viet Nam Public Health Association (VPHA) implementation of needs assessments in Dong Nai and Binh Dinh. The tools and methodology will be finalized in the second week of May and data collection will be completed in June.

- Work with national consultant to develop the methodology for the baseline gender assessment in Danang, Dong Nai and Binh Dinh.
- Revise the targets set in the M&E plan for year 1.

V. NEXT QUARTER'S WORK PLAN

Main activities and accomplishments expected in 3rd quarter (April-June 2013)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT / ADMINISTRATION / M&E

- Formal project launch in Hanoi planned for April 17 with participation by Ambassador Shear
- Purchase order finalized with Vietnam Public Health Association to conduct rapid disability assessments in Dong Nai and Binh Dinh
- M&E Team Leader and Accountant/grants manager to be hired
- DAI STTA (Oana Tudor) expected to configure Technical and Administrative Management Information System (TAMIS) and train staff in its use
- STTA (Tom Kane) expected to assist development of research tools for VPHA disability assessments and provide technical support to M&E Team Leader

DANANG

- Formal project approval expected from People's Committee
- Detailed work plans agreed on with DOLISA and subgrant issued, after approval by USAID
- Training of 25 master trainers in social work and disability case management completed
- Training in social work and disability case management of 168 case managers and 28 supervisors from all districts in Danang initiated
- Training in disability classification and determination for 200 Members of community disability classification councils (in accordance with Circular 37 of the disability law)
- Refresher training for 40 physical therapists initiated
- Direct assistance to 38 PWDs provided
- Subgrant to Danang DPO issued to build capacity and support employment initiative
- Support provide for Danang DPO and Ngu Hanh Son District DPO for Disability Day event on April 16
- Inclusive education assessment completed
- Training for teachers who will then conduct early disability screening for an estimated 10,000 children in kindergartens and primary schools in Hoa Vang district
- Initial Rapid Assessment of birth defects surveillance system completed, with technical support from CDC
- Initial Rapid Assessment of newborn screening system completed, with technical support from CDC
- STTA (Peter Layde) expected to assist DSP in evaluating CDC birth defects team inputs and incorporating them into work plan

DONG NAI

- Support provided to complete province Disability Action Plan
- Support provided for Disability Day Sports Event
- Rapid Disability Assessment completed by Vietnam Public Health Association
- Support provided to help formally establish Dong Nai Provincial DPO
- Support continued for School to Work Transition program at Dong Nai School for CWDs
- Direct Assistance initiated to PWDs

BINH DINH

- MOU completed with Binh Dinh DOLISA
- Rapid Disability Assessment completed by Vietnam Public Health Association
- Assistance provided to DOLISA for completing Disability Action Plan

VII. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Constraints and Critical Issues

One looming issue is that of expectations from GVN partners regarding leadership and budget management of activities in the work plans we are developing. DOLISA in particular, based on its past experiences, seems to expect to own and manage a substantial portion of the program budget, and has already submitted a sizable budget for the Program Coordinating Unit. Managing these expectations in the context of our cooperative agreement will be challenging. We will ask USAID to help us in this dialogue by underlining the USAID guidelines we are operating under and encouraging GVN to plan for sustaining the program in the long-term with local resources.

Personnel

The project hired its Finance and Administration Manager (Phan Ngoc Anh) and one additional program officer, Le Thi Dieu Phuc, to work with the IR2 team. We expect to hire our M&E Team Leader and Account/Grants Manager early in the next quarter.

Changes in the Project

We have been able to successfully initiate activities in Dong Nai province under VNAH's MOU. However, DOLISA has already indicated its interest in participating in DSP activities that are outside the scope of the VNAH MOU and has talked to DSP and USAID about modifying the MOU or doing a new one. We are awaiting a response from DOLISA in BinhDinh to the draft MOU we sent for their review.

DAI is seeking guidance from its legal advisor about how the project may operate in these two provinces in order to be compliant with Vietnamese law. If it is a requirement that DAI needs to establish a Representative Office in each province—a complex and lengthy process—we may need to consider other options for project implementation.

Contract Modifications and Amendments

No contract modifications were made during the quarter.

Annex I: Schedule of Future Events

(This is a chronological list of significant events planned in the coming quarter that will contribute to accomplishment of the project's indicators, such as trainings, opening ceremonies, conferences, etc. This is not a place to list the project administration activities; i.e., hiring of staff.)

Date	Location	Activity
April 5	Danang	Approval of project by Danang People's Committee
April 13-15	Dong Nai	Disability Day Sports Event
April 16	Danang	Award of subgrant to DPO at Disability Day Event
April 17	Hanoi	Formal project launch
May 2-4	Danang	Training of Master Trainers in Social Work with PWD
May 6-17	Hanoi, Danang, Hue	CDC BDS Team Visit
June 17-21	Hanoi, Danang, Hue	CDC NBS Team Visit
June 1-15	Dong Nai, BinhDinh	Rapid Assessments by VPHA

Attachment I: List of Deliverable Products