

PD-ABJ. 115
154 26 1992

MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

**VIETNAM DISPLACED CHILDREN'S
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT**

October 1, 1992 - April 19, 1993

for

**THE UNITED STATES AGENCY
FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

AID AGREEMENT No.: 493-0001-G-00-2379-00

**WORLD CONCERN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
19303 Fremont Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98133**

May 2, 1993

**MID-TERM EVALUATION OF
VIETNAM DISPLACED CHILDREN'S VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROJECT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION

I.	GENERAL REFERENCE	Page 1
II.	SUMMARY	Page 1
III.	PROJECT ADMINISTRATION	Page 1
IV.	PERSONNEL	Page 2
V.	PROGRAM	Page 3
	A. Social Care Centers	Page 3
	B. DeLISA Vocational Training Centers	Page 3
	C. DET Minority Children's Hostel	Page 4
	D. DET Minority Children's Vocational Training Center	Page 4
VI.	RECOMMENDATIONS	Page 5
	A. RENOVATIONS OF FACILITIES	Page 5
	B. SUPPLEMENT BASIC NEEDS PROVISION	Page 5
	C. STAFF INCREASE & DEVELOPMENT	Page 5
	D. VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING	Page 5
	E. INCOME GENERATION	Page 6
	F. ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	Page 6
VII.	CONCLUSION	Page 6

MID-TERM EVALUATION REPORT

- I. GENERAL REFERENCE Reporting Period: October 1, 1992 - April 19, 1993
- A. NAME OF PVO: World Concern Development Organization
- B. TITLE OF PROJECT: Vietnam Displaced Children's Vocational Education Project
- C. AID AGREEMENT No.: 493-0001-G-00-2379-00
- D. DATE OF THIS REPORT: May 2, 1993

II. SUMMARY

Mark Halstrom, Operations Officer of World Concern Development Organization in Seattle, did a mid-term evaluation of the project, visiting Vietnam between the dates of 10 - 19 April 1993. He was able to make site visits to three of four project sites (Thai Binh, Quang Ngai, and Giang in Quang Nam Da Nang Province), and see the Country Project Office in Hanoi. Considering that World Concern has recently opened an in-country office in Hanoi and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Vietnam Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MoLISA) in November of 1992, an excellent level of initial goodwill and momentum has been achieved to sustain a long-term quality program in Vietnam with host country partners. William Kompare is to be commended for his initiative and flexibility in this regard. It has meant changes to project sites, country office location, and programming from the originally envisioned proposal. Protocols of Agreements with local government departments have been negotiated verbally and written drafts submitted. The project sites visited revealed that progress to date has been mainly in the area of readying facilities and staff for vocational training and care of displaced children through renovations, equipment acquisition, and program planning for staff training.

III. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

The World Concern-Asia office in Bangkok has been actively keeping the financial accounts for the project and providing guidance by on-site visits to assist in negotiating agreements, setting up management systems, and defining program changes. The headquarters office in Seattle did the research and project proposal, and has been providing monthly financial statements and quarterly reporting on the progress of the project. The mid-term evaluation was conducted by Seattle headquarters. During the short-term of this project, all three entities (Headquarters Office, Asia Office, and Vietnam Office) also had active and/or supportive roles in

administering disaster relief funds of OFDA in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh Provinces of Vietnam (Vietnam Disaster Assistance Project for Quang Binh and Ha Tinh Provinces, Grant No. 730-3004-G-00-3412-00).

Because of the geographic dispersion of the project sites, and since the project office (Hanoi) is not in any one of the four provinces, the logistics of supervising is difficult in a country with poor transportation and communications infrastructure. However, there are great advantages to having the main project office in Hanoi, namely coordination with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MoLISA) and networking with other NGOs with program inputs. Hanoi also provides key communication and transportation links within Vietnam and outside its borders.

Local management of project sites depend upon the abilities and resources of the provincial government authorities. Quang Ngai province has proven to be most responsive to program implementation up to this point. Quang Nam Da Nang and Thai Binh are showing implementation ability at a slower rate. Ha Tinh has been delayed in its implementation as it is deciding between desired goals versus available resources.

IV. PERSONNEL

The following is a listing of personnel involved in the project thus far.

Expatriates:

- * Project Administrator, Mr. William Kompare
- * Assistant Project Administrator, Mr. Victor San Gil (Starting in May)

Nationals:

- * Project Officer
- * Office Secretary
- * Office Assistant
- * MoLISA Officer Counterparts
- * Dept of Education & Training Officer Counterpart/Quang Nam Da Nang Prov

As the project has started up and become active programmatically, staff has been added. Project Administrator, William Kompare, was hired at the beginning of the project to set up an office in Vietnam with support of the World Concern-Asia office staff. October and November were spent in discussions, visits, and/or negotiations with U.S. AID officials in Bangkok, MoLISA officials in Hanoi, Provincial officials in four provinces, and securing office space in Hanoi.

PROGRAM

A. Social Care Centers

Three sites under the administration of the Provincial Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (DeLISA) have been selected in or near the provincial capitals of Thai Binh, Quang Ngai and Ha Tinh provinces. Staff training will begin in the next three months.

THAI BINH. The new living quarters for orphans and displaced children have been completed. Furniture is being built for children to move into the units soon. Currently, children are being housed in substandard units with leaky roofs and unsanitary conditions. Drinking and wash water will be a problem at this site for some time to come until a new water system is designed and built. Training of staff in social care has yet to be implemented. Staffing levels will need to be looked at.

QUANG NGAI. The new living quarters for orphans and displaced children is complete, with about 30 children occupying the site now for one month. There is also an two-story administration building that was remodeled and doubles as a dining room for the children. The new living quarters have an attached reception room complete with three long tables and chairs. A full complement of six staff has been hired, including a nurse. From interviews, it was found that most of the staff is young, needing to gain experience and education in child development. The province is estimated to have 426 homeless children. Another building on site is to be renovated to accomodate 30 more children. Training of staff will begin in the next three months. DeLISA office is also servicing the needs of approximately 80 children in the city who are displaced but staying with other families. The Women's Committee are responsible for these children.

HA TINH. This site was not visited. The site is 15 km out of town. The DeLISA officials have designated a cleared site adjacent to the town to which the Social Care Center will be relocated later this year. It is proposed that only temporary repairs (about \$1,000 of repairs made as of April) be made to the current site, in anticipation of selling this site and constructing a whole new compound later this year. Currently, 20 children are being cared for, with another 20 to be added in May. By the end of August, two new buildings are anticipated at the new site, adequate for housing 40 children.

B. DeLISA Vocational Training Centers

There are three sites under the oversight of the provincial DeLISA's in Thai Binh, Quang Ngai, and Ha Tinh. Training for staff is being planned.

THAI BINH. The Vocational Training Center (VTC) is in the same compound as the

Social Care Center (SCC). An existing building with three large rooms is being renovated for instruction purposes. Equipment for sewing is being ordered. Agriculture training is being considered. Income generation ideas are for hat making and mechanized rice dehulling. Further guidance for other vocational skills (construction trades and office skills) need to be developed. Renovations of an existing building for dorms is being considered for children who come into Thai Binh from the outlying areas for short courses.

QUANG NGAI. The VTC is located at a different site than the SCC in Quang Ngai city. Vocational classes currently being taught are in sewing, typing skills, and electrical appliance repair. Upgraded equipment for all these skills are being bought. Buildings are to be renovated in the next six months. It was agreed that financial aid to pay class fees will be given to displaced and poor children to learn vocations, instead of money going directly to paying staff. This way more children can become eligible for attending classes. The aid monies in turn will pay for staff & materials. This facility is open to all children to learn skills in the community for a fee. Income generation plan is to obtain packaging equipment to make and sell packaging to local sugar refineries. They envision 22 skills eventually being taught at this center. The current facilities will soon be filled to capacity. Within the year, more classroom space will be needed.

HA TINH. Vocational training at current site has not started, though interim classes may start. Full-fledged programs are expected to start after new site is opened in August.

C. DET Minority Children's Hostel

Giang is the location of the only school in this district for higher level education (up to grade 9) of mountain minority children. In interviews with older children, it was not unusual for children to have come 100 km from home to stay in the hostel and attend classes. The hostel is ill-equipped to board children, lacking beds, with only long planks to sleep on. The girls' hostel is of clapboard construction providing minimal protection from the elements. A new girls' hostel is to be constructed beginning in June, 1993. There is no running water and electricity on the site. Proper toilet facilities are lacking, posing a health-risk problem.

D. DET Minority Children's Vocational Training Center

This center is located at Giang school. Renovation of the existing building is underway, and two classrooms are being added. The foundation and wall/roof support columns were completed at site visit. Construction costs are upwards of 20% higher than in the lowlands, because of the transportation costs and other local factors (e.g., cost of hauling water for construction). Sewing, woodworking, and agricultural vocational skills are to be taught. Income generation plans include were wood crafts

and weaving looms for cloth making.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. RENOVATIONS OF FACILITIES

* Even after completion of the agreed-upon renovations, further renovations/upgrading of facilities will be needed to make the facilities more functional. What is being done now is only a start. All facilities have had an obvious lack of maintenance over the years, that has left them either functionless or minimally usable. It may not be possible to secure further funds in the current fiscal year to address these problems, but next fiscal year plans need to include funding for further renovations/upgrading, with particular attention to wash/drinking water supply, electrical distribution system, sanitation facilities, and furnishings/equipment.

B. SUPPLEMENT BASIC NEEDS PROVISION

* In the DeLISA Social Care Centers (SCC), basic health equipment and supplies need to be addressed. Any gifts-in-kind that World Concern has committed to this project should include these materials.

* SCC's should have basic education/recreational equipment for child development. None was observed at any of the sites. At least one staff verified this to be true.

C. STAFF INCREASE & DEVELOPMENT

* Because no staff training had begun at any site, I was not able to make observations about ongoing programs.

* Permanency training is projected to be done in coordination with Holt International (staff and materials). Some basic training may have to be done directly by World Concern staff before these seminars with Holt happen.

* Because most vocational centers are not yet functioning, staff has not been increased. It is recommended that each center be tracked as to their status with hiring for the various vocations.

* Assistance in defining hiring standards and job descriptions for both SCC and VTC staff needs to be provided by World Concern staff to the DeLISA centers and DET center.

D. VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

* No training has yet begun. It is recommended that when facilities and equipment are complete, training of staff be conducted before classes are commenced.

* Training plans for staff need to be confirmed in terms of when and how each center will conduct this. World Concern staff provide appropriate assistance.

- * It is imperative that World Concern either hires an Assistant Project Manager soon with vocational training skills or hire more national staff who can provide leadership in this area.

E. INCOME GENERATION

- * It is projected that the VTCs will provide some income from sale of goods made by students.

- * More definition to other means of income should be considered.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- * The Assistant Project Manager needs to be in place soon. The temporary hire of Victor San Gil will help in the short-term.

- * Due to the geographic dispersion of project sites, it is recommended that in the next fiscal year a branch office in Da Nang be opened and staffed to provide more direct and continuous oversight to the central Vietnam partners.

VII. CONCLUSION

The mid-term evaluation revealed that the project is meeting current objectives and progress is being made in all program aspects and at all sites to varying degrees. As staffing levels are increased in a timely manner by both World Concern and Vietnam Provincial Department partners, envisioned activities should take place. Subjectively, one could see the renewed hope for a better life and meaningful work reflected in the faces of both staff and children that the involvement of World Concern has brought to the various locations.