

## **INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES (IVWD)**

### **Quarterly Report # 3**

**(April-June 2006)**

**USAID Cooperative Agreement #486-A-00-05-00019-00**

**Award Recipient: Catholic Relief Services**

**Report Submitted: 29 July 2006**

#### **I. Summary of Progress Made**

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

CRS's project implementation with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) began formally with the signing of an MOU in May. CRS is working directly with four MoET departments (Preschool, Primary, Secondary, and Higher Education) under the leadership of Vice-Minister Dang Huynh Mai, who is also the chair of the Steering Committee on Education for Children with Disabilities. This MOU had been prepared since January but delayed due to internal MoET discussions about management and personnel. At the same time, Vice-Minister Mai also signed and issued Regulations on Inclusive Education that had been prepared with technical assistance from the previous USAID grant to CRS.

Following signing of the MOU, CRS developed detailed budgets and implementation plans with each of the four MoET departments. Each department has also established a sub-management board to work with CRS that reports to the MoET Steering Committee.

The baseline survey in six focus districts was completed during this quarter and a draft report prepared in Vietnamese. CRS organized a baseline survey workshop in early June, attended by CRS and World Concern staff, the team of survey consultants, VNAH and USAID. As a result of this meeting and other consultations, substantial new data was added to the report, while less relevant information was cut. CRS presented the results of the baseline survey to the INGO Disability Working Group and to a national workshop on disability data organized by NCCD. Among the significant findings of the survey are that attendance rates among CWD are already higher than MoET targets in the six districts overall, but different groups of disabilities are represented unequally. Relatively few children are benefiting from existing social programs or rehabilitation. Attitudes of key stakeholder groups towards education of CWD are generally good, but their knowledge of policy and practice of inclusion are still weak. The conducting and dissemination of the baseline survey have been done to mobilize community members and higher level stakeholders around the issues disability and thereby increase their awareness.

CRS also used the results of the baseline survey to complete the monitoring and evaluation framework for the project and set relevant targets for the midterm and final evaluations.

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

Sub-grantee World Concern (WCDO) completed negotiations with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA) and signed an MOU together with CRS in May. This MOU commits MoLISA to study and adopt WCDO's community-based vocational training model and to further develop on-the-job training for young PWD. WCDO continued to work with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Vietnam Association of Businesses and Enterprises of Persons with Disabilities (VABED) on developing Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training materials.

In Ninh Binh and Quang Nam provinces, WCDO organized medical checks and in-depth interviews with young PWD (April) and visits to businesses and PWD who will join in providing training placement and support to project trainees (May 8-25). Recruitment of Community-Based Social Workers was completed in Ninh Binh, along with a sub-project management structure with the provincial DoLISA. In late May, a three-day meeting was held to match PWD trainees with appropriate businesses in Ninh Binh. (Similar activities will be completed in Quang Nam in July.)

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

A bi-annual Partner's Meeting was held in Hanoi in April, including representatives from all project counterparts at national and provincial levels. Later in April, introductory workshops were organized in Ninh Binh and Quang Nam with participation from provincial and district leaders in the People's Committees, education and labor departments, and other related sectors. The Chief of Party was invited to give a keynote presentation to a Quang Nam People's Committee conference on international NGO cooperation held in May in Hoi An.

CRS held regular meetings with NCCD to discuss coordination of project activities and provide orientation on financial management. Monthly planning meetings were also organized between CRS, World Concern and VNAH, resulting in improved cooperation among the three organizations. CRS contributed comments on the National Action Plan on Disability prepared by MoLISA and to the National Assembly Committee on Social Affairs report to review 10 years of implementation of the Ordinance on Disability.

Deputy Chief of Party, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thuy began work in June and is taking charge of project activities at the provincial level in Ninh Binh and Quang Nam. The period of April to June 2006 marked the deeper and closer involvement of Project Management Boards and education and labor departments at province and district level in project planning and implementation. Meetings with the People's Committees in both provinces reviewed project progress, financial management and communication procedures. The Ninh Binh Project Management Board met for the first time in late June, and Quang Nam issued a decision to set in progress the formation of a Project Management Board. This completes the arduous process of establishing management structures for the project at all levels.

Also in June, CRS and WCDO conducted awareness raising workshops in three districts of Ninh Binh. Each one-day workshop was attended by approx. 50-60 district leaders, educators, PWD and parents of CWD. The workshops were facilitated by an inclusive education expert from the National Institute of Educational Strategy and Curriculum and featured presentations by several PWD who are active in self-help groups.

## II. Analysis of Project Impact by Objective

### SO 1: Children with disabilities benefit from improved and expanded education and community support systems

Outputs	Relevant Indicators	Progress and Comments
1.1.1 Provincial education officials increase their knowledge and skills to implement IE	c. # of provincial officials who complete training at each level d. Length of training	CRS participated in a 2-day PEDC workshop “towards an IE system” in June, included about 70 managers from provinces nationwide, including Ninh Binh and Quang Nam demonstrating both increased knowledge but also wider networking with others.
1.1.2 TTCs become focal points for training of IE professionals	--	--
1.1.3 Education system is able to track child profiles and progress	--	--
1.1.4 Evidence based pilot of IE in jr. secondary school is developed	c. # of national workshops held on junior secondary IE	National-level workshops on secondary school IE have still not been organized by MoET although funds were advanced in Jan. 2006. With the MOET management structure established in the newly signed MOU, this workshop can now be developed in a more integrated manner.
1.1.5 Local partners form 2 provincial support centers for PWD.	a. # of support centers formed	CRS supported 2 Ninh Binh DoET officials to join CRS staff in attending a one-day MoET review workshop on support center models (June). Ninh Binh DoET developed a draft plan to form a provincial support center.
1.2.1 MOET leaders have improved understanding on inclusion of CWD in school system.	a. # of MOET leaders who show commitment and take initiative to support IE for CWD	Completed central-level baseline assessment; identified 10 MoET leaders at present; target 20 by end of project
1.2.2 Education management schools mainstream IE module	--	--
1.2.3 MOET legal documents explicitly mention inclusion	a. # of recommendations on policy change by MoET	MoET Regulations on Inclusive Education issued in May.
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.	a. # of business and service providers who have plans to recruit and provide on-the-job support for PWD	30 businesses have agreed to train PWD (18 in Ninh Binh, 12 in Quang Nam) for 1 <sup>st</sup> phase of vocational training.
2.1.2 Community support workers (CWS) have strengthened capacity to provide employment support.	a. # of CSW who demonstrate increased skills and knowledge in supporting and placing PWD in jobs or businesses	25 DoLISA staff in Ninh Binh completed training on identification and placement of PWD in vocational training. 3 community-based social workers (CBSWs) and 12 community support workers (CSWs) were selected. 7 CSWs selected in Quang Nam.
2.1.3 VABED increases capacity to network between PWD businesses and service providers.	--	MOU signed with VABED and VCCI. Training contract prepared with VCCI.
2.2.1 PWD, businesses and PWD supporters have increased access to information on policies.	--	--
2.2.2 MOLISA produces a manual on VT and employment.	--	MOU with MoLISA states that The Department of International Relation will take lead in producing manual introducing community-based vocational training model and employment for PWD to all training institutions and job service centers that provide vocational training and employment for PWD.
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.	a. # of peer groups and deaf clubs functioning in 6 target districts	Peer groups initiated in 3 districts of Ninh Binh, facilitated by CBSWs and CSWs (see 2.1.2)
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.	a. # of national and local awareness raising campaigns with PWD representation or involvement	Local PWD were invited and participated in all activities at provincial and local level, including awareness-raising trainings in 3 districts of Ninh Binh (June). Meetings to match PWD and businesses held in NB (May).
2.4.2 Local communities increase knowledge on disability issues.	a. % of target groups with improved understanding of the importance of employment for PWD	Baseline survey report shows that the knowledge, attitude and practice of local officials, community support workers, PWD families and businesses on disability issues is rated average. However, there are only a limited number of people who know about PWD policies.
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.	b. # of individual community members and local authorities who demonstrate attitude change	CRS and WCDO hosted exchange meetings between 18 PWD and authorities with a trans-Vietnam tour (of 35 PWD) by PWD to raise awareness on disability issues in Quang Nam and Ninh Binh.
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.	a. # of reports and programs relating to PWD issues in provincial media	Ninh Binh newspaper reports and Ninh Binh TV/radio broadcasts information on the disability issues' workshop in its program.
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	Coordination between CRS and VNAH has improved through monthly and other regular meetings. CRS has also held regular meetings with NCCD relating to project activities and planning. However, monthly coordination meetings with VNAH and NCCD have not been held pending follow-through from VNAH.
3.2.2 NCCD facilitates ministries to review policies on IE & VT.	--	--
3.2.3 CRS and WCDO cooperate with NCCD and National Assembly on development of disability legislation.	a. # of laws or ordinances under preparation in National Assembly b. Content relating to IE and VT in these bills c. # of meetings per year with National Assembly	National Assembly has placed Law on Disability on calendar for 2008. CRS contributed comments on IE targets and strategy to National Action Plan and National Assembly.
3.3.1 CRS, WCDO and collaborative partners set up working network	c. # of meetings held	11 meetings with collaborative partners (Disability Forum and Working Group, Education Sector Group, HVO, MCNV, PEDC, VVAF, VNAH, World Bank).
3.3.2 Stakeholders demonstrate increased awareness of IE & VT issues	a. # of awareness-raising workshops containing IE and VT components c. # of participants at workshops	3 district level workshops organized in Ninh Binh, with about 250 community members attending.
3.3.3 Provincial, district and commune People's Committees have increased capacity to identify PWD and plan for support activities.	--	People's Committees of Ninh Binh and Quang Nam formed Project Steering Boards (June). DoET in 2 provinces formed sub-management boards on IE. 6 focus districts all have functioning Project Management Boards.

### **III. Lessons Learned**

Sustained results have been achieved this quarter through improved cooperation between CRS and WCDO and with other collaborative partners. Understanding and support from provincial partners has also improved noticeably as a result of time and effort on the part of project staff. The project is now fully staffed, allowing a much greater scope of activities at a given time.

### **IV. Challenges**

Challenges mentioned in the previous quarterly report regarding delays and understaffing have largely been resolved in this reporting period. Activity implementation remains several months behind schedule in many cases, with Ninh Binh about one month ahead of Quang Nam. CRS and WCDO staffs are working hard to catch up so as to be able to complete the preponderance of Year 1 activities by the end of the fiscal year in September.

Small challenges have been noted in this period regarding financial transfer procedures to partners; identification of suitable businesses in some poorer areas of project districts; and the need to raise awareness (and change practices) of project partners at the same time as we collaborate with them on organizing events. This applies particularly to those partners who are new to both CRS and WCDO: Ninh Binh DoLISA, Quang Nam DoET, and NCCD. For example, NCCD and CRS had difficulty coming to agreement on procedures and financial guidelines for an initial workshop. Given the complexities of this program, CRS is attempting to apply standardized procedures and cost norms, but groups like NCCD are demanding greater flexibility. CRS will continue to apply to the extent possible consistent treatment for all project partners.

### **V. Financial Update**

Total USAID grant expenses for this quarter were \$101,801, a more than 50% increase from the previous quarter, though still below the projected average rate of \$166,000 per quarter. No adjustments were made to the previous quarter's reported expenditures. CRS cost share during this period was \$17,118, and WCDO cost share was \$1,589; the latter figure is expected to be adjusted when a fuller report is available from World Concern.

### **VI. Success Stories**

The planning meeting with Quang Nam DoET in June was a great success thanks to many factors, one of which was the excellent facilitation by Mr. Nguyen Tan Thang, Director of Quang Nam DoET. During the meeting, Mr. Thang proved himself to be understanding and committed to the project. He chaired the meeting, provided his input from the perspective of both a Quang Nam leader and a project insider who is really keen on ensuring successful implementation. His staff at the meeting also contributed considerably to the discussion on planning thanks to his

facilitation and asking appropriate guiding questions. CRS staff present were all impressed by his being friendly, casual and his ability to both think strategically and be attentive to details. This was especially important since collaboration with Quang Nam has been a bit of challenge in the past, and we were concerned whether the meeting would go well. In the end, we came back to Hanoi with a six month project plan in hand. But the greatest result was our increased confidence in provincial leadership in Quang Nam and realization that cooperation is not impossible, it just takes a little time to understand each other.

*Report prepared by: Andrew Wells-Dang, Chief of Party*