

Patrick J. Leahy
War
Victims
Fund

Portfolio Synopsis





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Mel Stills

A century ago, the majority of war casualties were combatants. Today, they are overwhelmingly innocent civilians, caught in the crossfire. Many are disabled from landmines and other unexploded ordnance. The Leahy War Victims Fund is the U.S. Government's response to this calamity. Established in 1989 after a trip my wife Marcelle and I took to Central America where we observed the lasting suffering from conflicts there, the Fund's purpose is to help rebuild lives shattered by war, and in doing so rebuild families and whole communities. USAID uses the Leahy War Victims Fund where the humanitarian needs are greatest, in the best spirit of the American people.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy

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Introduction

The Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund focuses on responding to the needs of victims of conflict in war-affected developing countries.

The Fund provides a dedicated source of financial and technical assistance for people living with disabilities, primarily those who suffer from mobility-related injuries—caused by unexploded ordnance (UXO), including antipersonnel landmines—and other direct and indirect causes of physical disability (polio and other preventable diseases that might result from interrupted immunization campaigns).

For more than a decade, the Fund has maintained a primary objective of expanding access to affordable and appropriate prosthetic and orthotic services. Since 1989, the Fund has provided more than \$92 million to 26 countries.

Although much work remains to improve the quality, expand the availability, and reduce the costs of prosthetic services, the Fund is increasing its involvement in response to other challenges, including the full social, economic, and political integration of war victims and people living with disabilities.

The Leahy War Victims Fund complements another special USAID fund, the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), which provides for the care and protection of war-affected children, unaccompanied minors, and orphans. Like the Leahy War Victims Fund, DCOF works primarily through nongovernmental organizations to provide direct intervention and local capacity building.

Flexible Responses

Depending on the needs of the situation, the Fund has adapted its response to provide support for a wider variety of interventions. These include support for improving medical and surgical services, developing and enforcing laws and policies regarding people with disabilities, promoting nongovernmental organization (NGO) and government partnerships, and expanding barrier-free accessible employment and other economic opportunities. At the field level, this flexibility has led to a number of exciting developments:

In Laos, an innovative approach to strengthening province-wide capacity to address the surgical, medical, and rehabilitation needs of victims of traumatic injuries has been developed using in-country resources. In a country with a large unexploded ordnance problem, the training approach has reduced hospitalization and secondary infections, many of which previously led to death or amputation.

In neighboring Vietnam, the Fund provided seed money for an initially small program of assistance focused on barrier-free accessibility. The program has grown beyond expectation and was instrumental in the passage of a comprehensive national disabilities law. This legislation was drafted with the assistance of many Americans who have been closely affiliated with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In South Lebanon, the Fund is supporting an agro-industrial cooperative based on marketing surveys, which will benefit many war victims and their families.

In Angola, a program is helping amputees to secure housing and land plots, allowing them and their families to become self-sufficient.

Critical Challenges

The Leahy War Victims Fund has learned valuable lessons from programs that either have not performed as planned or have not achieved lasting results.

Role of Government

One reality that exists in all post-conflict countries, and indeed in most developing countries in general, is that orthopedics and physical rehabilitation rank extremely low on the scale of priorities for ministries of health. Where human, institutional, and financial resources are limited, the epidemiological health burden of physical disabilities is extremely difficult to promote.

Therefore, the question of who should provide prosthetic and orthotic services is often an issue. Where no tradition of nongovernmental organizations exist, governments sometimes want to reserve this function to themselves. But without dedicated resources and professional oversight, the quality and depth of these services are weak and the outcomes for people needing these services are often poor.

In Mozambique, for example, the transfer of financial and managerial responsibilities from international NGOs to the government health ministry has resulted in a drastic reduction in both quality and quantity of prosthetic and orthotic services for people with disabilities. The role of nongovernmental partners, be they from the commercial or not-for-profit sectors, is as critical as the existence of practical and appropriate government policies and standards.

Role of People with Disabilities

In many developing countries, traditional beliefs and attitudes are the greatest obstacle to the social and economic well-being of people with disabilities. Programs that have not addressed the issues of prejudice, exclusion and ignorance have had extremely limited, if any success, from the perspective of the beneficiaries. Learning from the American experience, advocacy, legislation, and policy reform by and for people with disabilities is as essential for their social and economic inclusion as a prosthesis or a wheelchair.

Sustainability

It has proved to be a formidable challenge to have prosthetic and orthotic workshops incorporated into a country's health structure in a meaningful way. Although technical issues are important, it is most often weak management, at all levels, that leads to unsustainable services. The most successful examples have integrated rehabilitation into existing systems, recognized professional credentials, been responsive to patient criticisms and recommendations on how to improve service, and exploited public-private sector partnerships.

Human Capacity

The human factor is the key to sustainable, quality care and services. Appropriately trained, supervised, and supported service providers are essential to a successful program. Any assistance for people with disabilities has to address these issues.

Appropriate Technology

The development of appropriate technologies in developing countries is an essential requirement of any successful, sustainable orthopedic service delivery system. Appropriate technologies can be natural or synthetic. They can be imported or produced locally. The only criteria is that they must be accessible, affordable, durable, easily repairable, and functional.

Quality

An ill-fitting or poorly aligned prosthetic limb results not only in limited use, but also, in many cases, in physical harm to the patient. Therefore the issue in prosthetics should never be how many prostheses are provided, but how many are actually used, and how long they are used each day.

Nonetheless, exciting trends are on the horizon.

- Better and less expensive materials hold out the promise of better limbs becoming available.
- As more people with disabilities find their voice, they become more effective lobbyists for what is most helpful to them.
- As donor groups talk to each other and begin to coordinate services, duplication of services can be avoided and better results and more equitable availability of services can be achieved.
- As more people with disabilities are able to support themselves and their families, local interest and investment accelerating their social and economic inclusion will follow.

Global Initiatives

Although the Fund continues to support country-specific programs, it also recognizes the importance as well as the economies of scale provided by regional and global initiatives.

Possibly having the greatest impact of these initiatives is the Fund's strategic support for the long- and short-term training of rehabilitation professionals. This is primarily being achieved through five grants to educational training institutes in Africa, Asia, and Central America. Annually, the institutes graduate nearly 100 technicians from developing countries

with internationally accredited diplomas and certifications as well as providing continuing education and advanced learning techniques. This year, the Fund will embark upon an ambitious undertaking to support a variety of activities that will improve the quality of life of wheelchair users. The program's aim is to fortify the design, production, and distribution of wheelchairs. In addition, the program addresses other non-mechanical issues affecting wheelchair users, in order to further their mobility and independence.

A major accomplishment in 2001 was the award of the OMEGA Initiative, a program that will accelerate and support the development and awarding of new War Victims Fund activities in sub-Saharan Africa. OMEGA will greatly enhance the Fund's ability to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of victims of war and other people with disabilities in that region.

To maximize the impact of its resources, the Leahy War Victims Fund works in close collaboration with a number of implementing partners on specific regional and country programs around the globe. Strategic partnerships such as those with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Health Organization, and the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics greatly expand the ultimate effect of the Leahy War Victims Fund and provide both hope and care to tens of thousands of victims of war. Highlights from these global partnerships are reflected in the following pages.

The Leahy War Victims Fund participates in the U.S. Government's global response to landmines, which maim and kill thousands each year. These weapons, as well as other unexploded ordnance, continue to obstruct emergency activities, hamper economic development, and impede the movement of citizens long after wars' end.

The thrust of the U.S. response focuses on mine clearance programs and the development of indigenous mine action capabilities. The State Department's Office of Humanitarian Demining Programs and the Office of Mine Action Initiatives and Partnerships lead the coordination of U.S.-supported mine action activities throughout the world.

Global Prosthetic Initiatives Training Center

Implementing Partner International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Special Fund for the Disabled

Funding Period July 1998–December 2002

Amount \$2,000,000

Purpose Train technicians from across Africa to produce and use thermoplastic components.

Accomplishments

- Since the beginning of this activity in 1993, trained 108 orthopedic technicians and provided technical assistance to 28 countries;
- Trained 31 prosthetic technicians from 13 countries;
- Monitor 22 orthopedic projects in 12 countries; and
- Delivered components to 26 projects where they were used to make thousands of prostheses, orthoses, and crutches.

A major obstacle to providing prosthetic and orthotic services to amputees is the scarcity of sustainable services—people with the technical skills to fit amputees with the quality prosthetic and orthotic devices they need over the course of a lifetime. Another major obstacle is the affordability of materials needed to make and fit prostheses. The challenge is to train local professionals and establish workshops and clinics that will enable those professionals to secure needed devices and offer them at realistic prices.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has developed an efficient method of producing low-cost, high-quality polypropylene prostheses and has also determined that fabrication in a centralized production facility would be more cost-effective and efficient than production in regionalized centers. With Leahy War Victims Fund support, the Prosthetic Training Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, provides ready-made components for ICRC-assisted rehabilitation centers. It organizes training in the manufacture of polypropylene sockets for trainees working in these centers, which are mostly located in countries affected by war, and provides technical follow-up to ensure quality control.

Global Initiatives

Appropriate Prosthetics and Orthotics Technologies in Non-Industrial Countries

Implementing Partner International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)

Funding Period September 2000–September 2003

Amount \$1,427,695

Purpose Strengthen rehabilitation in the developing world through educational and technical guidance to professionals, agencies, and nations.

- Accomplishments**
- Organized and implemented a week-long workshop on “*Appropriate Orthopedic Technology for Low-Income Countries*” for participants from more than 30 countries. Findings and recommendations were distributed worldwide.
 - Completing mechanical testing on 21 prosthetic feet. Field-testing and recommendations will follow.
 - Completed an assessment of the Atlas prosthetic system and began evaluation of the ICRC polypropylene transfemoral prosthetic system.
 - Developing a universal protocol and tool for calculating the cost of rehabilitation services in non-industrialized countries.

The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics is a multidisciplinary organization comprising people with professional interest in the clinical, educational, and research aspects of prosthetics, orthotics, rehabilitation engineering, and related topics. ISPO's permanent secretariat is located in Copenhagen, Denmark. ISPO has more than 2,900 members in some 75 nations around the globe.

Leahy War Victims Fund support for ISPO began in 1995 with a grant for a consensus-building conference on appropriate prosthetic technology. The conference brought together more than 100 rehabilitation experts to address questions on how best to use resources and measure effectiveness in developing country programs. Conclusions and recommendations reached at that conference set standards widely used around the world today.

In 2000, the Fund and ISPO agreed on a collaborative approach to eight interrelated projects to be conducted over a four-year period:

1. Convening a follow-up conference on appropriate prosthetic and orthotic technology. The follow-up conference was conducted in Tanzania in September 2000 in collaboration with TATCOT. Consensus was achieved on a number of technical approaches.
2. Conducting a worldwide prosthetic foot evaluation.

3. Evaluating the Jaipur polyethylene leg technologies.
4. Evaluating the Blachford Atlas prosthetic system.
5. Evaluating the ICRC polypropylene transfemoral prosthetic system.
6. Developing protocols for project evaluation and cost analysis.
7. Evaluating the role of prosthetics and orthotics in community-based rehabilitation activities.
8. Conducting a workshop to explore issues stemming from successes and failures at prosthetic and orthotic schools in developing countries.

Global Landmine Survivors Initiatives Empowerment

Implementing Partner	Landmine Survivors Network (LSN)
Funding Period	June 1997–March 2001
Amount	\$306,327
Purpose	Provide advocacy and support for landmine survivors and people with limb loss worldwide.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Produced a set of 10 pamphlets in five languages on surviving limb loss; and▪ Conducted various training conferences in Washington, DC and Amman, Jordan.

The Landmine Survivors Network is an international advocacy and peer support organization created by and for landmine survivors. Because many mine blast injuries result in amputation, LSN has focused attention on landmine survivors and people who have lost limbs, regardless of the cause of amputation.

Reflective of LSN's philosophical emphasis on empowering landmine survivors and others with limb loss, the organization's directors and community outreach workers are landmine victims or people with limb loss themselves.

LSN's new mission statement includes a concerted worldwide effort to promote the natural rights and legal protection of all people with disabilities—a mission that complements the goals of the War Victims Fund.

The 10 pamphlets produced by LSN are as follows:

- *Amputation Surgery*
- *Pain After Amputation*
- *Wrapping Your Residual Limb*
- *Infection Prevention*
- *Emotions After Limb Loss*
- *Prosthetics*
- *Physical Rehabilitation*
- *Getting Back to Work*
- *Rights and Responsibilities*
- *Information for Families*

Global Initiatives

Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists

Implementing Partner	World Health Organization (WHO)
Funding Period	September 1998–September 2002
Amount	\$458,105
Purpose	Support prosthetic and orthotic training for students from English-speaking African countries.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Graduated 16 students from various African countries from BSc. diploma and short-term refresher courses;▪ Conducted a week-long workshop in managing poliomyelitis for 70+ participants; and▪ In collaboration with the UK-based NGO, Motivation, developed and implements a one-year training course for wheelchair technologists.

The Leahy War Victims Fund's long-term perspective in addressing the rehabilitative needs of war victims as well as the larger community of people living with disabilities is manifested in support for international and regional training centers for orthopedic technicians. Fund-assisted centers operate in Cambodia, Central America, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Vietnam. The Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT), founded in 1981, enrolls students from English-speaking African countries and other continents as well. It is the only African-based center providing an International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) accredited Category I and II curriculum. Graduates are employed in more than 19 countries, many by their national ministries of health.

TATCOT is part of the University of Dar Es Salaam and operates under the auspices of the Directorate of Training and Manpower Development of the Tanzanian Ministry of Health. It is also affiliated with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, the teaching hospital for the northern zone of Tanzania.

In addition to offering scholarships to the three-year Category II and the four-year BSc Category I degree programs in prosthetics and orthotics, the Leahy War Victims Fund supports a unique and revolutionary training program in wheelchair technology. This program is implemented by the British NGO, Motivation, which is dedicated to promoting a holistic approach to improving the well-being of wheelchair users around the world.

At present, students (all wheelchair users themselves) from Ethiopia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are attending the three-year course at TATCOT. Scholarships are given to individuals who have been identified by governments and institutions that guarantee employment after graduation.

The grant supporting TATCOT is implemented through the World Health Organization. Although the broad purpose of the grant is to support prosthetics training for any qualified African applicant, priority is given to those affiliated with national programs that demonstrate strong commitment to sustainable orthopedic services. The Fund is currently negotiating to extend the TATCOT agreement.

Africa/ Regional Initiative OMEGA

Implementing Partner PACT/Ethiopia

Funding Period September 2001–September 2006

Amount \$8,000,000

Purpose Provide a broad range of quality rehabilitation services to and support for civilian victims of war in Africa through an umbrella grant mechanism.

Subaward Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

- Objectives**
- Strengthen orthopedic services in the Amhara areas of Dessie and Bahir Dar;
 - Increase the availability of wheelchairs in the region;
 - Increase access to social and economic opportunities by including people with disabilities in microfinance and related development projects; and
 - Advocate for greater public awareness on issues of disability.

In 2001, the Leahy War Victims Fund, in collaboration with USAID's regional office in Nairobi, launched the OMEGA Initiative, a program designed to promote and support the social and economic inclusion of civilian victims of war and other people with disabilities in Africa. In September, USAID awarded a cooperative agreement to PACT to manage this \$8 million African initiative.

PACT is partnered with the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) in this venture. PACT serves as the lead organization, responsible for overall program management and coordination for enhanced policy dialogue and improved access to essential services and livelihood/recreational options; VVAFA is responsible for technical oversight, particularly with respect to physical rehabilitation.

A key element of the OMEGA Initiative is the mandate to award subgrants to other local and international NGOs in support of the broader program goal. These subawards will be made on a competitive basis. The LWVF, through PACT, issued an Annual Program Statement in the first quarter of FY 2002, which describes the objectives of the subgrant program, provides guidance for submitting proposals, and discusses the criteria for evaluating proposals.

Angola Rehabilitation Project

Implementing Partner Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Funding Period September 1996–November 2002

Amount \$4,033,000

Purpose Improve the functional outcomes of people with mobility related injuries through rehabilitation and economic and social reintegration.

- Accomplishments**
- Produced or repaired approximately 1,500 prostheses and orthoses;
 - Produced and delivered approximately 800 mobility aids (crutches, wheelchairs, etc.); and
 - Provided physiotherapy treatments to as many as 2,500 clients.



Over the past quarter of a century, more than 10.5 million Angolans have been severely affected by armed conflict. Besides the hundreds of thousands of casualties and deaths, mainly of civilian non-combatants as a direct result of fighting, tens of thousands of men, women, and children have also suffered the terrible curse of landmine explosions. Angola has as many as 70,000 landmine victims, with an estimated 8,000 child amputees under the age of 15. In addition, thousands of Angolans have also suffered greatly from otherwise preventable, disabling diseases such as paralytic polio.

The Leahy War Victims Fund has been supporting assistance in Angola since 1991. In 1996, the Fund began supporting a major program of expanded orthopedic assistance in the town of Luena, in Moxico Province, through a project implemented by the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation.

The Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports separate initiatives in Angola that specifically address the needs of child victims of Angola's civil war. Synergies between DCOF's efforts and those funded by the War Victims Fund are sought at every opportunity.

Fund assistance has supported the establishment of a fully functioning orthopedic workshop, which receives referrals from many parts of the country. VVAF has also developed a number of innovative approaches to helping war victims re-enter society and participate in political and economic activities.

With the recent death of the rebel UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) forces leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi, in Moxico, and the resulting realization of a cease-fire, the War Victims Fund is hopeful that the investments that have been made to date can now be imbued with more of an expanded, national and long-term perspective.

Technical Rehabilitation and Integration Assistance Cambodia Development Project

Implementing Partner American Red Cross (ARC)

Funding Period September 2001–December 2002

Amount \$300,107

Purpose Increase the social integration of people with disabilities and improve the capacity of local institutions to provide needed services and support.

- Objectives**
- Increase the use of services by people with disabilities and their families;
 - Facilitate the integration of people with disabilities into family and community life; and
 - Enhance the capacity of host-country partners and institutions to substantially address the needs of people with disabilities and their families.

Cambodia Disability Action Council

Implementing Partner Handicap International/France (HI)

Funding Period September 1998–May 2005

Amount \$1,057,308

Purpose Formally mobilize all relevant governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved with disability and rehabilitation issues to promote and support the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

- Accomplishments**
- Received authority by a subdecree from the Royal Cambodian Government to manage activities to assist mine victims and other people with disabilities;
 - Developed formal affiliations with more than 70 government and nongovernmental organizations, and national and international organizations. The Disability Action Council (DAC) is one of the largest cooperative organizations in Cambodia; and
 - Completed a government recognized and supported national strategy to accommodate the needs of children with disabilities.

Cambodia Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Program

Implementing Partner Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Funding Period March 1996–December 2002

Amount \$10,152,779

Purpose Strengthen the range of services provided through national rehabilitation centers.

Accomplishments

- Provided 11,000 clients with a variety of services;
- Produced and fitted 7,200 prostheses;
- Produced and fitted 7,200 orthotic braces; and
- Produced and distributed 2,600 wheelchairs.

Over the past 30 years, Cambodia has experienced civil strife, foreign military occupation, displacement of its population, and extended political isolation. During the reign of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian cities were depopulated, and the country's economic and social infrastructures were largely dismantled. Another major contributor to the country's deterioration was the extensive laying of landmines. During the mid-1980s, up to 3 million mines were laid in just one 240-mile belt along Cambodia's border with Thailand; up to 6 million mines remain scattered across the country today. To date, landmines and unexploded ordnance have injured some 30,000 people.

Years of war have also brought a collapse of public services, including that of the primary health care system. In combination with widespread poverty, the decline in infrastructure has left most disabled Cambodians marginalized, with little access to appropriate physical, vocational, or economic rehabilitation assistance.

The absence of viable structures in Cambodia through which people with disabilities can help themselves achieve mobility and independence has been the concern of Leahy War Victims Fund administrators for a decade. Fund support for the VVAF Cambodia Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Program began in 1992. Ten years later, the Kien Khleang Physical Rehabilitation Center is a globally recognized facility offering a full range of services to war victims and others living with disabilities.



Some 200 Cambodians and 3 expatriates now implement VVAF's comprehensive assistance program for people with disabilities. The national center incorporates a high-caliber workshop for producing prostheses, orthoses, crutches, and wheelchairs; a treatment center complete with gait training for amputees; physical therapy for polio victims and others stricken by crippling diseases; and a sports area. VVAF was one of the first organizations in Cambodia to hire workers with disabilities—a group now representing 30 percent of its core workforce.

In 1994, VVAF inaugurated a Rehabilitation Support Service to provide physical therapy at the Kien Khleang center as well as follow-up care once patients have returned home. Outreach teams now visit patients in Phnom Penh and in villages within 30–40 kilometers of the capital city.

Some 11,300 Cambodians, most of them war victims, have been treated since VVAF began operations. The number of amputees seen at Kien Khleang has remained steady at approximately 70–80 per month, increasingly comprised of patients requiring replacement limbs or repairs. VVAF reports that demining and landmine awareness education are bringing down injury rates countrywide. However, the number of orthotic cases has continued to increase. Four years ago, Kien Khleang staff fitted 20–30 orthotic braces a month; by the last quarter of 2000, that number had risen to 120. With the provision of orthotic services, it is projected that

close to 50 percent of beneficiaries will be women and children. VVAF is the leading orthotics service provider in Cambodia.

VVAF's program has expanded in two other areas: a workshop for physical rehabilitation opened in Kratie, and a comprehensive commercially successful silk worm and weaving project operates in another extremely remote village of Preah Vihear in central Cambodia. Nearly 100 individuals participate in the weaving project, and more than 4,000 silk scarves and shawls were sold last year. The *Joom Noon* silk project is approaching complete self-sufficiency as its scarves and shawls enjoy a reliable market in the United States through contracts with various department stores. Additionally, Australian Volunteers International began providing certified prosthetists and orthotists—volunteers who serve as trainers and mentors for the Cambodian technical staff at VVAF's national center at Kien Khleang.

The second major Fund investment in Cambodia is the Disability Action Council (DAC). The USAID-supported DAC helps key Cambodian entities better structure the services required by citizens with disabilities. The DAC serves as the national coordinating body on disability issues and monitors a National Plan on Disability. For the past three years, the DAC's primary objective has been to create an effective communication network among government agencies, NGOs, and business and religious organizations concerned with the needs of those with disabilities.

The DAC supports the efforts of various implementing agencies working on vocational training and income generation, physical rehabilitation, community-based projects for children, and training of rehabilitation personnel. Additionally, it plays a strong role advancing national legislation on the rights of those with disabilities and acts as an advocate on issues critical to their well-being. The DAC has exceeded its original goals, and through its offices some 15 agencies and networks now coordinate efforts on behalf of war and landmine victims or others living with disabilities.

The American Red Cross's Technical Rehabilitation and Integration Assistance Development (TRIAD) program was established in late 1991 with funding from USAID. The project provides direct services to people with disabilities, as well as emphasizing their social integration. The program also provides assistance to Cambodian institutions to improve their capacity to provide needed assistance.

The Fund currently supports two components of the overall TRIAD program: Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR), and Information and Referral Services (IRS). The CBR program provides direct support to people with disabilities and their families in their communities, in self-care, health, mobility, communication, education, and social integration. IRS is a collaborative effort of the American Red Cross and its close national partner the National Centre of Disabled Persons. The program provides an information and opportunities referral service in the areas of employment, income generation, education, and training.

Central America Support for the Central American Tripartite Landmine Initiative

- Implementing Partner** Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Funding Period** April 2000–September 2002 (extension in process)
- Amount** \$500,000
- Purpose** Improve the physical, social, and economic status of people coping with landmine injuries and disabilities.
- Accomplishments**
- Awarded 14 scholarships to rehabilitation professionals from five Central American countries; and
 - Conducted regional seminars aimed at promoting a professional exchange of ideas and knowledge.

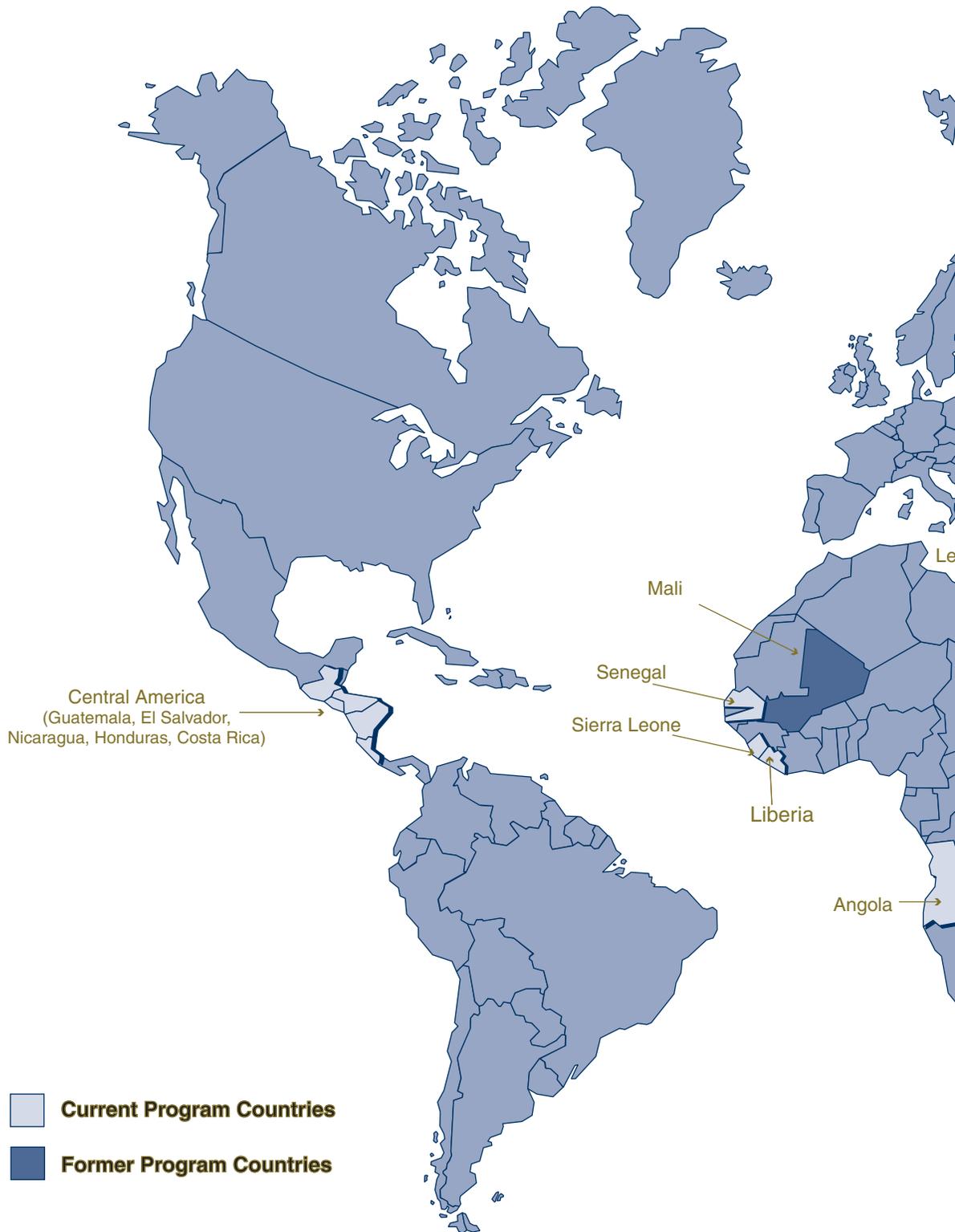
In partnership, the Pan American Health Organization and USAID have developed a regional approach for assisting victims of landmines laid during Central America's civil wars of the 1980s. Tapping \$500,000 from the Leahy War Victims Fund, the two-year collaborative effort launched in 2000 seeks to advance objectives outlined in the Tripartite Initiative of PAHO, Canada, and Mexico. The goal is to construct a comprehensive framework for assisting landmine victims, war wounded, and other citizens with disabilities in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

PAHO's Fund-supported efforts focus on the challenges faced by those disabled by mines or other causes. The program seeks to deliver assistance to those living with disabilities in Central America and aims to increase local capacity to plan, manage, and implement appropriate strategies.



Fund resources provide support in three categories:

- Scholarships for professional training in certificate programs in physical medicine, orthopedic technology, and occupational and physical therapy;
- A small program to support social and economic reintegration activities including advocacy and barrier-free accessibility for people using wheelchairs; and
- Technical assistance to support the design, testing, and dissemination of new technologies, development of national policies on rehabilitation, and vocational and on-the-job training for people with disabilities.





Laos War Victims Assistance Project

Implementing Partner The World Education and World Learning Consortium

Funding Period June 2000–May 2003

Amount \$2,661,904

Purpose Reduce the risk and impact of unexploded ordnance accidents on people living in Xieng Khouang and Houaphan Provinces.

- Accomplishments**
- Trained more than 400 medical technicians in emergency rehabilitation and laboratory services;
 - Expanded a comprehensive unexploded ordnance awareness program to reach some 43,000 public school students; and
 - Expanded the project into three new districts.

The political and military conflicts that raged across Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s continue to extract a toll from the Laotian people. More than 25 years later, explosions from landmines—but more significantly, other unexploded ordnance—continue to maim and kill.

The U.S. Government has pursued an active role in the unexploded ordnance program of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic for six years and has contributed more than \$16 million to promote mine clearance, community awareness, and medical care for accident victims. USAID’s experience in the country through the Leahy War Victims Fund dates to 1991. In 1995, a \$2.1 million grant was awarded to The Consortium, a partnership developed by several U.S. NGOs to upgrade medical, surgical, and emergency facilities and services, and to promote mine awareness efforts. Those activities took place in Xieng Khouang Province, one of the regions most affected by unexploded ordnance.

Today, support to The Consortium, which is led by the U.S.-based organizations, World Education and World Learning, is meant to build on progress realized in Xieng Khouang and to expand operations into neighboring Houaphan Province. The project concentrates on the medical and educational aspects of reducing the effect of unexploded ordnance on the lives of people in the two provinces.

The unexploded ordnance awareness program in Laos has already evolved as a comprehensive curriculum being promulgated by the national Ministry of Education.



Lebanon Preventing Injuries & Expanding Economic Opportunities for Landmine Survivors

- Cooperating Agency** World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc. (WRF)
- Funding Period** June 1998–December 2003
- Amount** \$2,103,303
- Purpose** Expand socioeconomic opportunities for survivors of landmines in Jizzine and contribute to the coordination of national efforts to address problems related to the presence of landmines.
- Accomplishments**
- Promoted the official formation and government endorsement of the Landmine Survivors Cooperative; and
 - Supported the creation of the Landmine Resource Center, which has been successful in its work in landmine education and awareness, its survey and data collection, and its analyses of landmine victims' recovery.

The Middle East confrontation and civil conflict brought Lebanon to the verge of collapse in the 1980s. Many people were killed, injured, or displaced during years of conflict. Thousands of landmines were deployed throughout the country especially in the South and in the Bekaa Valley, resulting in fatalities and injuries and leaving large areas of agricultural land inaccessible. With the emergence of relative stability, USAID embarked on a major initiative to revitalize the most severely affected areas, focusing on agricultural and economic development.

The World Rehabilitation Fund has implemented a wide variety of activities that address social and economic needs of civilian victims of war. While earlier work, which began in 1989, focused on prosthetic services, efforts shifted in 1999 to victims assistance aiming at preventing landmine injuries and managing the social burden of landmines in Lebanon. The program focused on landmine awareness and assisting in the creation of the Landmine Resource Center at the University of Balamand in Beirut. The Landmine Resource Center continues to provide the foundation for all future landmine awareness work in Lebanon. The center's initial surveys, the first of their kind, are used as an international standard for collecting useful data.

In 2001, the Leahy War Victims Fund began support for the World Rehabilitation Fund's program: "Expanding Economic Opportunities for Survivors of Landmines in the District of Jizzine." A war victims cooperative, beginning with landmine survivors as members, will develop agricultural, apiculture, and



poultry related enterprises. The cooperative is designed to provide value-added processing services and facilities and to develop market outlets for local production. Survivors will be the primary beneficiaries as shareholders and employees of the various business elements of the cooperative and will also profit from the increased job opportunities created between farm and market.

This War Victims Fund program in the District of Jizzine is the first of its kind to address the economic needs of a war-affected sector of society.

Liberia Rehabilitation of War Victims

Implementing Partner	United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
Funding Period	September 2000–November 2003
Amount	\$1,915,901
Purpose	Improve the quality of prosthetics and orthotics services in Liberia.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop a plan to integrate the Ganta Prosthetics and Orthotics Workshop into Ganta Methodist Hospital;▪ Built a physical therapy area with leveraged funds;▪ Produced and fitted several hundred orthopedic devices;▪ Supporting Category II certificate training at TATCOT; and▪ Supports surgical and rehabilitation care for more than 200 children at the Benedict Menni Center.

In 1996, Liberia's seven-year civil crisis had left the country with a disproportionately large number of people with disabilities: as many as 16 percent, or 320,000, of Liberia's 2 million inhabitants are reported to have disabilities, many of whom are lower-extremity amputees or those who otherwise suffer from mobility related disorders. It is suggested that as many as 81,000 Liberian children are disabled.

The Ganta Prosthetics and Orthotics Workshop was constructed in 1998 with funding provided to UNICEF by USAID. The workshop has treated several thousand individuals since it began production at the end of 1999. Today, Leahy War Victims Fund resources are helping to revitalize the workshop and integrate it into the management structure of Ganta Methodist Hospital. The hospital is one of the few medical facilities servicing a local population of more than 400,000 as well as some 50,000 individuals from nearby border towns in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.



UMCOR's objective is to develop a coherent management system for the workshop in order to integrate rehabilitation services into the hospital's permanent service delivery system. In the extremely difficult political environment in Liberia today, the workshop is struggling to address problems that threaten its sustainability. The workshop has been managed independently of the hospital, contributing to an inefficient use of resources. Less expensive and more appropriate local materials need to be used. The establishment of high-quality orthopedic services, integration of the workshop into the

hospital's administrative structure, and the establishment of sound management practices are the primary goals of the program.

The three-year project also supports the upgrading of two satellite prosthetic and rehabilitative service centers—at the Benedict Menni Center in Monrovia and in Ganta's leprosy colony.

Mozambique Prosthetics Assistance Project

Implementing Partner Prosthetic and Orthotic Worldwide Education and Relief (POWER)

Funding Period July 2000–May 2002

Amount \$1,250,000

Purpose Support the continued development of prosthetic and orthotic capacity throughout the country.

Accomplishments

- Provided financial and technical assistance for the production of locally made orthoprosthesis components;
- Strengthened the organizational capacity of the Association of Disabled Mozambicans; and
- Transferred centers to the Ministry of Health as part of a transition of responsibilities to country ministries.

Although the war ended in 1992, many Mozambicans continue to bear the scars of 30 years of war. More than a million people were injured in the years of fighting, and as in other modern conflicts, most were civilians. In addition, landmines were deployed indiscriminately, and consequently, there are an estimated 9,000 amputees in the country.

Since 1989, through the Leahy War Victims Fund, USAID has supported the production and distribution of prosthetic devices for the country's war-injured population. Initially, the Fund supported such efforts through the International Committee of the Red Cross and Handicap International. Today, the Prosthetics Assistance Project is coordinated by the British NGO, Prosthetic and Orthotic Worldwide Education and Relief, which undertakes a number of initiatives to strengthen Mozambican management capabilities, improve outreach, and support private-sector opportunities to assume production and distribution of prosthetic devices.

In 1998, the Mozambican Ministry of Health assumed direct management of the project, and POWER's role became largely advisory. Institutionalizing the effort within the nation's health care system is a laudatory objective, but in practice momentum has been lost and the production and quality of prostheses have declined. Production is at barely 40 percent of capacity, materials and components are not being adequately replenished, and equipment is not being repaired on a timely basis.

The loss of momentum seen in the Prosthetics Assistance Project at present illustrates the challenges faced by the Leahy War Victims Fund in locations around the world. Governments with extremely limited budgets, inadequate personnel, and severely stretched primary and secondary health care systems are not well prepared to place the needs of the population living with disabilities high on their list of priorities. Societal attitudes, ineffective bureaucracies, and insufficient budgets all serve as significant barriers.

The effort supported by the Leahy War Victims Fund in Mozambique has resulted in a number of important achievements—perhaps 70 percent of the country’s amputee population has been directly served. POWER and the Fund are encouraging the Ministry of Health to consider a partnership between the public and private sectors. That partnership would be charged with restoring production and distribution to previous levels and reaching all those in need.



Strengthen Rehabilitative Services for People with Senegal Disabilities

Implementing Partner Handicap International (HI)/France

Funding Period July 2000–July 2003

Amount \$499,751

Purpose Improve the lives of people disabled by mine accidents and other causes, and implement educational and other activities to prevent further accidents.

- Objectives**
- Strengthen rehabilitation services for people in the Casamance region;
 - Increase access to social and economic opportunities by including people with disabilities in microfinance and related development projects; and
 - Reduce landmine injuries through a community-based landmine awareness campaign.

In 1982, supporters of the Mouvement des Forces Democratiques de la Casamance demanded that the Government of Senegal grant independence to the Casamance region, an isolated section of southwestern Senegal sandwiched between Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. This event sparked an 18-year conflict, which only recently began to be resolved. The situation worsened with the appearance of antitank and antipersonnel mines in the late 1990s. Landmines have affected the population, agricultural activities, and tourism, and have hampered donor and NGO efforts in the region.

In July 2001, USAID began to provide funding to Handicap International to support its program to assist victims of landmine accidents and to raise awareness of their dangers.

One component of this program is geared toward facilitating the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in the Casamance. HI will promote the decentralization of orthopedic services in the region.

A second component supports local associations that assist people with landmine injuries during their treatment and ease their return to their families and communities.

Under the third component, HI conducts training sessions to integrate mine awareness messages into school curriculums and relay these messages throughout the regional villages. In addition, the organization is collecting data on mine accidents and producing maps that indicate areas where mines are located to better target prevention activities.



Sierra Leone Integration of People with Disabilities

Implementing Partner	Subaward under the OMEGA Initiative
Funding Period	Summer 2002–Summer 2005 (projected)
Amount	\$1,000,000 (projected)
Purpose	Improve rehabilitation services and opportunities for people with disabilities.

Other Activities

- *A partnership between the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and Handicap International provided short-term technical assistance and training for local technicians*
- *Essential orthotic and prosthetic components were purchased from the Leahy War Victims Fund-supported project*

GUINEA



Sierra Leone's brutal civil war saw vicious attacks on civilians by both rebel and government forces. In the late 1990s, in a particularly horrific campaign of intimidation, rebel troops of the Revolutionary United Front cut off the arms of hundreds of men, women, and children. Waves of fighting over the past two years extended the chaos and dislocation.

In March 2002, President Kabbah declared the end to a four-year state of emergency, and in May, elections were held. These events bring prospects for peace and the ultimate return of some refugees and displaced persons. More comprehensive interventions to aid the traumatized civilian population are now possible as well.

USAID first tapped War Victims Fund resources in 1999 to provide specialized components and equipment and to second a prosthetist from the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation to Handicap International, which was providing care and occupational and psychosocial counseling for nearly 200 amputees and other war-wounded in Freetown. The prosthetist also worked to establish a program to train prosthetic technicians.

The project supported by the initial Fund grant has concluded. A more sophisticated response to the needs of Sierra Leone's war victims is now taking shape. In 2001, the Fund, in concert with WHO, supported several workshops devoted to finalizing a national prosthetics and orthotics rehabilitation plan.

Sri Lanka Mobility Disabilities Project

Implementing Partner	To be determined
Funding Period	(projected)
Amount	\$3,000,000 (projected)
Purpose	Enhance opportunities for people with mobility disabilities.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Strengthen the ability of technicians to prescribe and produce appropriate prosthetic and orthotics, wheelchairs, and tricycles;▪ Implement a comprehensive capacity development training program;▪ Create employment opportunities; and▪ Create peer support networks.

Sri Lanka has endured 18 years of conflict between government forces backed by the country's mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who seek a separate homeland for the Tamil minority in the North and East. The first full cease-fire in nearly seven years between the newly elected government and the LTTE began in March 2002, fueling hopes that peace talks will be forthcoming.



Like other modern conflicts, the war in Sri Lanka has taken its toll on civilians and children. Farmland and villages are littered with landmines. Sri Lanka is estimated to have more than 30,000 amputees as a direct result of the civil war as well as increased incidence of crippling diseases such as polio. The youth of the country have paid a particularly heavy price for the war—nearly 80 percent of the disabled are in the 18–29 age group.

This award seeks to strengthen overall management capability, introduce polypropylene technology, and expand rehabilitation services comprehensively. This expansion will include job placement and training, peer support groups, and advocacy.

Vietnam Rehabilitation Sector Support

Implementing Partner Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)

Funding Period April 1999–December 2003

Amount \$2,434,468

Purpose Facilitate the development of a stronger, more effective, integrated rehabilitation sector.

- Accomplishments**
- Re-established the Disability Forum, a national coordinating association;
 - Partnered with the Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists to provide internationally accredited education in prosthetics and orthotics;
 - Strengthened the professional capacities of nurses, rehabilitation doctors, and physical therapists; and,
 - Strengthened and expanded links between U.S. and Vietnamese university programs.

Vietnam Prosthetic, Rehabilitation and Barrier-Free Accessibility Project

- Implementing Partner** Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH)
- Funding Period** September 1998–December 2002
- Amount** \$3,046,220
- Purpose** Improve national policy and programs aimed at expanding opportunities for the disabled.
- Accomplishments**
- Promoted government adoption of barrier-free access standards for new construction;
 - Instrumental in establishing a national disabilities coordinating committee; and
 - Exceeded grant target of 2,200 assistive devices provided to clients in the Mekong Delta.

Vietnam Sustainable Benefits for the Mobility Impaired

Implementing Partner Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Funding Period April 2002–April 2005 (projected)

Amount \$2,000,000 (projected)

Purpose Support national institutions and organizations to assist people with mobility impairment to achieve their fullest potential.

- Objectives**
- Promote the rights of people with disabilities;
 - Support the provision of rehabilitation services at the National Institute for Pediatrics and Bach Mai University Hospital; and
 - Create user groups for people with disabilities.

Vietnam has experienced dramatic changes as it continues its transition from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented system. In the last decade, the country has seen reductions in the incidence of poverty, declines in maternal and child mortality rates, and improvements in the overall well-being of its population.

Despite these facts, Vietnam struggles to address the comprehensive needs of its more than 6 million people with disabilities. This number is increasing. Despite the country being classified as free from polio by the World Health Organization, a large number of Vietnamese people still suffer from its crippling effects, as well as other diseases such as cerebral palsy.



In addition, landmines and other unexploded ordnance left from the war, and increased use of motor vehicles and farm and other industrial machinery have greatly contributed to the increasing number of people with disabilities.

Vietnam offers a prime example of how small, initial investments from the Leahy War Victims Fund led to the evolution of a comprehensive national strategy for the rehabilitation of citizens with disabilities and their inclusion in a country's societal and economic transformation.

Beginning with modest funding for humanitarian programs for war victims, the Fund has supported an increasingly sophisticated yet appropriate response to the needs of Vietnam's population living with

disabilities. Today, that response incorporates government ministries and departments, donor agencies, international and local NGOs, community-based groups, and professional organizations. This collective response has led to passage of two remarkable national laws regarding disabilities and barrier-free access.

Perhaps most significantly, societal as well as physical barriers in Vietnam are slowly being overcome, and people with disabilities are increasingly contributing to national life and the economy.

Vietnamese people with disabilities have benefited from the strong presence and performance of USAID and the Leahy War Victims Fund and their NGO implementing partners in Vietnam.

VNAH has been a Fund partner since 1993, when War Victims Fund resources made it possible for this fledgling NGO—a Vietnam-specific entity—to become operational. The investment has paid off in many significant and unpredictable ways. VNAH has advanced the technology used to address the needs of those with disabilities and, through example and advocacy, has also advanced the policy framework relevant to people with disabilities. Through its efforts, VNAH has almost single-handedly supported the Government of Vietnam in its efforts to create and pass the aforementioned disabilities and accessibility laws, and is assisting them with the implementation of those laws through the establishment of building design codes and construction standards.

VNAH's efforts were also central in establishing the National Coordinating Council on Disability within the government.

World Vision's Prosthetics and Orthotics Rehabilitation Project commenced in 1991. By the time funding for the World Vision initiative in Vietnam concluded at the end of 2000, four assisted rehabilitation centers had increased their technical and managerial capacities, tens of thousands of prosthetic and orthotic devices had been fabricated and delivered to people with mobility problems (30 percent of them children), training classes for rehabilitation professionals were organized, and direct government financial support for the production of prosthetic and orthotic devices was being provided.

Additional Fund partners in Vietnam include Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), the Prosthetic Outreach Foundation (POF), and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. All have made high-quality contributions to the evolution of a unified rehabilitation strategy for the country and have demonstrated an unusual ability to work together in a difficult environment.

HVO has been instrumental in providing education and practical orientation to prosthetics and orthotics professionals and those in related fields and in structuring a sustainable, multilevel training program. Also, it has been a catalyst in finding complementary approaches and strategies and helping establish the Disability Forum, an NGO and

government program coordinating body. HVO manages its program with only two professional staff members.

Likewise, in a recently concluded project, POF saw considerable success in advancing the standards of clinical care and prosthetic component technology during its three-year effort in Vietnam. Through POF, thousands of prosthetic devices were delivered, with a very high acceptance rate for patient fit and functionality.

VVAF is an implementing partner of the Leahy War Victims Fund in Angola and Cambodia as well as in Vietnam. VVAF's rehabilitation programs in Vietnam are implemented in partnership with two of the leading hospitals in the country, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health: the National Institute for Pediatrics and Bach Mai University Hospital, both located in Hanoi.

In both institutions, VVAF focuses on training staff to improve the quality of orthopedic services and increase local capacity to maintain orthopedic devices. In addition, VVAF provides clinical supervision at both workshops to further develop the local capacity in orthotic prescription and management.

To meet the needs of the large disabled population outside of the urban areas, VVAF, in partnership with Ford Motor Company, began a Mobile Outreach Program in 1999. The program, using custom-designed and donated Ford trucks, brings basic rehabilitation services directly to the countryside.

USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund supports separate initiatives in Vietnam that complement those described here. Those programs, also implemented by NGO partners, concentrate on children with disabilities who have no access to school, on children who are deaf or hearing impaired, and on the educational and vocational training needs of displaced adolescents and ethnic minority children.

Since its inception, Mobile Outreach has visited eight provinces and fit nearly 500 patients with orthotic devices.

The environment for Vietnam's population with disabilities remains difficult. The country is poor and its political leadership cautious in implementing the reforms required to increase prosperity. Yet the openings to the outside world seen in recent years and the impact of modern communications technology are creating new possibilities. The efforts supported by the Leahy War Victims Fund and DCOF are making a sustained difference for some of the country's most vulnerable citizens—and are underscoring improved relations between Vietnam and the United States.

Funding Guidelines

The following information is provided for those interested in applying for funding from the Leahy War Victims Fund. It is intended to provide general guidance, not definitive criteria.

Grantees

Country-based projects are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements to domestic, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations that are registered with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation. Grantee organizations work in partnership with host governments (usually the ministries responsible for health and social welfare), local NGOs capable of participating in the implementation of the project, and other international agencies working with war victims and people living with disabilities.

Additional information on LWVF funding guidelines can be obtained at the LWVF website at leahywarvictimsfund.org, by contacting the USAID in-country mission, or by contacting the Leahy War Victims Fund manager, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address noted on the inside of the back cover of this publication.

Funding

Funds from the LWVF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions where grants and cooperative agreements are negotiated and managed. When circumstances preclude this type of arrangement (e.g., in countries with no USAID mission, with multiple country projects, etc.) programs are managed directly from USAID/Washington.

Proposals

Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include both Requests for Applications (RFA) and Requests for Proposals (RFP). Information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission. Worldwide procurement announcements, solicitations, and resources can be obtained at USAID's website at www.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement/. Unsolicited concept papers can be submitted to USAID missions or to the LWVF manager. Concept papers should be approximately five pages in length. Proposals will be reviewed quarterly.

Selection Criteria

Although selection criteria for funding may vary from country to country and program to program, decisions are piloted by the six guiding principles of the fund:

1. Focus on countries where need and potential for impact is the greatest, within a general framework of direct assistance for people with disabilities;
2. Focus on cost-effectiveness and quality of service;
3. Emphasize orthopedic assistance within a framework of social and economic integration of the disabled;
4. Work with representatives of the disabilities community to strengthen policies within country programs;
5. Develop local activities that can be used as models for replication;
6. Support the development of effective practices, appropriate technologies, and innovative programmatic approaches within a framework of direct assistance; and
7. Include people with disabilities in the development and implementation of project activities.

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LWVF Funding									
(in thousands of dollars)									
	1989-95	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	TOTAL
USAID Funding	35,350	5,000	5,000	7,500	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Angola	596	2,500	768	732			1,000		6,192
Armenia	1,148								2,296
Cambodia	1,607			750	1,300	390	1,904		7,558
El Salvador	1,900	500							4,300
Ethiopia	2,965								5,930
Laos	2,110		800	1,000	1,800				7,820
Lebanon	2,223			300	500		600		5,846
Liberia	1,115	225		500	1,000				3,955
Mozambique	7,430		633	1,000					16,493
Sierra Leone	0					61	32		93
Sri Lanka	520	200	200	200	300	400	400		2,740
Tanzania/TATCOT	0		300				300		600
Uganda	3,882								7,764
Vietnam	7,105	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500		23,210
ISPO	200				1,078	350			1,828
ICRC	1,084		500			500			3,168
**USAID Global Bureau	45	115		1,000	1,500				2,705
New Africa Competition	0					6,113	1,918		8,031
PAHO/WHO	0				500				500
Quality Assurance	0					36			36
Technical Assistance	1,060		425	200	522	500	2,346		6,113
State Dept/Warner Bros	0					150			150
TOTAL	35,530	5,040	5,126	7,182	10,000	10,000	10,000		127,988

Note: list excludes one-time support to Afghanistan and Mali, but total includes those funds.

** includes support for LSN, VVAF, COPE USA Int'l, and other short-term assistance.



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