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VNAH Quarterly Report

PD-ABW-333

Date: 10/26/98

VNAH Quarterly Progress Report

Reporting Period: July 1 to September 30, 1998

A. Name of PVO: Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped

B. USAID Grant Agreement Number: 410-0002-G-00-3485

C. Title of Project: Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Project

D. Date of this Report: October 25, 1998

SECTION I. Progress of Project during the Reporting Period

Can Tho Rehabilitation Center

With the initiation of an end-user survey last quarter, five provinces in the Delta were surveyed which included 500 via face-to-face interviews and 40 who responded to mailings. The procedure was impeded by the resignation of the original surveyor necessitating recruitment and hiring of a replacement. However, the process has been found to be time consuming due to time required to find the clients because the addresses are often inaccurate or the client has moved since the original admissions form was completed at the center.

Production of prosthetic devices has decreased at the Can Tho Center due to the transition from the end of the '98 grant period and the new '99 grant. With the completion of the short course in polypropylene technology by ICRC in Phnom Penh, an on-sight-training course was conducted in August by the ICRC technician based in Ho Chi Minh City. The ICRC technician reported back that he is satisfied with the performance of the Can Tho technicians and will conduct an oversight review there in late September which will include an ICRC delegation of observers. During the transition period to polypropylene, resin technology will continue as some of the clients prefer it.

Thu Duc Rehabilitation Center

As stated in the last quarterly report, the Thu Duc prosthetic center was transferred under the management of the HCMC Center. Though the building at Thu Duc, which was dedicated to prosthetics production, was absorbed by the vocational training center, another building which fronts on the training center was assigned as the prosthetics workshop.

In late August, the end-user survey was transferred to the Thu Duc catchment area beginning with Dong Nai province and then Tay Ninh province. The Vung Tau/Ba Ria area was then

the focus. Additional 300 beneficiaries from that area were added to the total. Even though the Thu Duc center suspended prosthetics production, they continued to produce wheelchairs and 28 chairs were distributed by VNAH to the provinces of Tay Ninh, Can Tho, and Vinh Long.

SECTION II. Overall Status of the Project to Date

Since the beginning of the program in 1993, most of VNAH's activities and provision of devices to disabled were in the South, where there is a larger number of the disabled. Recently, VNAH has expanded its wheelchair distributions to some provinces in the North. The wheelchairs are produced by the Ba Vi Prosthetic /Orthotic Component Center, outside of Hanoi. This facility, under contract with VNAH, provided chairs for distribution in Hanoi, Hai Phong and other provinces in the region.

In an effort to seek for a more sustainable program in addressing the issues of disabilities in Vietnam, VNAH has expanded its activities from regular production of devices to technical support and policy advocating. The grant for establishment of an Office of Disability Technical Assistance has been approved by USAID and will be initiated within the early part of FFY 99. Since this was part of a dual grant, which included continuation of the prosthetics and rehabilitation project, both activities will continue through CY 2000.

SECTION III. Specific Accomplishments

Expected Outcome 1 - Strengthened host site basic service delivery (i.e., policy development, staff performance/skill level, quality of device produced, etc.). Now that the end-user survey has been under way for more than three months, it has been refocused to the Thu Duc catchment area in order to provide findings from a broad geographical base. To date, more than 300 beneficiaries have been included from this area. Technicians from Can Tho and HCMC Centers have been sent to training courses at the VietCot School and ICRC center in Cambodia for an introduction to polypropylene technology.

Expected Outcome 2 - Changes in circumstances and capacities of beneficiaries a result of rehabilitation and/or prosthetic/Orthotic services.

It was reported last quarter that the management transfer of the Thu Duc Center to the Ho Chi Minh City Center was anticipated during the early part of this quarter but delays in ironing out details set back the transfer to October. However, production was temporarily transferred to the HCMC Center for outreach clients. Outreach trips have been made to Tay Ninh by HCMC Center and Vinh Long by Can Tho Center.

Approximately, 380 limbs and 160 wheelchairs have been delivered during this quarter.

Expected Outcome 3 - Expanded technical, material and financial support for host institutions. Establishment of a database in Can Tho was scheduled for this quarter but the lack of funds remaining in the grant and uncertainty of the grant continuation placed that new

activity on hold until next quarter. Now that the new grant extension is approved, funds are available, to set up the database. Staff from Can Tho Center have been sent to computer training in anticipation of this database work.

A table saw, a drill and other hand tools have been provided to the Can Tho Center in an effort to upgrade the production and the quality capability. ICRC has also provided the Center equipment for producing polypropylene limbs; so far, about 10 limbs have been made by this technology.

Preparations have been carried out for the implementation of the technical support component in the Barrier Free Program. Discussions have been made with relevant authorities/parties on establishing the office for this program in Hanoi.

SECTION IV. Other Areas of Interest

The proposal concerning establishment of a Barrier-Free program submitted to USAID, as reported in the previous quarter, has been approved and will be initiated within the next quarter. VNAH have been working on recruiting a person for this program.

VNAH has made significant improvement in its efforts in addressing the landmines issues in Viet Nam. A USAID monitoring delegation from Manila visited the VNAH site in Can Tho. Discussion was held with the director of the Center on the VNAH program followed with an observation tour.

A visit was paid by a delegation of Deputy Assistant to Secretary of Defense to VNAH's program in Hochiminh Center. The delegation was happy and impressed by the assistance that provided to the handicapped, most of whom were injured during the war. More than 40 limbs and wheelchairs were delivered during this visit.

SECTION V. Problems Encountered/Implementation Changes

A. Problems Encountered/Implementation Changes During the Reporting Period

- Delay in execution of end-user survey due to a change of surveyor and unexpected time requirements to case find.
- Delay in transfer of Thu Duc prosthetic center to HCMC Center.

B. Lessons Learned

None

Next Quarter Plans (October 1998 through December 1998)

Expected Outcome 1 - Strengthen host site basic service delivery (i.e. policy development, staff performance/skill level, quality of devices produced, etc.).

An ICRC technician based at the Ho Chi Minh City Center will return to Can Tho with an assessment delegation to observe progress of the technicians there with regard to implementation of the polypropylene technology.

The end-user survey will wind up in the early part of the fourth quarter and then the results tabulated for entry into a report format.

Three technicians from Can Tho Center and some from HCMC Center will be sent to ISPO workshop, which will be held for a week in Hanoi later in the next quarter.

A complete database system will be installed and used in all VNAH supported centers.

VNAH will seek for PT and prosthetic training opportunities from other INGO such as WV, HVO, VVAF for its technicians at Can Tho center.

Expected Outcome 2 - Changes in circumstances and capacities of beneficiaries as a result of rehabilitation and/or prosthetic/Orthotic services.

Continued prosthetic and wheelchair production.

Expected Outcome 3 - Expanded technical, material and financial support for host institutions. Introduction of polypropylene technology in Can Tho by ICRC.

VNAH arranged a shipment of 28 barrels of epoxy resin donated by Dow Chemical, books and other in-kinds will be arrived in VNAH-supported centers. VNAH has informed MOLISA of this donation as well.