

INCLUSION OF VIETNAMESE WITH DISABILITIES (IVWD)
Quarterly Report # 2
(January-March 2006)

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I. Summary of Progress Made

a. Inclusive Education (SO 1)

This quarter was dominated by the preparation and negotiation of project agreements and structures with Vietnamese partners and the completion of a baseline survey in the two focus provinces of Ninh Binh and Quang Nam. Signing ceremonies were held for project MOUs in both provinces in February, and the baseline survey began immediately thereafter.

The baseline survey aimed to assess the situation and needs of children and adults with disabilities in six focus districts (Gia Vien, Kim Son and Yen Mo in Ninh Binh province; Duy Xuyen, Hiep Duc and Hoi An in Quang Nam). The survey was designed as a large scale population survey with in-depth screening examination of children with disabilities and in-depth interviews of youth. All families with children with disabilities in the six districts were interviewed on the situation and needs of their children, with a focus on education. A team of four lead consultants with background and experience in disability, education and sociology at the national level participated in designing the baseline survey, identification forms and KAP (Knowledge-Attitude-Practice) questionnaires. After the design was complete, the team of consultants trained local surveyors on how to identify Children with Disabilities (CWDs) at the community level. Eight doctors from national hospitals who specialize in language therapy, psychology, and rehabilitation also participated in delivering provincial training. At the same time, a sociologist trained for provincial and district social workers on how to identify young adults with disabilities as well as how to conduct in-depth interviews on needs of vocational training/employment (see SO 2 below).

The survey identified 2,948 children with disabilities in the 3 project districts in Ninh Binh, of which 2,548 attended screening examinations (88% of the total). In the Quang Nam districts, 2,771 CWD were identified and 2,096 children (76%) attended screening examinations. The screening found that the general prevalence of disabilities can be analyzed as follows: 40% of children screened have visual impairments, learning disabilities 30%, language disabilities 30%, mobility impairments 20% and hearing impairments 15%. (Some 35% have multiple disabilities, so the individual figures total more than 100%.)

b. Vocational Training and Employment (SO 2)

Sub-grantee World Concern (WCDO) conducted training courses on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for DOLISA district staff in both project provinces. These trained staff interviewed young people with disabilities (PWD), their families, businesses, local officials and other local people for their knowledge-attitude-practice (KAP) on disability issues including employment. World Concern then conducted screening and selection of PWD and businesses to participate in vocational training. Medical checks and interviews with PWD were held in Quang Nam in March; the screening in Ninh Binh will be held during the first week of April.

WCDO and CRS continued to negotiate an MOU with MOLISA. In a March meeting, MOLISA agreed to assign one department to work directly with WCDO in developing a reference book on community-based adaptive vocational training for young PWD and awareness raising materials (posters, pamphlets, etc.) on vocational training and employment for PWD. WCDO signed MOUs with VABED and VCCI on implementation of the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training program and building capacity for VABED staff and members. Related staff from the three parties made site visits to informal vocational classes carried out by VABED members in Hanoi to increase their understanding of the abilities of PWD in vocational training/employment.

c. Awareness and Advocacy (SO 3)

The project's cooperation with the National Coordinating Committee on Disabilities (NCCD) and the broader disability community continued. After approval from MOLISA, CRS signed an MOU with NCCD in March covering awareness raising workshops, policy revision, dissemination of research results, and consolidation of disability terminology. CRS also was active as an NGO voice in the education sector, contributing suggestions on national educational standards, national targets for inclusive education, school accessibility, and donor strategy for educating children in difficult circumstances. As one of the only organizations active in both education and disability, CRS is able to serve as a link among organizations that would not otherwise intersect.

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	a. # of provincial officials nationwide with increased IE knowledge and skills	Baseline of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) of 20 officials in 2 project provinces measured in baseline survey.
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	For internal administrative reasons, MOET postponed 3 national-level workshops planned for Q1/2006 to Q2.
1.1.5 Local partners form 2 provincial support centers for PWD.	--	--
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	KAP of MOET leaders not measured in baseline survey; will be assessed independently after conclusion of provincial baseline.
1.2.2 Education management schools mainstream IE module	--	--
1.2.3 MOET legal documents explicitly mention inclusion	--	MoET Strategy on Education of Children with Disabilities (supported in previous CRS/USAID project) completed and approved by Minister. Fundamental School Quality Levels (FSQLs) prepared by MOET and PEDC did not mention IE and accessibility in earlier drafts; CRS recommended that they be amended to do so.
1.3.1 Community support networks promote comprehensive support approach for CWD.	--	KAP of 185 parents, 600 teachers and 196 community leaders in 6 project districts measured in baseline survey. Sample size was 185 parents of CWD in NB, 179 in QN, plus 196 community members in each province.

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 recruit and provide on-the-job support for PWD	40 businesses in Ninh Binh and 100 businesses in Quang Nam completed training needs assessment (TNA) and KAP forms. At least 50% of these businesses will contract with WCDO and the Project Management Board to train and employ PWD. The WCDO Quang Nam Team visited two Vocational Training Centers in

		Dien Ban and Hoi An to assess the possibility of placing some PWD for 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 and 27 DOLISA and Red Cross staff in Quang Nam (provincial, district and commune levels) received training on knowledge and skills to conduct TNA; they went on to conduct the TNA in their respective localities. Some of them will be selected to be CSWs.
2.1.3 VABED increases capacity to network between PWD businesses and service providers.	--	--
2.2.1 PWD, businesses and PWD supporters have increased access to information on policies.	a. % of PWD, families and businesses who demonstrate improved understanding of key policies related to VT and employment	WCDO sent two employers who worked with WCDO in the previous project and are hiring PWD to attend the Employers Workshop held by NCCD and VNAH.
2.2.2 MOLISA produces a manual on VT and employment.	--	--
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.	--	In Quang Nam, the recruitment of two community-based social workers (CBSW) has been completed and the selection of CSWs will be carried out after the PMT and DSCs are established. In Ninh Binh, these local workers will be recruited by WCDO and the provincial management board after the baseline survey. Potential CBSW and CSW will have the chance to demonstrate their abilities and capacities during the survey.
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.	a. % of target groups with improved understanding of the importance of employment for PWD	The baseline survey training both measured target groups' understanding and formed an opportunity for participants to learn about employment for PWD and other 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.

Outputs	Relevant Indicators	Progress and Comments
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	Initial attitudes measured in baseline survey in 6 districts of NB, QN.
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	MOU with NCCD signed in March. Three meetings held with VNAH in Jan, Feb. Monthly coordination meetings with VNAH and NCCD have not yet been held pending follow-through from VNAH. CRS held 4 separate meetings with NCCD, mostly to discuss the contents of the MOU.
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	CRS and WCDO contributed to discussion on Vocational Training Law and attended CSA Review Conference on Disability Ordinance organized by VNAH (January). WCDO participated in Employers Workshop held by NCCD and VNAH.
3.3.1 CRS, WCDO and collaborative partners set up working network	c. # of meetings held	12 meetings with collaborative partners (Disability Working Group, Education Sector Group, HVO, PEDC, UNESCO, UNICEF).
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.	--	MOUs signed with People's Committees of Ninh Binh and Quang Nam in February.

III. Lessons Learned

Both organizations learned significantly from the baseline survey conducted during this quarter, which was on a larger scale than either organization had implemented in the past. The two organizations also approached the survey with different expectations and methodologies. As a result, communication among the organizations and the team of Vietnamese consultants hired to lead the survey was strained at times. CRS is taking measures to improve internal project planning and coordination for future activities.

Due to time pressures, the baseline survey was implemented before Project Management Teams were formed in either project province. This complicated reporting and permissions for the survey, but the alternative would have been further delays in beginning the survey.

IV. Challenges

Project implementation has been slower than expected due to limitations on the side of government partners, as well as understaffing at CRS. On the government side, discussions within MOET departments regarding the management structure of the project have delayed signing of the MOU and planned activities. Similarly, the MOU with MOLISA has been through numerous revisions. Communication with provincial partners in Quang Nam also continues to be unsatisfactory, with unclear structures for reporting and changes made to activity schedules with little advance notice. CRS and WCDO expect that these growing pains will lighten as the project continues and shows more concrete results for partners.

Unforeseen delays in hiring and staffing resulted in the project team being several members short for much of the quarter. Interviews and orientation for new staff positions consumed significant time and effort. This understaffing will continue for the next few months; new project staff are being recruited but it will also take time for the newcomers to fully join in activities.

V. Financial Update

Total USAID grant expenses for this quarter were \$61,902, not including some as-yet uncharged CRS NICRA expenditures and international staff costs. After these adjustments were added, total expenditures for the previous quarter were \$73,178, or \$16,194 more than reported in the last quarterly report. A similar adjustment will be made to this quarter's costs.

CRS cost share during this period was \$13,157, and WCDO cost share was \$12,395. Cumulative costs since the beginning of the project are USAID - \$135,080, cost share - \$44,177, or 25% of the overall total. Both USAID funding as well as cost share are expected to rise as more project activities are implemented in the upcoming quarter.

VI. Success Stories

During the implementation of the baseline survey, the provincial and district People's Committees in Ninh Binh were actively involved in planning, implementing and monitoring the survey training, field survey and screening examinations, even though formal project management boards had not yet been properly established at the time. Local partners and officials, including the Departments of Education, Home Affairs, and Health demonstrated their commitment to supporting PWDs. In particular, counterparts from Yen Mo and Gia Vien districts, which have never collaborated with CRS before, have shown that they understand the general principles of a collaborative project and have taken ownership in achieving good results in the baseline survey. This is a positive sign for the long-term development of partnership and ownership in Ninh Binh.

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