

Reporting Period: July 1 - September 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: October 27, 2004

## I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

### A. Support the activities of the Disability Forum

#### 1. Program Activities

a. The new "mobilizing committee" initiated regular meetings in early July. Writing of a draft charter was completed this quarter.

b. The Good for Business project produced a video to illustrate to prospective employers the benefits of recruiting PWDs. The second training series, addressing resume writing and interviewing skills, was conducted at the end of September.

c. In coordination with VNAH and NCCD, HVO organized a workshop on Decree 88 and the formation of self-help groups. Two events were held for the northern and the southern provinces.

#### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results

a. Earlier confusion about the parallel Bright Future project to establish a Hanoi association was cleared up this quarter. The mobilizing committee will be ready to submit the application next quarter. It is still unclear whether the Danish-supported project will confuse the issue with the Hanoi People's Committee.

b. On September 28, the Good for Business video was shown to the participants in the American Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. The presentation received a positive reception, and a significant number of CD-ROMs were distributed. Participants in the training course have written their resumes for use in their job search. The trainers felt more work was needed to improve the participants' interview skills.

c. Attendance at the training workshops was good, with PWDs outnumbering government officials. The two events served as valuable networking opportunities for the provincial groups and the officials to whom they will present their applications for association.

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

## 1. Program Activities

The new course is slated to begin in early October.

## 2. Actual Versus Expected Results

The list of students, which was finalized this quarter, includes two PWDs and a total of three women, as suggested by HVO's Technical Advisory Group.

## C. Strengthen the university linkages

### 1. Program Activities

In July, various nursing colleagues met in New York to discuss the present situation in Vietnam and future plans for the project. It was decided that it would be beneficial to bring together nurses from across the country for training in research methods. The project will be designed around nursing volunteers from the US linkage universities to help sustain those relationships beyond the grant period.

The Dreyfus Foundation followed up their training at Hue University by sending one of the Vietnamese faculty members to Indonesia for further training.

### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results

Feedback from Indonesia was that the training went quite well and the Hue faculty member is even more excited about possibilities at his university. Plans are underway for a follow-up training course at Hue University, in conjunction with the Dreyfus Foundation.

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

### 1. Program Activities

a. Nearly seventy physical therapy textbooks were procured and sent to the Physical Therapy Department at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City, to develop their library.

Computers and printers are now on order for the department as well.

b. One of HVO's Technical Advisory Group, Dr. Elizabeth Kay, visited with the Spinal Care Center in Ho Chi Minh City. The center, sponsored by Handicapped International, met with Dr. Kay to explore the possibility of hosting two rehabilitation physicians to

assist with training.

## **2. Actual Versus Expected Results**

- a. Both faculty and students in the Physical Therapy Department expressed much appreciation for the current information now available to them with the new textbooks.**
- b. The Spinal Care Center is very receptive to having the two physicians spend time with their staff, providing them with hands-on training and advice.**

## **E. Monitor the implementation of five Innovation Day projects**

### **1. Program Activities**

All five of the Innovation Day projects are nearing completion, as scheduled.

- a. The "Hanoi for All" accessibility project reported to the Disability Forum management committee that they have not been able to convince many hotels and restaurants to make accessibility adjustments using their own financial resources. The committee will consider options for continuing project activities into next year.**
- b. The Sao Mai organization has completed work on the web browser for blind computer users. Plans for the final quarter include preparation of a manual for users.**
- c. The sign language training project successfully completed their final training event this quarter.**
- d. The furniture-making factory continues to work with sixteen trainees. The funding stage of the project has been completed.**
- e. The RECAS organization has been recruiting in alternative provinces, hoping to find a sufficient number of interested PWDs. This project has ended with implementation of the latest training course in Ha Nam in late August.**

## **2. Actual Versus Expected Results**

- a. After the survey of fifty sites, follow-up communications with managers is pending. A web site has been established.**
- b. Feedback from users indicates a strong preference for a more human-sounding (not computer-generated) voice. That might be an objective for a future project.**
- c. This project has been successfully completed. It is hoped that interest will be generated**

among the hearing-impaired participants in forming provincial self-help groups.

d. Funding for this project has been completed.

e. The concept of training PWDs as care-givers for the elderly did not generate the expected level of interest in the provinces.

## II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

It was encouraging news this quarter that at least two of the provincial PWD groups, Nam Dinh and Ha Giang, reported that their applications for legal status have been approved.

This should pave the way for other provinces to follow suit, especially if NCCD and other central government agencies offer their support.

## III. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The "mobilizing group" of the Disability Forum will submit an application to the Hanoi People's Committee in October. If successful, the process will result in a recognized association at the city level, in which case a new leadership group will be elected at the first congress.

A series of management training courses will begin next quarter to prepare the new prospective management board members for their new leadership roles.

HVO and the other international NGO participants will continue their activities related to the group, but they will be prohibited by law from being members. In effect, the "Disability Forum" will revert to its original status as an interest group under the NGO Resource Centre. The newly-registered group will be called the Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities. Once organized, this group will be supported and strengthened over the course of the next two years.

## IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

Progress has been made in resolving last quarter's personnel problems with the sudden departure of John Lancaster and Nguyen Thi Thuan. A recruitment process resulted in the contracting of an administrative assistant, Le Thi Kim Oanh, and for the Disability Forum, an additional staffer to handle communications, Nguyen Thi Lan Anh.

While relations with HVO's government partners, MOLISA, have been excellent, the permit renewal from PACCOM is still pending. A "temporary" permit will be requested next quarter, at MOLISA's suggestion.

Project Manager Linda James visited Vietnam late in September and was pleased with the new government relations (MOLISA, NCCD, and the various project site

relationships). The ministerial interest and support for HVO's work has meant faster approvals and less bureaucracy. There also appears to be greater understanding of the issues around people with disabilities.

## V. DATA COLLECTION

Two workshops 90

## VI. FINANCIAL

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