

**INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES (IVWD)**  
**Quarterly Report # 1**  
**(October-December 2005)**

**USAID Cooperative Agreement #486-A-00-05-00019-00**  
**Award Recipient: Catholic Relief Services**

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**I. Summary of Progress Made**

**a. Inclusive Education (SO 1)**

This initial three month period was a time of transition for CRS Inclusive Education (IE) staff from the conclusion of the previous USAID-funded IE project to the start of the IVWD project. Once the IVWD proposal was approved, CRS concentrated on a series of discussions with MOET departments to determine more precise contents and scope of the new project. This has been particularly important with the Secondary Education and Higher Education departments who are new partners for CRS. Staff in secondary education have shown great enthusiasm for piloting of IE at the junior secondary level and are moving ahead with national awareness workshops for secondary education administrators and teachers to be held ahead of schedule. Consultations with Higher Education have focused on the changes in curricula at teacher training universities and colleges and the feasibility of teaching modules of inclusion as part of existing special education courses. After some initial miscommunication, CRS has also begun a consultation process with the World Bank loan-funded PEDC project on areas of cooperation. The sum of the above consultations will result in slight adjustments in project activities to be more relevant to local needs, in line with MOET priorities, and avoid overlap with other programs.

**b. Vocational Training and Employment (SO 2)**

Sub-grantee World Concern (WCDO) met with MoLISA and NCCD to brief them on the project and to initially discuss joint activities. WCDO also met with provincial government agencies to introduce project activities and get acquainted with local partners. WCDO has participated in national level meetings with MOLISA, NCCD and VNAH on vocational training and employment policy issues. The project team was strengthened with the recruitment of a new social worker who is a disabled person.

WCDO and CRS worked together on the revision of all project-related documents, including the Project Summary, Proframe, Implementation Plan, Budget, Baseline Survey, questionnaires for the Training Needs Assessment (TNA), report forms for local partners, MOUs with MoLISA and provincial governments, and contracts/agreements with businesses. CRS and WCDO have come to an agreement with the Ninh Binh provincial authorities on the districts to be included in the project. WCDO staff visited target districts in Ninh Binh to get a better understanding of the situation of PWD in the region, introduce project activities, and establish working relationships with local partners.

**c. Awareness and Advocacy (SO 3)**

CRS and WCDO cooperated in hosting a booth at the “Beauty in Diversity Day” to commemorate the International Day of Disabled Persons on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The primary focus in this period has been on spreading awareness of the IVWD project and approach among international and domestic NGOs, including groups of PWDs and those working as advocates on disability issues. CRS and WCDO are among the recognized leaders in this area, but more needs to be done to include PWD in all aspects of the program and increase staff and counterparts’ awareness and capacity.

**II. Analysis of Project Impact by Objective**

**SO1: Children with disabilities benefit from improved and expanded education and community support systems**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Progress and Comments</b>
1.1.1 Provincial education officials increase their knowledge and skills to implement IE	--	--
1.1.2 TTCs become focal points for training of IE professionals	--	After consultation with MOET and PEDC, CRS selected 2 TT universities in Danang and Quy Nhon plus 3 early childhood TTCs in Hanoi, HCMC, and Nha Trang for training.
1.1.3 Education system is able to track child profiles and progress	--	Held initial discussions with PEDC on coordinating development of tracking systems
1.1.4 Evidence based pilot of IE in secondary school is developed	c. # of national workshops held on junior secondary IE	Funds advanced to MOET Secondary Education Dept. for 3 national-level workshops to be held in Q1/2006.
1.1.5 Local partners form 2 provincial support centers for PWD.	--	Discussed resource center models and experiences with INGO colleagues. Initial plan to involve PSBI as sub-contractor is likely to change. CRS will request modification when ready.

1.2.1 MOET leaders have improved understanding on inclusion of CWD in school system.	--	--
1.2.2 Education management schools mainstream IE module	--	--
1.2.3 MOET legal documents explicitly mention inclusion	--	During the reporting period MOET held a workshop on the new Education Law, which does not mention IE. However, MOET officials reaffirmed their commitment to IE verbally in this and other fora. MOET regulations on IE were sent to the minister (part of previous CRS project).
1.3.1 Community support networks promote comprehensive support approach for CWD.	--	--

## SO 2: PWD profit from meaningful employment and self employment opportunities

Outputs	Relevant Indicators	Progress and Comments
2.1.1 Businesses and vocational training centers have improved capacity to train and place PWD.	--	--
2.1.2 Community support workers have strengthened capacity to provide employment support.	--	--
2.1.3 VABED increases capacity to network between PWD businesses and service providers.	d. # of VABED members sponsored by WCDO who receive master trainer certificates on SIYB from VCCI e. # of VABED staff who complete training	In meetings with VABED and VCCI, WCDO agreed that VABED will select 15 staff nationwide to attend SIYB training courses (focusing on training for PWD) conducted by VCCI. Initial selection criteria and a collaborative mechanism have been set up among the three organizations.
2.2.1 PWD, businesses and PWD supporters have increased access to information on policies.	--	WCDO staff have become better informed on policies for PWD through attendance at national workshops held by MOLISA and NCCD. This provides a foundation for upcoming activities at the provincial and community level.
2.2.2 MOLISA produces a manual on VT and employment.	c. Process and timeframe to write manual established	Agreement in principle reached with MOLISA to produce manual.
2.2.3 Local partners and WCDO provide recommendations to national policy makers.	--	--

2.3.1 CSW and PWDs establish supportive networks for PWD peer groups.	--	WCDO agreed with DOLISA Ninh Binh on procedures for establishing support networks at the commune level.
2.3.2 PWD are equipped with life skills.	--	--
2.4.1 PWD increase participation in awareness raising and advocacy events related to VT/employment.	--	--
2.4.2 Local communities increase knowledge on disability issues.	--	--
2.4.3 MOLISA and NCCD produce quality materials for raising awareness on employment for PWD.	--	--

**SO 3: Vietnamese Government and stakeholders develop, modify and implement policies that promote mainstreaming of inclusive education and vocational training for PWD.**

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Relevant Indicators</b>	<b>Progress and Comments</b>
3.1.1 Local communities are aware of issues and needs of PWD.	--	--
3.1.2 Local community and PWD groups implement action plans on IE & VT.	--	--
3.1.3 PWD in 2 provinces raise their voices and concerns through media.	--	--
3.2.1 CRS and VNAH adopt common strategy in working with NCCD.	b. Collaborative mechanism set up c. Regular meetings organized on bimonthly basis	3 formal and many informal meetings held between CRS, WCDO and VNAH. Agreement to hold monthly coordination meetings beginning in January 2006.
3.2.2 NCCD facilitates ministries to review policies on IE & VT.	--	CRS and WCDO staff attended NCCD quarterly meeting as well as five-year strategic planning retreat in Ninh Binh.
3.2.3 CRS and WCDO cooperate with NCCD and National Assembly on development of disability legislation.	--	--
3.3.1 CRS, WCDO and collaborative partners set up working network	c. # of meetings held	8 meetings with collaborative partners. CRS presented new project to Disability Forum, Coordination Group, and Education Sector Group. In new Disability Working Group structure. CRS is one of 5 core group

		NGOs. CRS participated in formation of Education for All working group led by UNESCO. Held initial discussions on collaboration with PEDC. Planned database activities with MCNV and Handicap Intl.
3.3.2 Stakeholders demonstrate increased awareness of IE & VT issues	--	--
3.3.3 Provincial, district and commune People's Committees have increased capacity to identify PWD and plan for support activities.	--	2 target provinces of Ninh Binh and Quang Nam selected in October in consultation with VNAH and USAID. Initial visits and presentations made to provincial authorities in November.

### III. Lessons Learned

It is important to take the necessary time and patience to establish clear understanding and expectations with national, provincial and district authorities and partners. The first quarter implementation timeframe was not fully met, in part because of delays at the provincial level, and also due to competing demands on CRS staff. Increased contact by CRS/WCDO with the provincial partners will help to create a good image, build trust and lead to closer relationships with them.

The CRS-WCDO relationship is an important contributor to success of the project. Cooperation and communication have been good overall on a personal and professional level. A subgrant agreement was signed in early October. However, the two organizations have different work styles, sizes and levels of involvement in Vietnam, and the subgrant relationship is also new for both organizations.

### IV. Challenges

The primary challenge faced so far has been logistical as this project involves multiple partners, both among Vietnamese government agencies and international organizations. For instance, while previous CRS inclusive education projects worked with a research institute and/or one or two MOET departments, this project works with four departments directly under the leadership of Vice-Minister Dang Huynh Mai through the Steering Committee on Education for Children with Disabilities. At least one other NGO program (MCNV) also works through this structure, while the larger PEDC project has its own steering committee that is also led by Vice-Minister Mai.

MOET structures, like provinces and other bureaucracies, need extensive time to review proposals, agree on MOUs and other documents, and identify individuals and procedures for management. By the end of this reporting period, general agreement had been

reached with MOET, NCCD, and Ninh Binh province on the scope and management of activities. MOLISA and Quang Nam agreements still needed more time, with issues such as district selection and management structure not yet agreed upon. Quang Nam authorities have been pleasant to work with but slow to respond to requests, perhaps because this project is not (yet) a high priority of theirs internally.

Delays in MOU signing have led to delayed implementation of activities. For example, the PWD and businesses selection process and training courses on teaching methods for businesses who provide VT for PWD have not yet occurred as scheduled. Since the vocational training component is new to Ninh Binh, the local government and DOLISA in particular do not have much experience in community-based and on-the-job-training models. The same is true for inclusive education awareness in Quang Nam. Many provincial officials' awareness on disability issues remains at a low level.

While the project has been fully staffed in terms of number of staff members of both CRS and WCDO, the position of Deputy Chief of Party remains unfilled.

## **V. Financial Update**

Total USAID grant expenses for this quarter were \$56,984, not including some as-yet uncharged CRS NICRA expenditures and international staff costs. The majority (more than 80%) of these expenditures came from the WCDO portions of the grant. WCDO cost share during this period was \$392, and CRS cost share was \$18,233. These figures are not expected to be indicative of future quarters as much of this quarter was devoted to start-up activities. Details will be provided in the relevant financial reports, submitted separately.

## **VI. Success Stories**

One of the bright spots in the project so far has been working with NCCD and its dynamic, unpredictable office director. From an initial impression of arriving late for a meeting and reading a newspaper while MOET officials discussed the project, CRS's relationship with NCCD has become warm and cordial. Since NCCD is not a bureaucracy in the way that other project partners are, negotiation and approval of activities has also been a smooth process. CRS hopes that this good cooperation can continue.

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