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Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities Quarterly Progress Report 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2013

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Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities

FY 2013 Q1 PROGRESS REPORT

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Table of Contents

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
I. INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES (IVWD) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (QUALITATIVE IMPACT).....	3
III. PROGRAM PROGRESS (QUANTITATIVE IMPACT).....	5
IV. MONITORING.....	7
V. NEXT QUARTER’S WORK PLAN	7
VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION	7
VII. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION	8
ANNEX I: SCHEDULE OF FUTURE EVENTS	10

Acronyms and Abbreviations

BAC	Business Advisory Council
COP	Chief of Party
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DOLISA	Department of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs
ESTIH	Hanoi College of Information Technology
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IE	Inclusive Education
IR	Intermediate Result
ITTP	Information Technology Training Program
IVWD	Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PMU	Project Management Unit
PWD	Person with Disabilities
SO	Strategic Objective
UDA	Dong A University
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFD	Vietnam Federation on Disability
VLU	Van Lang University
VNIES	Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences

I. INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES (IVWD) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first quarter of fiscal year 2013 was highlighted by two milestone events—the launching of Information Technology Training Program (ITTP) in Da Nang and the launching of the project to pilot using information and communication technologies (ICT) to support education of children with disabilities (CWDs). In Da Nang, after completing renovation work to create an accessible learning environment, developing a new training course based on employers inputs, and recruiting the first cohort of 25 students, ITTP in Da Nang was formally launched on 3rd of December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities. ITTP training continued in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), where one class completed training at Van Lang University (VLU) and two classes completed training at Hanoi College of Information Technology (ESTIH) during Q1.

CRS and Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) formed a project management unit (PMU) to jointly oversee the implementation of development and piloting of ICT tools in support of CWDs' education. A formal project launch ceremony was organized by CRS and MOET and was chaired by the Deputy Minister of MOET to mark the start of project activity implementation. Following the launch ceremony, CRS and MOET began to carry out a barrier assessment to identify obstacles faced by CWDs in accessing quality education and to identify potential uses of ICT that could help CWDs to overcome the identified barriers. This barrier assessment is expected to be completed during Q2.

Qualitative Impact

By successfully expanding ITTP to Da Nang, the project has brought quality vocational training opportunities to Central Vietnam. Together with ITTP training centers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), now ITTP centers have been opened in northern, central and southern Vietnam, bringing quality vocational training opportunities close to all Vietnamese with disabilities.

The launching of the project with MOET marks the start of the policy development process that is expected to lead to the institutionalization of the use of modern technologies to effectively and efficiently support CWDs' education.

Quantitative Impact

25 vulnerable people benefitting from USG-supported social services

Project Administration

The delays in getting needed government approvals for expanding ITTP to Da Nang and starting cooperation with MOET during FY2012 will unlikely be made up during the remainder period. CRS projects that it will likely require a six-month no-cost extension in order to achieve all project objectives. CRS plans to submit formal request for no-cost extension in Q2 FY 2014.

Gender

CRS has modified work plan to include capacity building for ITTP staff in providing students with gender equality and gender-based violence awareness training as part of the soft skill training for ITTP students. CRS has added two standard gender indicators on gender equality and gender-based violence to the project performance management plan to measure and monitor progress made on providing ITTP students with relevant gender related trainings.

Next Quarter's Work Plan

CRS expects to follow the approved work plan during Q2 FY 2013.

II. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (Qualitative Impact)

Launching ITTP in Da Nang

CRS has completed renovating one classroom at UDA to make it accessible to PWDs. The renovation also included building of a ramp that allows wheelchair access to ITTP classroom and other classrooms on the ground floor, and a lavatory was also renovated. Renovation work was in compliance with project Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. CRS and UDA consulted employers to design the curriculum of the first training course, and worked with Da Nang DPO to recruit 25 students to form the inaugural training class at UDA. On December 3rd, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, CRS and UDA formally launched ITTP in Da Nang. As of the end of Q1, CRS and UDA are preparing to open for two more classes.

Continuing ITTP in Hanoi and HCMC

During Q1, ITTP training continued at VLU and ESTIH. No new classes were opened during the quarter. Two classes, one General IT class and one blind IT Trainers class, graduated from ESTIH; and one class of deaf students graduated from VLU. CRS continued to discuss with ESTIH and VLU management about how to ensure project sustainability. Key ideas from these discussions were summarized in the annual work plan narrative. CRS and VLU planned to organize a stakeholders meeting to gather additional inputs from project stakeholders to help refine the exit strategy for ITTP at VLU. ESTIH's headmaster was reassigned to another school, and no replacement was announced during last quarter. This uncertainty in ESTIH leadership delayed the planning process for ITTP in Hanoi. CRS will restart the development of exit strategy for ITTP at ESTIH once the new leadership is in place during Q2.

Forming PMU

MOET established a PMU to oversee the development and piloting of ICT solutions in support of CWDs' education. The PMU has 8 members and is chaired by the vice director of primary education department. During the initial PMU meeting on October 31st, the members of PMU agreed on the overall project activity framework and management mechanism, and selected 4 provinces for piloting ICT solutions. The selected pilot provinces are Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Binh and Thai Nguyen.

ICT Launch Workshop

The workshop was organized on November 15th at Bao Son hotel in Hanoi, facilitated by MOET Vice Minister Nguyen Thi Nghia and with 42 participants including Vice Minister of MOET, representatives from MOET's Primary and Secondary Education Departments, Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences (VNIES), universities, pilot provinces' Departments of Education and Training (DOETs), Vietnam Federation on Disability (VFD), DPOs, INGOS, USAID, and journalists from mass media. At the launching workshop, the chairman of PMU gave an overview of project activities, and the Vice Minister of MOET affirmed MOET's commitment to build on project achievements after project ends.

Barrier assessment in education of children with disabilities

CRS coordinated with MPET to implement the barrier assessment in 4 selected pilot provinces from December 2012 to January 2013 to determine barriers in education at primary and secondary levels faced by CWDs and to give recommendations of ICT solutions to reduce barriers for CWDs access to the quality of education within the project period 2012-2014 and a long-term strategy of ICT using in education of CWDs in Vietnam. A consultation workshop will be organized next quarter to share key findings of the barrier assessment and the consultant group will submit the final report to MOET and CRS after that.

Lessons Learned

Soft skills cannot be effectively acquired with one-off training events; soft trainings should be regularly scheduled, and integrated into technical training as much as possible. For example, students assigned to work in groups get opportunities to practice team work and communication skills in addition to acquiring technical skills.

III. PROGRAM PROGRESS (Quantitative Impact)

The tables below will provide the basic data required to assess progress toward achievement of targets in your PPMP. This format is designed to collect data in a consistent way, from the initial proposal to the signed Award, and through each of the period reporting cycles. By utilizing this format, the data required for the USG FACTS INFO system and for the Government of Vietnam (GVN) can be more easily entered into databases by USAID.

INDICATOR TITLE: NUMBER OF ELECTION OFFICIALS TRAINED WITH USG ASSISTANCE																				
UNIT: Number of election officials	DISAGGREGATE BY: (insert disaggregation; i.e. geographic location, event, sex, etc.)																			
	Geographic Location				Event				Date		W		M		Sub-total					
	Da Nang				ITTP				22 Nov 2012 – June 2013		7		18		25					
									Totals		7		18		25					
Results:																				
Additional Criteria If other criteria are important, add lines for setting targets and tracking	Baseline		Results Achieved Prior Periods		This Reporting Period 31/Dec/12				Reporting Period 31/Mar/13		Reporting Period 30/Jun/13		Reporting Period 30/Sep/03		FY 2013 Target		FY 2014 Target		End of Project Target	
			Achieved		Target		Achieved		Target		Target		Target		Target		Target		Target	
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M
Gender: Women (W), Men (M)	0	0	80	125			7	18							200	300	170	255	450	680

IV. MONITORING

During this quarter, the new M&E officer made monitoring trips to VLU and UDA. At UDA, M&E office introduced project M&E framework, indicators, and tools. M&E officer conducted intake interviews for the 25 new students at UDA to establish baseline information to facilitate future comparison of training impact on students (such as increase in income). At VLU, the M&E officer surveyed students, documented case study and observed training. No data quality issues were identified.

V. NEXT QUARTER'S WORK PLAN

During Q2 FY2013, CRS will start two new ITTP classes at UDA in Da Nang after Tet, one evening classes and one class targeting deaf students. CRS and UDA will work closely with businesses ensure the training curriculums for these classes are consistent with the needs of employers. These classes are expected to last six months. ESTIH and VLU will open one new ITTP class each during next quarter.

CRS will work with VLU and ESTIH to develop and finalize exit strategies that are appropriate for each school's context. CRS will organize meetings and workshops with partner schools and other important stakeholders such as DPOs, DOLISA, DOET, employers, and other potential donors to decide on how best to sustain ITTP beyond life of this project.

CRS will start an ITTP best practices study that will also examine key barriers to quality vocational training for PWD at non-ITTP schools and make highlight best practices from ITTP model that non-ITTP schools can implement to improve the quality of their training and support services for PWD students. The study report will be completed, and study findings will also be disseminated during Q3.

CRS will also start a study on how employers can accommodate and support PWDs of various disabilities at workplaces. A booklet will be produced and disseminated during Q3.

The barrier assessment for CWD will be completed, and assessment report will be finalized during Q2. A workshop will be organized to disseminate assessment findings.

CRS and MOET will organize consultation workshops for distance education, text-to-speech technology, and video lectures to gather inputs from experts to guide technology development and pilot design.

VI. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Note: the financial data provided in this section is an estimate of the financial condition, and does not constitute the contractually required financial reporting as defined in the Award Notice.

Cash Flow Report and Financial Projections (Pipeline Burn-Rate)

Chart I: Obligations & Current and Projected Expenditures

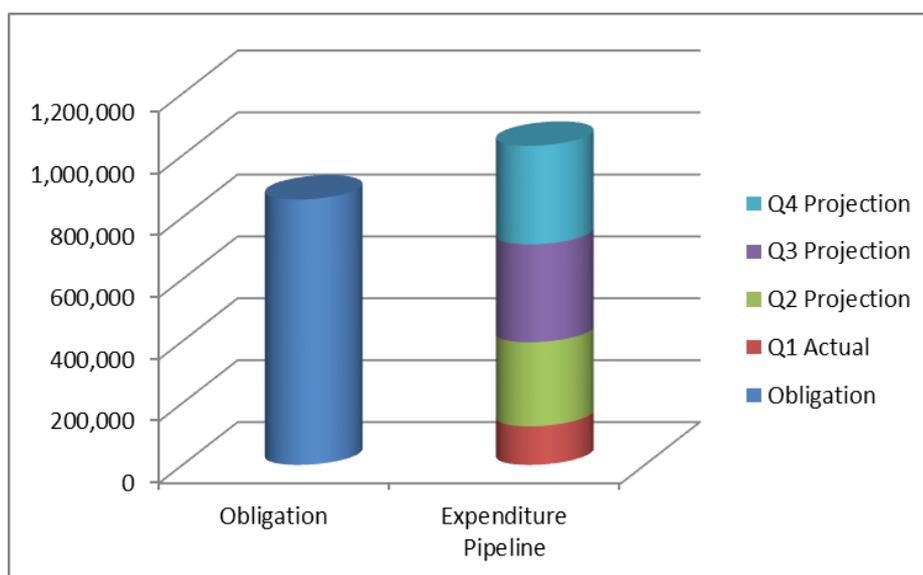


Table 2: Budget Details

	Q1 FY2013 Actual Expenditures	Q2 FY2013 Projected Expenditures	Q3 FY2013 Projected Expenditures	Q4 FY2013 Projected Expenditures
Obligation	857,600	124,742	271,634	316,002
IVWD Program Activities	109,423	238,275	277,195	279,708
Indirect Costs	15,319	33,359	38,807	39,159

Budget Notes

IVWD Program Activities	Expensed in according to project agreement, with gender capacity-building expenses expected in Q3 FY2013.
Indirect Costs	Calculated as per Award conditions.

VII. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Constraints and Critical Issues

ESTIH’s headmaster, Mr. Khiem, was reassigned to another school, and as of end of the quarter, no new headmaster has been officially confirmed. The acting headmaster since Mr. Khiem’s reassignment has been the deputy headmaster Mr. Thang. Because of the uncertainty of who will be assigned as the next headmaster at ESTIH, activity planning for the upcoming quarters has been delayed. CRS will increase its involvement and work with the new headmaster to ensure necessary level of commitment in ESTIH.

The original target of training 250 PWD students at ITTP in Da Nang was based on the assumption that there would be 2 and half years of training time. Because of the delay in getting needed government approvals to start project implementation, only 2 years of training time is left in the life of project. Rushing to complete the target during the remainder period will negatively affect training

quality and project sustainability. CRS projects that it will likely require a six-month no-cost extension to complete the target, and ensure a sustainable exit of project support from ITTP at UDA.

SO 2 activities related to piloting ICT and policy development with MOET were similarly delayed. CRS does not believe it will be realistic to expect the delay will be able to be made up during the remainder of the project life, and CRS projects a that it will likely require a six-month no-cost extension to project objective.

Personnel

As noted in the FY 2013 Work Plan, during Q1 of FY2013, CRS has reduced from two ITTP project officers to one ITTP project officer. Both ESTIH and VLU are experienced in implementing ITTP training and need only minimal support in their day-to-day training activities from project officer during FY2013, while the M&E officer will also participate in monitoring training quality at all three schools. In addition, COP, DCOP and CRS Head of Programs will provide technical support to VLU and ESTIH in the area of exit strategy development and implementation.

Deputy Chief of Party will take 6-month off for maternity leave, starting during Q2 FY2013, during which period COP will cover the oversight responsibilities of DCOP and CRS will find a consultant to provide technical support during DCOP's absence.

Changes in the Project

In order to mainstream gender awareness-raising into ITTP, CRS will need to reallocate some resources, around \$3,000, toward capacity building for ITTP schools' staff to provide gender equality and gender-based violence awareness training to ITTP students. CRS plans to submit formal request for no-cost extension in Q2 FY 2014.

Contract Modifications and Amendments

No contract modifications and amendments took place.

Annex I: Schedule of Future Events

Date	Location	Activity
28 January, 2013	<i>HCMC</i>	<i>ITTP stakeholders workshop</i>
29 January, 2013	<i>Hanoi</i>	<i>Distance learning consultation workshop</i>
Late Feb / Early March	<i>Hanoi</i>	<i>Barrier assessment findings dissemination workshop</i>
Late Feb / Early March	<i>Hanoi</i>	<i>ITTP stakeholders workshop</i>
March 2013	<i>Hanoi</i>	<i>Text-to-speech consultation workshop</i>
March 2013	<i>Hanoi</i>	<i>Video lectures consultation workshop</i>