

Reporting Period: April 1 - June 30, 2004

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G-0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: July 25, 2004

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A. Support the activities of the Disability Forum

1. Program Activities:

a. The process of recruiting an organizing committee to establish the Disability Forum as a legally-recognized association was initiated with a day-long meeting on June 6.

b. The Good for Business project continued with a series of training courses for job seekers throughout the month of May.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. A group of eleven PWD members of the Forum agreed to serve as the charter-writing committee at the conclusion of the June 6 meeting. However, confusion resulted from a separate plan by Bright Future to establish a Hanoi association for PWD. Some of the group suggested that the Bright Future process should precede any legalization of the Forum. Further meetings are planned to clarify the issue.

b. The training and orientation for job seekers has been complemented by contacts with potential employers within the Chamber of Commerce. Participants will be encouraged to attend job fairs beginning next quarter.

B. Support VIETCOT students in the 1-year Orthotics specialty course

1. Program Activities

This activity, as set out in the new grant, will not begin until September or October.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

Final examinations in June, for both the orthotics specialty course and the regular

Category 2 course, were monitored by the president-elect of ISPO. Only one candidate failed to pass the rigorous examinations. That candidate will receive additional training. The intake process for the next orthotics course will begin next quarter.

C. Strengthen the university linkages

1. Program Activities:

In April, Dr. Jill Derstine, Nancy Kelly, and Linda James met with the Dreyfus Foundation in New York to review the March workshop conducted in Hue and plan for a follow-up visit.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

There was positive feedback on the workshop and real interest expressed by the faculty and students in Hue. The Dreyfus Foundation planned to send one of the Vietnamese faculty members to a workshop in Indonesia for further skill training.

The goals of the Foundation mesh well with those of HVO so we look forward to further collaboration.

D. Develop the professional capacities of nurses, rehabilitation doctors, and physical therapists in Vietnam

1. Program Activities:

There were no activities planned for the month, although discussions were initiated with Handicapped International as to possible training for some of the rehabilitation physicians with whom they work.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

One of HVO's Technical Advisory Group members will pursue this possibility during a fall visit to Ho Chi Minh City.

E. Monitor the implementation of five Innovation Day projects

1. Program Activities:

a. The Hanoi for All accessibility project has completed fifty surveys of tourist establishments around Hanoi, such as hotels and restaurants.

- b. The Sao Mai organization has completed "beta testing" for the text-to-speech web browser for vision-impaired computer users.
- c. The sign language training project has completed the preparation of a teachers' manual and has recruited deaf participants for training to begin next quarter.
- d. The furniture-making factory has purchased wood-working equipment, as planned, and has recruited sixteen PWD trainees.
- e. The RECAS organization recruitment process failed to find interested PWD in the planned provinces.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

- a. A database of the accessibility survey sites has been prepared, and a few meetings with managers have been held. Systematic feedback has yet to be started. A web site is being prepared.
- b. The web browser project is almost complete. A user's guide will be prepared and a special alternative version created for a voice with a southern Vietnamese accent.
- c. Planning is underway for training events in four provinces, beginning in July with Thai Nguyen.
- d. The project implementers report difficulty in recruiting and maintaining thirty participants as planned. With roughly half that number currently employed, funding for this project will be discontinued.
- e. In light of their failure to find willing participants in the original provinces, RECAS will move to Ha Nam to recruit.

II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

In this second quarter of the new grant, the transition to local management of the Disability Forum is a major objective. The project suffered a serious setback when special consultant, John Lancaster, was involved in a traffic accident in late April and had to leave the country for medical treatment.

Continuing support for training of orthotics technicians and for university linkages will be supplemented by regular visits by HVO volunteers to conduct professional development activities.

III. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

PWD leaders interested in establishing the Disability Forum as a local association

have been identified. To our knowledge, no PWD self-help group has yet managed to follow the provisions of Decree 88 through to the legalization stage. Some doubt has arisen as to the level of support that will be forthcoming from NCCD and other agencies.

A series of management training courses are planned to prepare the new management board for leadership roles in the Disability Forum.

IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

A working relationship with MOLISA, as HVO's principle ministerial counterpart, is developing with the signing of a series of memoranda of understanding with individual project counterparts. HVO has also been invited to serve on a new advisory board for VIETCOT as one element in our continuing cooperation.

The loss of John Lancaster as consultant to the Disability Forum was a serious blow to our implementation plans this quarter. In addition, HVO's office manager, Nguyen Thi Thuan, has announced her resignation as of the end of August. In both cases, finding replacements will be a challenge, possibly requiring adjustments to our organizational structure.

In early June, a meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was held in Washington, DC. Project Director Larry Wolfe was able to coordinate his home leave to participate. It was an excellent opportunity to review the activities proposed under the grant extension and assess needs and directions.

V. DATA COLLECTION

VI. FINANCIAL/EXPENDITURE

Submitted separately.

ACRONYMS:

APCD	Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability
ISPO:	International Society for Prosthetics & Orthotics
JICA:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MOH:	Ministry of Health
MOLISA:	Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
NCCD:	National Coordinating Committee for Disabilities
ODTA:	Office of Disability Technical Assistance
PWD:	People with Disabilities
TAG:	HVO's Technical Advisory Group
VIETCOT:	Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists
VINAREHA:	Vietnam Rehabilitation Association

VNA: Vietnam Nurses' Association
VNAH: Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped
VVAF: Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation