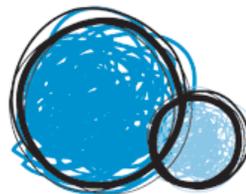


Free Wheelchair Mission Final Report

September 2007 – December 2009

USAID's Provision of Wheelchairs in Developing Countries Project



Free Wheelchair Mission®
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH THE GIFT OF MOBILITY

Free Wheelchair Mission Final Report

Cooperative Agreement: DFD-A-00-07-00167-00

Submitted to USAID
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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

1. APU – Azusa Pacific University
2. CDV – Camino de Vida
3. FEDES - Educational Foundation For Social & Economic Development
4. FVPT – Fundacion Vista Para Todos
5. FWM - Free Wheelchair Mission
6. PT – Physical Therapy
7. UCI – University California Irvine
8. USAID – United States Agency for International Development



Acknowledgments

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) has prepared this report to document the provision of wheelchairs in developing countries. Several partners, from Universities to local community organizations, collaborated to ensure the success of the project.

We are grateful to the Dr. Susan Shore DPT at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California, as well as several students of physical therapy for their assistance and guidance with the development of the user manual and GEN_2 design. We appreciate the effective collaboration established with Motivation on the GEN_2 development project. Talented students and professors at the University California Irvine helped provide clarity to the GEN_2 development to which we owe our thanks. We would have achieved little without the guidance, support, participation, and unique contributions of these organizations.

We are indebted to all our distribution partners who took on the roles of learning the training, teaching and distributing the wheelchairs.

We are also grateful to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for providing the opportunity and financial support to implement these projects.



Executive Summary

Free Wheelchair Mission has made a major contribution to the alleviation of the suffering of physically disabled poor in developing countries. We do this by distributing free wheelchairs. Our wheelchair and our distribution process are designed to provide a durable and functional wheelchair at a minimum cost.

To date we have provided over 475,000 wheelchairs in over 70 countries. This effort has been funded by generous donations, primarily from private individuals.

The goals and objectives of this project were to improve the functionality of the wheelchair, improve the distribution process of the wheelchair, study the efficacy of the wheelchair and distribute 12,100 wheelchairs in developing countries.

Background

Estimates vary widely over the astounding number of physically disabled human beings living without wheelchairs. WHO estimates there are over 65 million such disabled people living like this (WHO statement, Bangalore Consensus Conference, Nov. 2006). Other estimates are much higher. These unfortunate souls are victims of polio, birth defects, viral infections, accidents, brutal mutilations, land mines, and warfare.

Years ago in Morocco, we witnessed a disabled woman crawl across a dirt road. She seemed not human; in fact, all human dignity was lost. This experience ultimately inspired us to make personal commitments to make a difference. The passion for this cause drove us to design a simple yet rugged and durable wheelchair with easily replaceable generic parts. The wheelchairs can be shipped and assembled anywhere in the world for less than \$60. When compared with the hundreds of dollars it costs to manufacture a traditional wheelchair whose parts are not easily replaced, it is easy to understand what an innovative and life-changing gift this can be to a person unable to walk and who cannot afford to buy a traditional wheelchair.

And so began the foundation of Free Wheelchair Mission, a not-for-profit organization based in Orange County, California whose mission is to provide the transforming gift of mobility to the physically disabled poor in developing countries. **FWM's overarching goal is to place 20 million disabled and impoverished people in wheelchairs.** FWM has been diligently working towards this dynamic goal since 2001 by raising the funds necessary through donations from individuals to manufacture and ship the wheelchairs. In addition, FWM has recruited and is managing successful partnerships with like-minded humanitarian, faith-based, and indigenous organizations throughout the world who assemble and distribute these wheelchairs to those most in need. Our distribution partners include, Operation Blessing, US Military, Children International, World Concern, Americares, and Rotary International.

The wheelchairs are manufactured in China and shipped in ocean containers that include 550 wheelchair kits, assembly tools, air pumps, cushions, patch kits, and harnesses for small children. It is the responsibility of the distribution partner to assemble the wheelchairs upon arrival, following picture instructions. It takes about 20 minutes to assemble each chair. This requires a strong commitment by the distribution partner (Distributor) to incur any expense related to the storing, assembling, and distributing of the wheelchair. FWM does not cover this cost for any distribution, as we have felt this demonstrated commitment is an important part of their role in this partnership.

Each Distributor agrees to our requirements for selecting recipients of our wheelchairs. They partner with their governments, various NGO's like the Red Cross, local government-supported medical clinics and social workers to identify appropriate recipients.



Program Objectives, Strategies, Implementation and Results.

Introduction:

We broke down our goals and objectives into four areas. In the original timeline, we had planned on completing the objectives by December 31, 2008. As that date drew closer we had delays with the original plans, and asked for and received a 12 month extension to complete and reach our goals.

1. Objective: Improve the Functionality of the Wheelchair:

a. Phase 1 Strategy: Develop a Footrest for the Existing Design: In an effort to improve the comfort and safety of the design for Gen_1, we found that adding a simple footplate that would clip onto the existing footrest tube was a great solution.

Implementation of Phase 1:

CALENDAR BY QUARTERS	Q1 OCT. – DEC. 2007	Q2 – JAN. – MAR. 2008	Q3 – APRIL – JUN. 2008	Q4 -JULY – SEPT. 2008
Program Activities				
Product Development				
Drawings and Sample Created				
Field Testing				
Manufacturer Identified, contract signed				
Full Production for addition to all wheelchairs begins				

Here you see a recipient in Ecuador using with his new wheelchair, using the foot plate.



Close up of new footplate



Results: Our partners have been giving away the wheelchair with the foot plate for over a year now, and have appreciated the attachment as it has add to the quality of the product. Specifically, our partners like that a wrench is embedded into each footplate, so that the wheelchair recipient can make adjustments to the footplate and other areas of the chair when necessary. There have been no reports of breakage, injury or misuse. The footplate has also helped our partners understand that the footrest can actually be adjusted for people of different heights, and they incorporate this into their distribution and trainings.

b. Phase 2 Strategy: Develop a 2nd Generation Design: The platform for our current design (Gen_1) is a rigid molded resin chair. While this design has great advantages, one major disadvantage is that the width and height of the seat cannot be easily adjusted. We have conceived of a design for our next generation design that overcomes this disadvantage, yet retains the exceptionally strong frame, and want to put into production and distribution through the help of this grant. We call it Gen_2.

Implementation of Phase 2:

CALENDAR BY QUARTERS	Q1 OCT – DEC. 2007	Q2 JAN – MAR. 2008	Q3 APR – JUN 2008	Q4 JUL – SEPT 2008	Q5 OCT – DEC 2008	Q6 JAN – MAR 2009	Q7 APR – JUN 2009	Q8 JUL – SEPT 2009	Q9 OCT – DEC 2009
Program Activities									
Design Work	Initial Concept								Visit to China for adjustments
Collaboration with Motivation			Motivation visited our US facility	Don visits Motivation in the UK.					Don & Ian from Motivation visit China.
Manufacturer Built samples									
Collaboration with UCI Engineers			Summer tern project	Simulation process			Summer term project	New seating design	
Collaboration with APU Dept. of PT					Introduction to the product		Discussions on updates	Preparation for field testing	Involvement in field testing
Develop assessment & procedure forms									
Field Testing									

Results: Aligned with our objective of improving the functionality of the wheelchair, we believe our Gen_2 chair has been a worthwhile project. Collaborations from professionals in the fields of wheelchair distribution, engineering and physical therapy all have helped propel the excitement of this new product. We have managed to create a wheelchair that is strong, and adjustable. The wheelchair currently comes in three different sizes; Small (13 inches wide), Medium (17 inches wide) and Large, (19 inches wide). The chair also features swing away foot rests that are adjustable and help the recipients maintain proper posture, and create an easier transfer opportunity. The backrest and seat are also adjustable in depth and height so that each chair is fitted properly to each recipient. Members of both faculty and student body from APU helped create prescription and fitting forms for our partners to you before giving the Gen_2 chair to any



recipient. Attached to this report you will find a full product description and these forms and surveys being used. We sent 75 of these chairs into Peru in October 2009. FWM Staff and APU students of PT joined the team in Peru to train them on proper assembly and distribution of the chairs. We are currently doing monthly follow ups with each recipients who received these chairs so that we can follow and document the progress of the chair and user. Design work continues to be in the works as we're already making improvements from the batch sent in October. After a visit to China in Dec. 2009, Don decided to go with a wooden seat rather than a webbed seat. We will test 250 of these prototypes in Chile beginning in April 2010 and continue to do follow up so that we can modify the chair if necessary. We are currently doing testing at the manufacturing facility and will submit a sample for ISO test by April of 2010.

We feel we have made significant progress over the course of this grant period and are confident that we will have a product ready to be in full production and distribution to properly trained partners by 2012.

The next two pages display images of the Gen_2 wheelchair and progress made in it's design.





First Prototype 6/28/2008



Design Work continues 9/9/2008



Second Prototype 12/17/08



Seating tests 1/7/09



Another approach 2/18/09

Prototype from China 6/29/09





Gen_2 Chair in Peru



Recipient in Peru 10/2009

Testing in China



Distribution in Peru



2. Objective: Improve the Wheelchair Distribution Process

Strategy: Our original plan was to create two separate training manuals, one for the user and one for the distributor. We gathered samples of other training manuals and realized in creating the first drafts that it would be more cost effective and educational if we combined the two manuals into one. We created the manual with assistance from APU and surveyed recipients and distributors in three different countries about their experiences using the manuals.

Implementation:

CALENDAR BY QUARTERS	Q1 OCT. – DEC. 2007	Q2 JAN. – MAR. 2008	Q3 APR. – JUN. 2008	Q4 JUL – SEPT 2008	Q5 OCT. – DEC. 2008	Q6 JAN. – MAR. 2009	Q7 APR. – JUN. 2009	Q8 JUL. – SEPT. 2009	Q9 OCT. – DEC. 2009
Program Activities									
Review of available manuals in use									
First Draft									
Revisions									
Field Testing									
Printer Identified									
Translations									
Training Video created									
Distribution of manual									
Follow up survey									

Results: We have been distributing the training manual with every wheelchair since July of 2008. In August of 2008 a student from APU traveled to Peru to help our partner there learn the proper training and teach them how to use the manual and guide user's to proper methods of maintenance and use of a wheelchair. Upon his return, a video was created based on his experience that shows the important elements of the training program. Where possible the partners can simply show this video to the recipients, so they can learn from the number one source. Where the video cannot be shown a demonstration is given by trained staff. Each manual has a section where we print the partner's contact information so that, should the recipient have any problems with the chair, they can contact the partner for follow up repair or training. Currently we have 15 translations of the written manual and four translations of the video. Written Translations include: Afrikaans, Arabic, Bengali, English, French, Khmer, Kinyarwanda, Malayalam, Mandarin, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Xhosa. Video Translations include: English, French, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. After the extension of our grant we decided to do a follow up survey with both recipients and partners to help us understand the effectiveness of the manual. The full results of the survey are attached to this report. Questions were asked regarding the receipt of the manual and training when they were given their wheelchairs, if they have used the manuals since they have been in their chairs, or if they had used the contact information to reach the partner for service or

maintenance to their chairs. We found that from all three countries, 100% of the recipients had received the manual with their chair with some form of training along with it! . After having the wheelchair and manual for 30 days, in all three countries combined, the average of 78% of the people deemed the manuals to be useful and something they had referred back to after receiving them. An overwhelming 97.4 % of the distributors thought the manual and training were helpful tools for the beneficiaries. 97% of them mentioned the video was a great tool for them to learn the program. Overall the first year of training program has been one of growth and learning. We have learned that the manuals are worth the cost and our partners are better understanding how important their role is in offering training a more service to the beneficiaries. We'll continue to make improvements and evaluate the happenings in the field so we can better serve the poor and disabled.

Here you see recipients in Viet Nam studying their new manuals.



3. Objective: Study the efficacy of the wheelchair and the distribution process.

Strategy: FWM has been supporting an independent IRB monitored follow – up study in three countries, India, Chile and Viet Nam, monitoring 200 recipients in each country. This follow up study is a prospective survey conducted over multiple months and years. In the study emphasis focused on prior medical history, capacity to operate the wheelchair independently, and how well the wheelchair stands up to routine use. The survey has three defined phases.

Phase 1 : Each team interviews 200 recipients who need a wheelchair, but do not currently have one.

Phase 2: Follow up at six months is conducted after each of the 200 recipients receives their FWN Gen_1 wheelchairs.

Phase 3: Follow up at 12 months is conducted with the same 200 recipients.

Implementation:

CALENDAR BY QUARTERS	Q1 OCT. – DEC. 2007	Q2 JAN. – MAR. 2008	Q3 APR. – JUN. 2008	Q4 JUL – SEPT 2008	Q5 OCT. – DEC. 2008	Q6 JAN. – MAR. 2009	Q7 APR. – JUN. 2009	Q8 JUL. – SEPT. 2009	Q9 OCT. – DEC. 2009
Program Activities									
Formatting Survey									
Phase 1 in Chile									
Phase 1 in India									
Phase 1 in Viet Nam									
Phase 2 in Chile									
Phase 2 in India									
Phase 2 in Viet Nam									
Phase 3 in Chile									
Phase 3 in India									
Phase 3 in Viet Nam									
Summary of Phase 2									

Results: Originally we had planned to begin the surveys upon receiving funding from USAID. However with the additions of the footrest and training program we thought it would be more valuable for us to wait for these developments to reach the field. Because we had to wait for wheelchairs with footplates to reach each of these three destinations there was a delay in getting things started. You'll see we've completed all three phases in only one of the countries, Viet Nam.



Both Chile and India had staffing limitations that delayed the beginning of the survey. We do however have Phase 2 data from all three places. A summary report prepared by Dr. Shore is attached to this report.

If funding allows we would like to continue to follow each of these 200 recipients every 12 months and monitor that changes. Once full 12 month data is collected from all three countries, which should be completed by June 2010, we hope that Dr. Susan Shore will be able to prepare a full paper for submission to scientific journals by the end of 2010.

We have found tremendous value in studying outcomes and verifying that our wheelchairs are in fact transforming lives.

4. Objective: Distribute 12,100 wheelchairs

Strategy: Once the footrest and training manuals were prepared we ordered a total of 12,100, 22 containers of wheelchairs with funding provided from this grant. We listed selected countries in the original grant for planned distribution. Over time FWM changed a few of the destinations for various reasons with approval from USAID.

Here is a chart displaying these changes and explanation below of reasoning.

Grant Proposal	Changes Made 4/1/08	Changes Made 10/1/08
3300 to Peru	None	2200 to Peru, 550 to the Dominican Republic and 550 to Ecuador
3300 to Chile	None	1100 to Chile , 2200 to Bangladesh
2750 to Iraq	2750 to India	1650 to India, 550 to Colombia, 550 to Honduras.
550 to Viet Nam	None	None
550 to Costa Rica	None	None
550 to Ecuador	None	None
550 to Honduras	None	None
550 to Guatemala	550 to El Salvador	550 to El Salvador

Iraq - Originally we selected Iraq to receive 2,750 wheelchairs, however, because of the branding that we are including from USAID on the wheelchairs, our partner (the US Humanitarian Operations Center) felt it was not appropriate or safe to distribute the wheelchairs with an American symbol on them. Therefore we sent 1,650 of the wheelchairs to India, 550 more to Honduras and 550 to Colombia.

Guatemala – Guatemala was also selected to receive one container of 550 wheelchairs from this grant. Our current partner in Guatemala is no longer requesting wheelchairs, as they are a Rotary Club and take on several projects throughout the year; this container was sent to El Salvador instead.

Chile – During the time distributions would take place the main contact in Chile had undergone surgery and was unable to distribute the wheelchairs he already had in supply, therefore his need for new containers was decreased. Because we had originally committed to sending 3,300 of the USAID wheelchairs to Chile we decided to make a change and sent 2,200 of the 3,300 to a different destination, these 2,200 wheelchairs



were given to our partner in Bangladesh. Our partner in Chile received 1,100 of the USAID sponsored wheelchairs.

Peru – In the original plan we had pledged to send 3,300 of the USAID wheelchairs to Peru, however, because we have such a high demand in other countries for wheelchairs, we thought it might be wise to spread out the donation from USAID to a couple more locations, therefore of the original 3,300 we had designated to go to Peru, we sent 2,200. The remaining went to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

Implementation:

Order Date	Country	Partner Name	Arrival Date	Cleared Date	First Report Received
6/25/2008	Peru	Camino de Vida	9/25/2008	10/2/2008	11/11/2008
6/25/2008	Vietnam	GIBTK	8/22/2008	8/29/2008	9/17/2008
7/24/2008	Honduras	Casa Presidencial- Despacho de la Primera Dama	1/5/2009	1/21/2009	6/10/2009
7/29/2008	Peru	Camino de Vida	10/8/2008	10/22/2008	3/13/2009
7/29/2008	Peru	Camino de Vida	10/8/2008	10/22/2008	3/13/2009
7/29/2008	El Salvador	Flying Doctors/ Lion's Club	9/22/2008	10/16/2008	3/30/2009
8/11/2008	India	Sathyam	10/8/2008	10/13/2008	2/4/2009
8/11/2008	Colombia	Caminos Por Colombia	1/9/2009	1/26/2009	2/6/2009
8/11/2008	Ecuador	Vista Para Todos	1/5/2009	1/23/2009	2/9/2009
8/11/2008	Ecuador	Friends of Ecuador	1/5/2009	2/17/2009	6/11/2009
8/19/2008	Bangladesh	Karmirhath Hospital	12/12/2008	12/29/2008	5/14/2009
8/19/2008	Bangladesh	Karmirhath Hospital	12/12/2008	12/29/2008	5/14/2009
8/19/2008	Bangladesh	Karmirhath Hospital	12/12/2008	12/29/2008	5/14/2009
8/19/2008	Bangladesh	Karmirhath Hospital	12/12/2008	12/29/2008	5/14/2009
8/29/2008	India	Sathyam	12/12/2008	1/29/2009	2/4/2009
8/29/2008	India	Sathyam	12/12/2008	1/29/2009	2/4/2009
8/29/2008	Honduras	SMART Medical Teams	1/7/2009	1/13/2009	2/6/2009
9/12/2008	Costa Rica	Papagayo Do It Center	1/7/2009	1/23/2009	6/14/2009
9/12/2008	Dominican Republic	Fundacion Samaritana	1/5/2009	1/15/2009	3/4/2009
9/12/2008	Chile	FEDES	12/12/2008	12/16/2008	6/22/2009
10/14/2009	Chile	FEDES	12/12/2008	12/16/2008	6/22/2009
10/14/2008	Peru	Camino de Vida	12/24/2008	1/12/2009	3/30/2009



Results: 12,100 lives were transformed with the gift of a wheelchair and new found mobility. Families rejoiced as burdens were lifted. Distribution Partners were strengthened in their mission it help alleviate suffering, and FWM received more inspiration to carry out this work.

Attached to this report are reports and information from each partner who received wheelchairs funded by USAID.



Here is a summary of projects associated with USAID

Country	Number of Gen_1 Wheelchair Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Gen_1 Manuals and Training	Number of Organizations Strengthened
Bangladesh	2200	2200	1 – Karmirhath Hospital
Chile	1100	1100	1 – FEDES
Colombia	550	550	1 – Caminos por Colombia
Costa Rica	550	550	1- Do it Foundation
Dominican Republic	550	550	1 – Fundacion Samaritana
Ecuador	1100	1100	2 – Friends of Ecuador & Fundacion Vista Para Todos
El Salvador	550	550	1 – Flying Doctors
Honduras	1100	1100	2 – SMART Medical Teams & Casa Presidencial
India	1650	1650	1 – Sathyam Service Trust
Peru	2200	2200	1 – Camino de Vida
Viet Nam	550	550	1 – Giving it Back to Kids
11 Total	12,100 Total	12, 100 Total	13 Total Organizations

Number of Gen_2 Wheelchair Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries Receiving Gen_2 Training	Number of Organizations Strengthened
Our clinical trial rolled out with giving away 75 in Peru.	75	3 – Camino de Vida in Peru, Azusa Pacific University, Free Wheelchair Mission
75 Total	75 Total	3 Total



Lessons Learned and Recommendations:

Promote Collaborative Efforts: During the course of these program activities, FWM collaborated with many organizations that supported our efforts with efficient actions and valuable input. This collaborative approach allows for maximum impact and results in the world of wheelchair distribution in developing countries and helps eliminate duplication of services while increasing the likelihood of sustainability after distribution takes place.

Design a comprehensive reporting and follow up system. - To retain the important knowledge and experiences that individuals and organizations develop during the program, a comprehensive reporting and follow up system should be developed on the outset. This system will help ensure accurate and consistent reporting from the field, allowing for better outcome measurement. For these types of systems to be successful resources must be put into the field. Unfortunately FWM has limited resources when it comes to international field staff and offices, and relies on partnering organizations, who at times have difficulty meeting all requirements and fall short.

Involve the national governments to ensure advancement and adoption of disability awareness. - In most developing countries the disabled populations are overlooked by authorities. Making connections with a MOH administrator or other government ministry involved in rights for the disabled, helps governments to be more aware of the need to provide options for this population. Government authorities can also help aid the importation of aid, and waive taxes or fees experienced at the ports. Oftentimes our partnerships use the government as resource to find people in need of wheelchairs and when distributions happen they invite the officials to experience the transformation.



Free Wheelchair Mission GEN_2 product description**February 10, 2010**

- Gen-2 is a semi-urban all purpose wheelchair allowing both self and attendant propulsion. The wheelchair is designed for use over rough ground and in conditions normally found in semi urban or rural areas. However the wheelchair may also be used successfully in urban areas. Users may still require assistance over extremely rough ground, high curbs or steep inclines.
- It comes in 3 widths: 340mm (small), 420mm (medium) and 490 mm (large), designed to fit users from young children to very large adults. GEN_2 can be widened by distribution partner as user grows.
- The seat base (composed of marine plywood) and comfort cushion can be adjusted to three different depths, 290, 260 and 430 mm.
- The backrest is set at 90 degrees to the seat. The backrest can be set in 4 height positions (480, 420, 360 and 300 mm). It is composed of EVA foam padding inside a water resistant / fire retardant nylon cover.
- Seat base and backrest are supported with 50 mm wide polypropylene webbing straps secured with parachute cord.
- It uses 26" x 2.125" diameter rear wheels, with 36 spoke chrome steel rims and 12 mm diameter axles. Tires are pneumatic (using an inner tube) with medium tread. 16 mm diameter black painted steel pushrims, attached in four places.
- It has large rubber castor wheels (diameter 200 mm, width 40 mm) at the front and an increased wheelbase.
- Push handles provided, height dependant on backrest height.
- The footrest can be adjusted to 10 different heights with a range of 280 mm. Two styles are available. One provides independent height adjustment for each foot, and swings away 180 degrees to aid transfers. The other style provides a stationary single fixed footplate for both feet. The angle of the footrest can be set to suit the individual user's needs at 5 degree rotations. A calf strap will be supplied with the chair
- The chair is supplied with built-in arm supports to facilitate pressure relief lifts, transfers and sitting in a rested position. The armrests have wheel covers to protect both the user and the sides of the cushion from mud.
- Steel over-lock brakes can be adjusted with minor hand bending.
- Wheelchair is supplied with a comfort cushion of polyurethane foam covered with water resistant/fire resistant nylon cover. It is intended to be used with recipients without risk of pressure ulcer development or significant postural deformity. These groups may be defined as follows:
 - Short term users requiring a wheelchair for less than 6 months or who may use a wheelchair less than 4 times per week, or for less than 2-3 hours at a time.
 - Long term users with sensation on their buttocks, ability to shift their weight off their buttocks, who can sit up well in the chair and without significant postural deformities.
- The product is designed to provide at least 3 years of service, during normal use and providing



it is appropriately maintained. Each user is supplied with tools, air pump and patch kit for home maintenance. Each user is provided with contact information should service, maintenance or information be required.

- The product will conform to the relevant sections of International Standards Organisation (ISO) standard ISO: 7176, including fire retardant foam and fabric.
- The chairs are individually assembled and fitted to each user. Assembly takes about 20 minutes using tools provided with the kit.
- GEN_2 is designed so that parts are easy to replace or repair, and it uses common wheel and bearing sizes.
- Color: Free Wheelchair Mission light and dark blue.

Net weight of wheelchair 16.5 kg. Comes as a kit in a brown five ply cardboard box with black printed graphics. The packaging is *not* waterproof. Outside dimensions - 700 x 620 x 260 mm. Gross boxed weight - 20Kg.



Free Wheelchair Mission GEN 2 Assessment Form

Interviewer: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex:** F___ M___

Weight: _____ **Height:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Medical reason for needing a wheelchair:

Does applicant have pain in their:

Back? If so, where?

Bottom? If so, where?

Knees? If so, where?

Feet? If so, where?

Other _____

Does applicant have open wounds? If so, where?

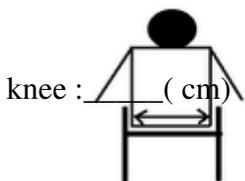
How far will they go each day in the wheelchair: _____ Is where they will use the wheelchair relatively flat? _____

Can the applicant sit straight up in the chair without support? Yes: _____ No: _____

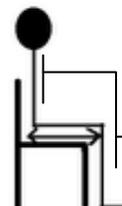
Does the applicant need head and or neck support? Yes: _____ No: _____

Have applicant sit in a conventional wooden or metal upright chair with a straight seat, as shown below. Take the following measurements:

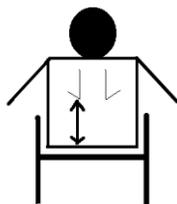
Seat width: Length at broadest point of their hips or legs: _____ (cm)



Seat depth: Length from back to back of



Back height: Length from their bottom to their shoulder blade : _____ (cm)



Free Wheelchair Mission GEN 2 Fitting Form

Technician: _____

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant Code: _____

Refer to measurements recorded in Assessment Form

Select Kit: Select the correct size GEN_2 kit to assemble.

Seat width	Kit to Assemble
___ Less than 28 cm 13?	Small (15") (Are we keeping this as 15", or should we change to 13?)
___ Between 28 and 36 cm	Medium (17")
___ Between 36 and 43 cm	Large (19")
___ If user's seat is wider than 43 cm, the large frame may still work.	See note at end

Seat depth: Attach wooden seat to frame according to seat depth needed.

Seat depth	Wooden seat position
___ Greater than 49 cm	Full forward position
___ Between 41 and 49 cm	Middle position
___ Between 33 and 41 cm	Full back position

Push handle and backrest height: Push handle height can be adjusted from 80 cm to 95 cm from the floor, at four different positions. Push handles have two functions: they support the backrest and they allow attendants to give help to the wheelchair user. The middle two positions are convenient for most users. For the wheelchair user who needs a lot of attendant support to get around in very rough terrain, the highest position may help the attendant. If the wheelchair user needs neck and/or head support, the highest position may be helpful. If the user has good motion in their upper body, the lowest position will give them more freedom for their motion. If the user requires the highest backrest (all 8 straps, see below), the push handles can be placed in their highest position.

Backrest: Attach the backrest by starting at the bottom, where the backrest frame tubing meets the seat frame tubing.

Back height	Push handle height	Number of webbing straps
Greater than 56 cm	Highest position	Use all 8 straps
Between 47 and 56 cm	Middle positions	Fold one down
Between 39 and 47 cm	Middle Positions	Fold two down
Between 30 and 39 cm	Lowest position	Fold three down

To shorten the backrest, fold the top back down by one, two, or three straps and tuck the fold between the padded portion of the backrest and the webbing straps. Tuck the loose straps and cord ends between the other cords so the back looks tidy. Final height should leave room for two finger widths between base of user's person's shoulder blade and top of chair back surface.

Chest and lap belts: If a belt is needed to help the user maintain correct posture, lace the belt through gaps in the backrest webbing or wooden seat. Adjust belt to the correct



length. If recipient cannot sit upright alone, without sliding forward in their chair, give a lap belt. If recipient cannot sit without the support of their arms or hands, adjust the back height to the highest position and give a chest belt.

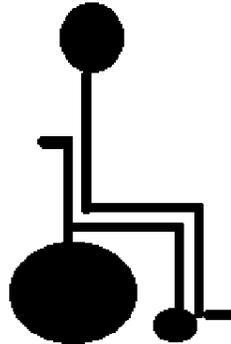
Footrest: There are two styles of footrests. The swing-away style is for wheelchair users that are heavy, lack control of their legs, have legs that are of different lengths and cannot stand. Swing- away footrests simplify transfers for this group. The fixed footrest is best for users who are active and outdoors where collisions with objects on the ground are likely. For either style, adjust footrest up or down as needed to make feet flat and fully supported on the footrest. User's thighs should rest in full contact on the seat surface and may be 1-2 cm above the seat surface at the front of the cushion. The footplate on the swing-away footrest is adjustable to eight different fixed angles to match the particular needs of the user.

Handrim diameter: Handrims come in two sizes. Users operating their wheelchairs by themselves in rough terrain should get the larger ones. Users needing to commute longer distances on relatively flat terrain should get the smaller handrims. Mix and match so the handrims are the same size for the user.

Calf Strap: Just behind the footrest on the frame are retainers for a calf strap. Adjust the calf strap with the laces? so it prevents the user's legs from falling backward off the footrests.

Wheelchair Fit Confirmation – FINAL CHECK:

When the recipient is seated correctly, their position in the wheelchair should look like the following picture:



Hips should be to the back of the wheelchair, with feet flat on footrests. The recipient's back should rest comfortably against the backrest and there should be room for at least two finger widths between the top of the chair and the bottom of the recipient's shoulder blade (unless user needs head/neck support). There should be two fingers width between the outside of the recipient's hip and the inside of the chair on either side. There should be 4-8 cm from the front of the seat to the back of the recipient's knee.

Note: If the user's hip width is over the 43 cm limit, there is still hope that the large frame will work for them. Have the recipient sit in the assembled wheelchair. If you can slide your open hands between their hips and the wheelchair frame, they can receive the wheelchair.

30 day Free Wheelchair Mission Follow-up Survey – GEN_2

Hello! Now that you have been using the GEN_2 Free Wheelchair Mission chair for about 30 days, we would like your feedback. We want to know how the wheelchair has affected your health and quality of life, and to identify any problems associated with its use. This information will be used for research purposes to help improve our services in the future. Be assured that your answers will not in any way bias your relationship with the Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) or Azusa Pacific University and that you will not be publicly identified with any of your answers. Your honesty is important to us. Participation is voluntary and will be considered informed consent; parents or family members may complete this survey on behalf of the wheelchair recipient if necessary. Thank you so much for taking the time to help us.

A. Interview

1. **Date of Interview:** _____
2. **Name of Interviewer:** _____
3. **Interview #:** _____
4. **Index number of wheelchair** _____
5. **Country** ___India ___Peru ___Chile ___ Viet Nam
6. **Take front and side view full length photos of recipient in wheelchair. Record photo ID numbers here: Front** _____ **Left** _____
Right _____ **Back** _____
7. **Change of address since last interview?**
 Yes No (Go to B1)
Current address of wheelchair recipient:

Home Setting: ___Rural _____Village or Small town _____Large
 Metropolitan
- Phone number if available:** _____



B. Demographic Information

1. Currently Employed? Yes ___ No ___

a. If yes, Occupation: _____

b. Is the wheelchair responsible for the ability to work? ___yes ___no
___partially

c. Because of the wheelchair, my family income has increased ___yes
___no

d. If unemployed, is the recipient capable of a desk job? ___Yes ___No

e. If capable of work, but unemployed what is the reason? (check all that apply):

- ___ Lack of transportation to work
- ___ Lack of assistance to get to and from public transportation
- ___ I have few marketable skills
- ___ Unable to use my wheelchair with public transportation
- ___ Buildings inaccessible to disabled
- ___ Attitudes in the work place against hiring disabled
- ___ No jobs desk jobs in my area
- ___ Don't know where to look or how to proceed
- ___ Other (please specify _____)

C. Training

1. Evaluate the manual you received when you got your wheelchair?

- ___ I did not receive a manual
- ___ It was not very helpful
- ___ It was very helpful

If not very helpful, why?

- ___ I cannot read
- ___ I cannot understand it
- ___ I lost it
- ___ I didn't need it
- ___ Other (Please specify) _____



2. Evaluate the training presentation you received when you got your wheelchair?

- There was no training presentation
 It was not very helpful
 It was very helpful

If not very helpful, why?

- I couldn't see the demonstrations
 I couldn't hear what was said
 It went too quickly for me to understand
 I didn't understand the words they used
 Other (please specify) _____

D. Mobility/Chair Usage

1. **Can you use the wheelchair independently for mobility?** Yes No
2. **How many hours/day do you use your wheelchair for sitting or mobility?**
 Less than 1 hour 1-4 hours 5-8 hours 9-12 hours
 13-16 hours More than 16 hours
If less than 1 hour, please explain why _____)
3. **Do you use a cushion in your chair?**
 I do not use a cushion or padding
 I use the cushion given with my chair to sit on
 I use the cushion given with my chair behind my back or on the side
 I use another type of cushion I/my family have made
4. **How many meters do you typically travel per day (sum of being carried, riding in your wheelchair, walking, riding on bus, etc)**
 Less than 10 meters
 At least 10 but less than 100 meters
 At least 100 meters but less than 500
 At least 500 meters but less than one km
 At least one km
5. **How much time do you spend outside your home on the average day?**
 I never go out
 Less than 1 hour
 At least 1 hour but less than 4 hours
 At least 4 hours but less than 8 hours
 At least 8 hours



6. **Describe the terrain you typically travel in your wheelchair**
- I stay indoors
- The roads or surface are typically smooth
- The roads or surface are slightly rough (Non-paved, but without large ruts and gravel)
- The roads or surface are very rough (e.g. large gravel, ruts, cracks)
7. **Please list any factors other than your wheelchair which have caused changes in your mobility or function since you received your wheelchair (Choose all that apply)**
- No other factors
- Change of address
- Recurring Illness
- Change in medication
- Rehabilitation training
- Loss of spouse or caregiver
- Change in economic status
- Increased access to medical care
- Other (please specify) _____

E. Health Status

1. **How would you rate your current overall health status? (choose a number between 1-10 using this scale) _____**
 (1= very poor 5= average 10= very good)
2. **Estimate the number of days you have been ill this past 30 days, since the last interview (excluding reason for wheelchair use)**
- one day/month
- two days/month
- one day/week
- more than one day/week
3. **How many days have you spent in the hospital this past month? _____**
- none
- 1-6 days
- 7-13 days
- 14-20 days
- 21-30 days



4. In the past month, have you developed skin ulcers? __yes__no (If no, skip to question d)

a. If yes, how many skin ulcers have you had in the past month, since the last interview?

- One
 Two
 Three or More

b. If you have had skin ulcers in the past month, since the last interview, describe their location: (Check all that apply):

- Buttocks
 Side of hip
 Lower leg
 Heel or foot

c. Do you believe the wheelchair played a role in the development of the skin ulcers?

- yes no don 't know

d. How often do you have an adequate nutritious meal?

- I eat adequate quantity and nutrition every day
I eat an adequate quantity but not the right nutrients every day
I eat neither an adequate quantity nor nutrients every day

5. Do you have pain on a regular basis?

- yes no (proceed to question # 6)

a. Describe the severity of your pain

- Mild pain
Moderate pain
Severe pain

b. Describe the location of your pain (check all that apply):

- Arm and shoulder pain
Back pain
Hip pain
Buttock pain
Other (please specify)_____

c. Do you believe your pain is caused by the wheelchair?

- yes no don 't know



6. Have you ever been injured through use of your wheelchair?

yes no (Skip to question F1)

a. If yes, what was the cause of Injury

- Chair tipped, and I fell
 Hands or feet were caught in wheels
 Brakes failed to lock
 I was unable to control the chair while it was moving
 Other (Please describe) _____

b. If yes, how severe was the injury (check all that apply)

- Medical assistance was required
 Lacerations
 Bruising
 Broken bone
 No visible evidence of injury, only pain

F. Mood State

1. Generally speaking, on a day-to-day basis, how would you rate your mood?

a. Very negative Somewhat negative Somewhat positive Very positive

2. Generally speaking, on a day-to-day basis, how do you feel about your life?

b. It's awful It's pretty bad It's OK It's pretty good It's great

3. In what way has your life changed by having a wheelchair?

- a. Gotten much worse
b. Gotten somewhat worse
c. It didn't change
d. Gotten somewhat better
e. Gotten much better



G. Function.

Please use this SCALE to rate the difficulty you have participating in the following activities

0=no difficulty 1=mild to moderate problem 2= severe problem or unable

Mobility	Rating
Maintaining a sitting position	
Transferring self from one location to another (from chair to bed, to toilet, etc.)	
Carrying an object from one place to another	
Moving around within the home	
Moving around outside home and other buildings	
Using public transportation	
Self-care	
Washing self	
Brushing teeth	
Caring for hair, shaving	
Toileting	
Dressing	
Eating	
Ensuring personal comfort (light, heat, shade, position)	
Maintaining personal health (avoiding risk for injury, disease)	
Domestic Life	
Shopping (selecting food, household items)	
Gathering daily necessities (food, fuel)	
Preparing meals	
Doing housework	
Caring for household objects (furnishings, plants)	
Assisting others (family, friends)	
Interpersonal Interactions and Relationships	
Forming and maintaining social relationships (neighbors, friends, acquaintances)	
Forming and maintaining family relationships (parent, child, siblings, extended family)	
Major Life Areas	
Acquiring education (school, vocational)	
Acquiring or keeping employment (for self, or for family member if recipient is a child or dependent)	
Engaging in non-remunerative work (charity, voluntary work)	
Community, Social and Civic Life	
Engaging in community social life (clubs, associations)	
Engaging in recreation/leisure activities (hobbies, play, sports, travel)	
Engaging in religious activities (church, temple, mosque)	

Using numbers from 1-10, rate your level of overall dependence on a caregiver for mobility and daily function _____

(1 = total dependence 5= I do 50%, the caregiver does 50%, 10 = total independence)



H. Maintenance and Repair

1. a. Have you ever had to repair your wheelchair?

_____ Yes _____ No (proceed to question # 2)

b. If yes, indicate when the problem first occurred (the number of weeks after the last interview)

Wheelchair Parts	When the problem occurred since last interview			
	First week	Second week	Third week	Fourth week
Front Wheels				
Back Wheels				
Brakes				
Metal Frame				
Cushion				
Foot Rest				
Harness				
Air pump				
Seat				
Backrest				
Other (describe)				

c. What is the *primary* way that the problems were repaired?

- _____ By self/family/friends
 _____ Local business
 _____ By wheelchair provider
 _____ Not repaired
 _____ Other (please describe _____)

d. What do you believe was the cause of the breakdown?

- _____ Usual wear and tear in environment
 _____ An accident with the chair
 _____ Defective part
 _____ Other (please specify _____)

2. Have you modified the chair in any way to make it more comfortable or usable? _____yes _____no (proceed to question 3)

If yes, in what ways have you modified it? (check all that apply)

- _____ I have added cushions to the back
 _____ I have added cushions to the sides
 _____ I have modified the footrests



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- I have modified the backrest
- I have modified the armrests
- I have modified the seat

3. How often do you need to add air to rear tires?

- Daily
- once a week
- once this past month

4. How often has the inner tube been patched?

- Never
- Once
- More than once

5. Have you ever contacted the people who gave you the chair in order to get new wheelchair parts or service?

- I have not needed to contact them
- I needed help but was unable to contact them
- I contacted them, but received no help
- I contacted them and received the help I needed

I. Satisfaction with Wheelchair

1. Rate your overall satisfaction with your chair (numbers from 1-10) using the following scale: _____

1 = very dissatisfied 5 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied 10 = very satisfied

2. How much has it helped your family?

- None
- Some
- A lot

3. What suggestions do you have on how to improve the wheelchair?



J. Stake Holder Questions

1. What is your religious affiliation, if any?

Hindu Buddhist Muslim Catholic Protestant
 Jewish None Other (Please specify) _____

2. How often do you go to the temple/church/pagoda?

Never 1x/week Once/month Every few months

3. Does the gift of a wheelchair change your ideas about God/Buddha and His concern for you as a person? Yes No Undecided

4. Does the gift of a wheelchair make a positive impact on your ideas about the Christian church and Christian people? Yes No Undecided

If yes, please explain _____

5. Do you believe that the wheelchair was a gift from God/ Buddha?

Yes No Undecided

6. Do you believe that the wheelchair was a gift from Jesus/ Buddha?

Yes No Undecided

Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions!



Evaluation of Training Manual and Video

Report prepared by Susan Shore, PT, PhD

Surveys were completed electronically by both recipients and distributors of the Free Wheelchair Mission wheelchair in 3 different countries: Peru, Chile, and India. The response will be reported in Summary form, with differences delineated by individual country.

I. Wheelchair recipient’s survey

A. Demographic Information:

There were a total of 136 recipients who responded to this survey, 19.9% from Peru, 18.4% from India, and 61.8% from Chile.

B. Training Manual

Chile

100% of the recipients said they had received the training manual at the time they received their wheelchair. In addition, they participated in a discussion about items in the manual and received information about whom to contact in case of a broken part on their chair (Fig 1).

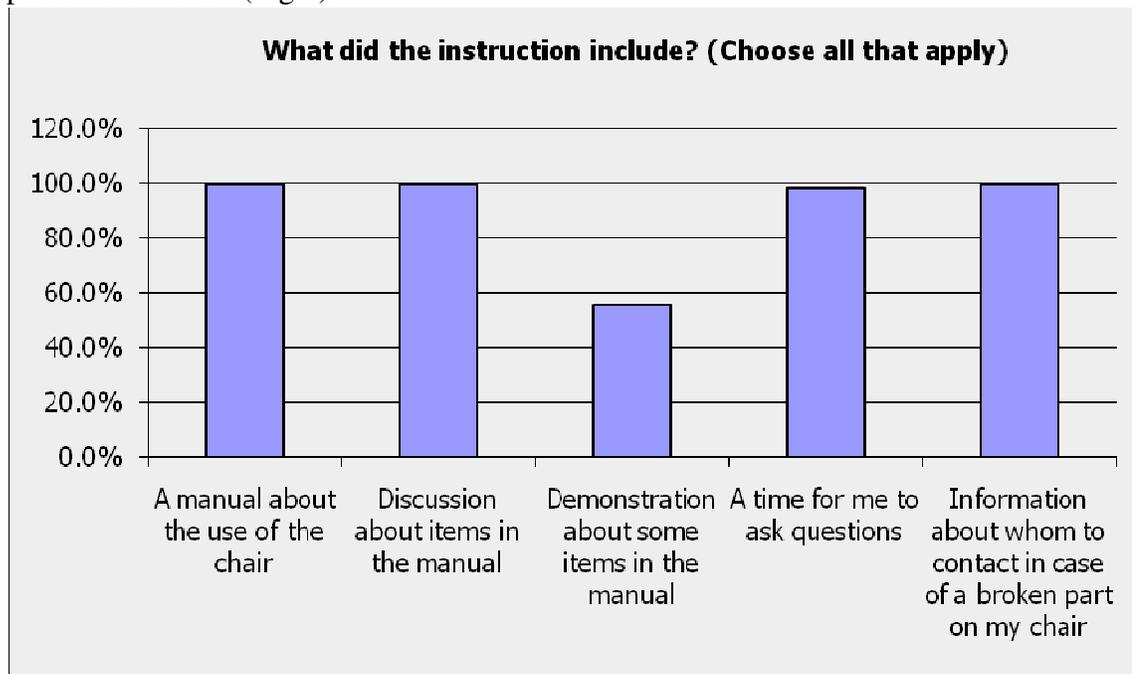


Fig 1. Components of training given to recipients in Chile

Of the instruction, 98.8% thought it was very thorough and helpful (Fig 2). One person said it was not helpful because they could not hear what was said.

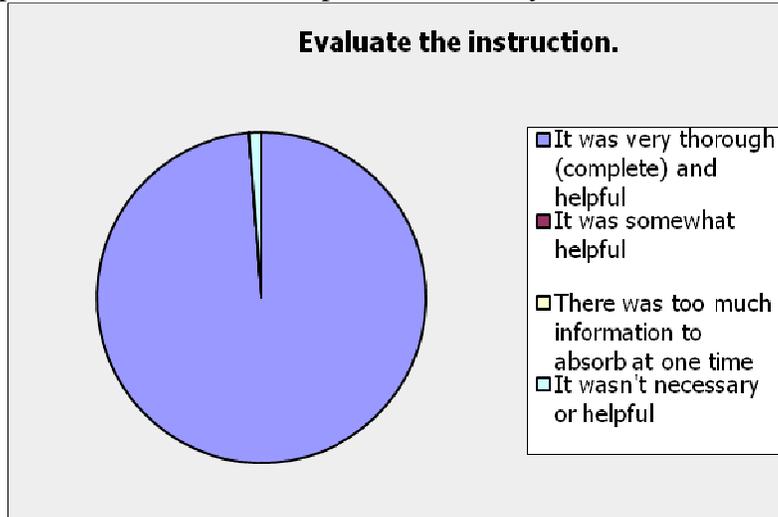


Fig 2. Evaluation of the instruction received in Chile

After receiving the manual, 81% said they looked at it later and found it very helpful. Others lost it or didn't have any questions (Fig 3). The one who said it was not helpful explained that he/she could not read well.

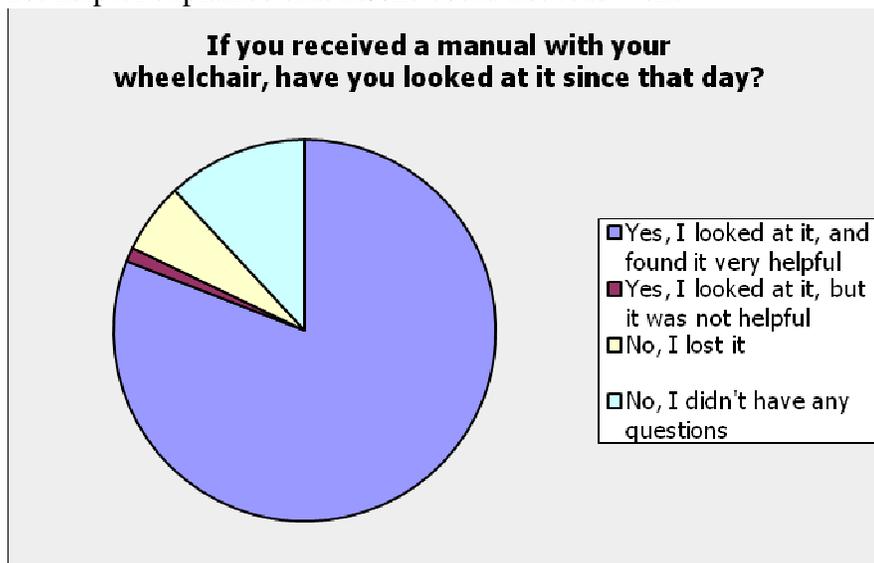


Fig 3. Percentage of recipients in Chile who looked at the manual after the day they received it.

India

One hundred percent of recipients received a manual, saw a demonstration about some items in the manual and received contact information (Fig 4). There was minimal discussion and no time given to ask questions.

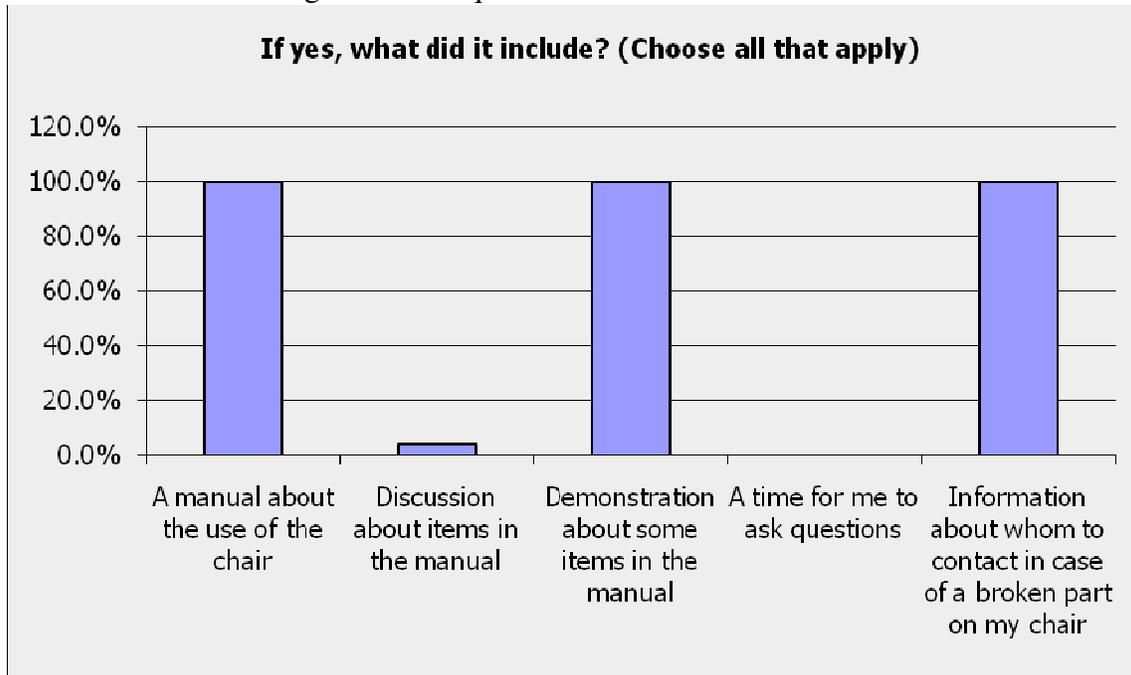


Fig 4. Components of training given to recipients in India

Only 56% thought the instruction was very thorough and helpful (Fig 5). Of those that did not, 55% said it was because the instruction went too quickly for them to understand, and 45% said they didn't understand the words used.

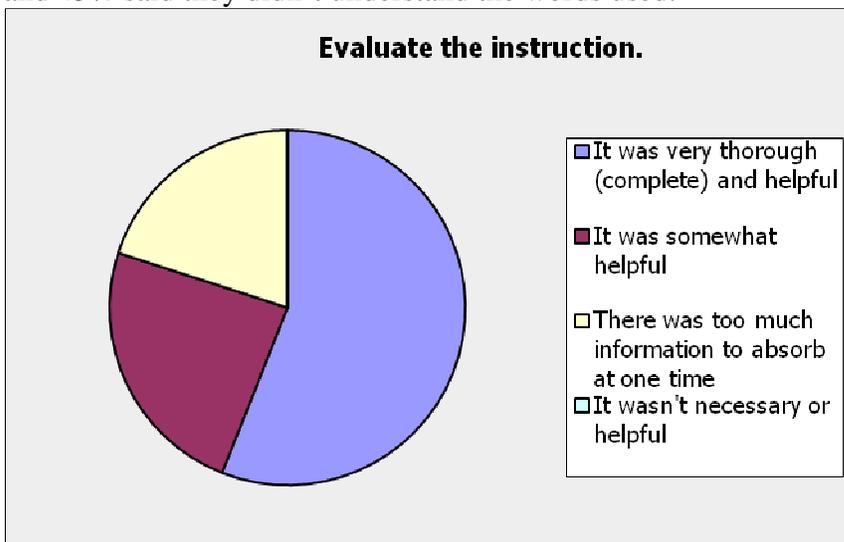


Fig 5. Evaluation of the instruction received in India

Asked whether they had looked at the manual since the day they received it, 60% said they looked at it and found it very helpful. 20% said they didn't look at it because they had no questions (Fig 6). Eight percent (2 people) lost it, and the 12% (3 people) who looked at it but did not find it helpful, said the reason was that they could not read well.

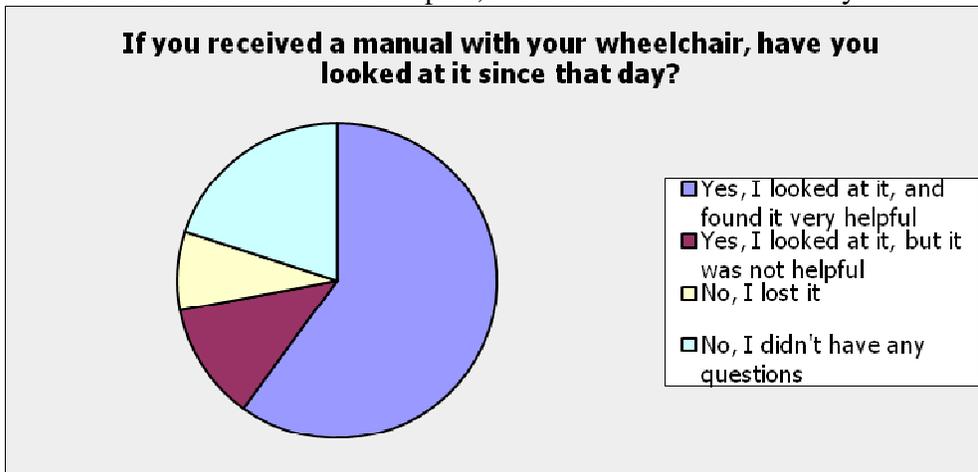


Fig 6. Percentage of recipients in India who looked at the manual after the day they received it.

Peru

100% of recipients said they received a manual. Although they reported no demonstration or discussion, they nevertheless responded to evaluation of the instruction with 81.5% saying it was very thorough and helpful (Fig 7). Of the 5 people who said the instruction was not very helpful, 1 couldn't see, 1 couldn't hear, and 3 said it went too quickly to understand.

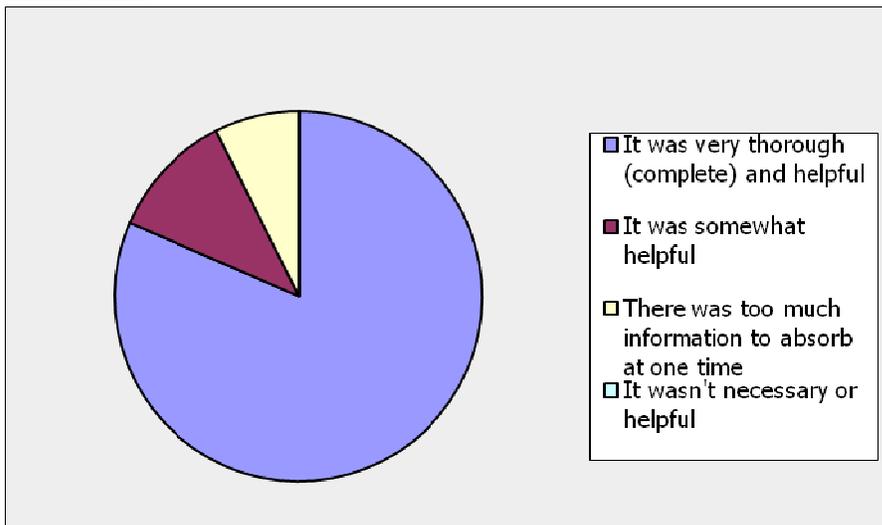


Fig 7. Evaluation of the instruction received in Peru.

Of the 27 people who received a manual in Peru, 25 looked at it again (Fig 8). The one who looked at it but did not find it helpful said it was because they could not read well.

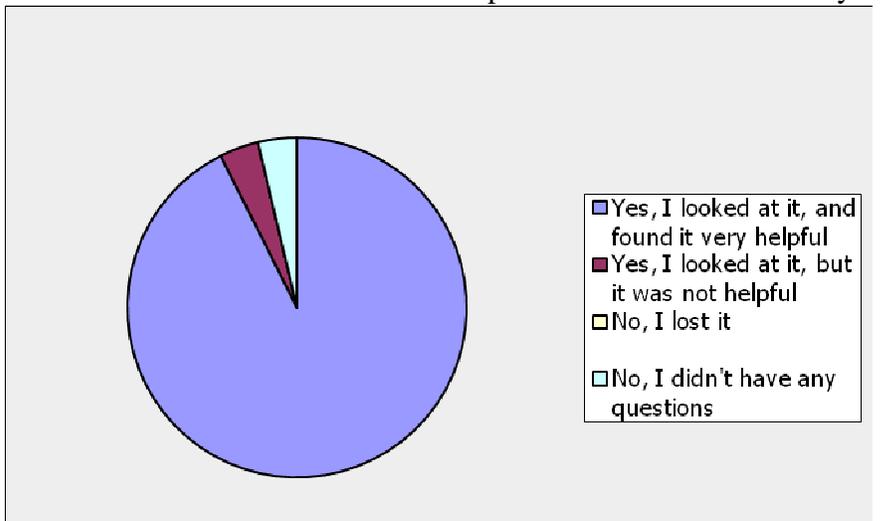


Fig 8. Percentage of recipients in Peru who looked at the manual after the day they received it.

Suggestions to Improve Manual

Combining data from all 3 countries, 95% of all respondents said they had no suggestions to improve the manual; the words and pictures were helpful (Fig 9). Five percent, particularly in India, requested less words and more pictures.

II. Distributors' Survey

A. Demographic Information:

There were 39 responses from Distributors; 12 respondents from Peru, 26 from India, and 1 from Chile, where all of the distribution was done by one person.

B. Training Manual:

97.4% of distributors thought the manual would be either very helpful or somewhat helpful to recipients (Figure 10). The few who believed it would not be very helpful were in India. Reasons given were that their recipients could not read, or that they would not be interested enough to look at it. None believed that the manual was unclear, or contained unnecessary information.

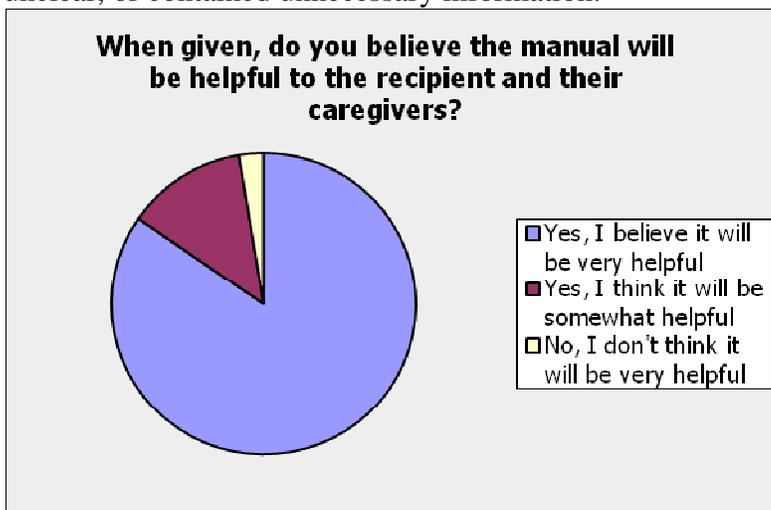


Fig. 10. Distributor response about the helpfulness of the training manual

When asked for ways to improve the manual, distributors in Chile and Peru had no suggestions, saying the words and pictures were clear. Of those in India, 24% suggested that less words and more pictures be used, likely because of the number of their recipients who could not read.

C. Training Video:

Thirty eight percent of the distributors in India, and the one distributor in Chile had viewed the training video demonstrating the contents of the manual. The distributors in Peru said they had not viewed it.

In India, 100% of those who saw the video said it made a difference in helping them understand the manual. In Chile, the distributor said he understood the manual even without the video.

Of all the distributors who watched the video in India and Chile, 18% thought it would be more helpful if there were either subtitles or words in their own language. 55% said they would recommend that all distributors see the video before they distribute the wheelchairs with the manual, and 55% said they believed it would be helpful for wheelchair recipients to see the video *in addition to* receiving the manual. It is unclear why, if 100% of those in India who saw the video said it helped them understand the manual, not all of them also thought it should be viewed by distributors prior to distributing the manual. It may have been due to the fact that in India, there was no time given for questions or discussion during distribution, and therefore thorough understanding was not deemed essential.

D. Contact Information and Maintenance:

In Peru, one distributor said that a recipient had tried to contact the organization for assistance regarding their chair, but did not list the cause or the outcome of the contact. In Chile, only one person out of 200 chairs distributed had attempted to contact the local organization due to a defective wheel from the factory. The wheel was replaced by the organization.



III. Summary of Findings

A. Instructions given with the chair

All recipients received the training manual and some further instruction. The instruction was almost unanimously deemed thorough and helpful in Chile, 81% so in Peru, and 56% so in India. The reasons for being less helpful were not because of the materials, but because of the method of presentation – using vocabulary people didn't understand, moving through the information too quickly, or not making sure that recipients could see and hear. These are easily remedied but are not inherently evident to people unaccustomed to education.

In Chile, where adequate time was given to discuss items in the manual and ask questions, satisfaction with instruction was also highest. In India, where 5% of the people could not read, although there was reported demonstration of items in the manual, there was little time for discussion and questions. When a recipient cannot read the manual which is being sent home with them, extra time for discussion and questions would seem to be essential to satisfaction and understanding. This is related not to the manual itself, but to the method of presentation.

B. Use of the Manual

Once recipients left with their wheelchair and the manual, 93% in Peru, 81% in Chile, and 60% in India said they looked at it again and found it very helpful. Reasons from all 3 countries why some recipients had not reviewed it were because 5% lost it, and 12% said they had no further questions. The 4% who said they looked at it but didn't find it extremely helpful identified the cause as their inability to read.

Asked for suggestions to improve the manual, 95% said they had no suggestions and that the words and pictures really helped them. Five percent, especially those in India who could not read, suggested that the manual should use less words and more pictures. For the 95% who could read, there was no information they considered unnecessary and nothing they thought should be added. For the 5%, it was a matter of clarity through pictures.

In summary, the manual is clear to 95% of recipients and contains a helpful and appropriate amount of information. Instructing the illiterate remains more of a challenge. For these people, extra time during the distribution is needed for clarification, and more complete information through pictures may be helpful.



Video

Of the distributors who had seen the video, 97.5% said it helped them understand the manual better. Eighteen percent wished that it was spoken or had subtitles in their own language. Even in its current form, however, a small majority recommended that all distributors and recipients be given the opportunity to view the video in addition to receiving the manual. This might be particularly important, and is thus recommended, for those wheelchair recipients who cannot read.



Summary Results from Survey Evaluation of FWM Generation 1 chair
Following 6 months of Use
Report prepared for FWM by Susan Shore, PT, PhD

Surveys were completed by wheelchair distributors at the time the chairs were given (baseline) and again after 6 months. Data was entered electronically by the local offices in 3 different countries: Viet Nam, Chile, and India, and tabulated in the U.S. Survey responses will be reported in Summary form, with occasional differences delineated by individual country.

I. Demographic Information:

A. Sample Size

At the time of original distribution, there were a total of **603 recipients**, with 33% of responses from each participating country. **After 6 months**, due to death or inability to make contact, there were **564 respondents**, again, approximately 33% from each country.

B. Age, Gender, BMI, Locale

Average **age** of recipients was 55 years; only 6.3% were \leq 15 yrs of age. In Chile, 51% were **female**, in India, 34%, and in Viet Nam, 39%. Average **BMI** was 21.6, in the normal range. In **India and Viet Nam**, 80% - 85% of wheelchairs went to recipients from **rural** locations, in **Chile** the majority were from large **metropolitan** areas.

C. Education

In terms of **education**, the highest level achieved for **15%** was **first grade**; another **15%** had received **special education**, **64%** completed **8th grade**, **2%** completed **technical school**, and **2%** completed **university**. **30%** said they could not read, **55%** said they could read at a basic level, and **15%** at an advanced level.



D. Employment

Less than 3% of wheelchair recipients were employed. That number did not change after 6 months. Of those unemployed, only **5%** considered that they were **capable of working at a desk job.** They were unemployed for various reasons including lack of transportation, and not knowing how to proceed (Fig 1). **After 6 months, 8.4%** considered themselves able, but the main impediment was lack of accessibility in buildings (Fig 2).

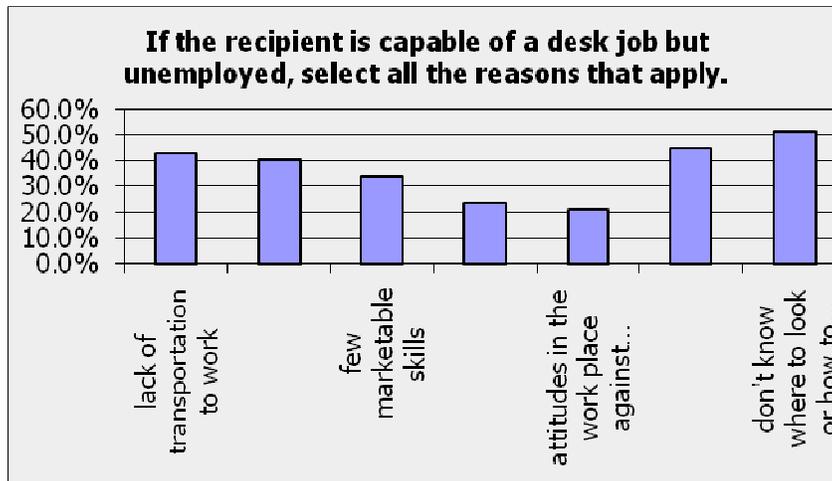


Figure 1. Before receiving wheelchair: Reasons for not being employed although able

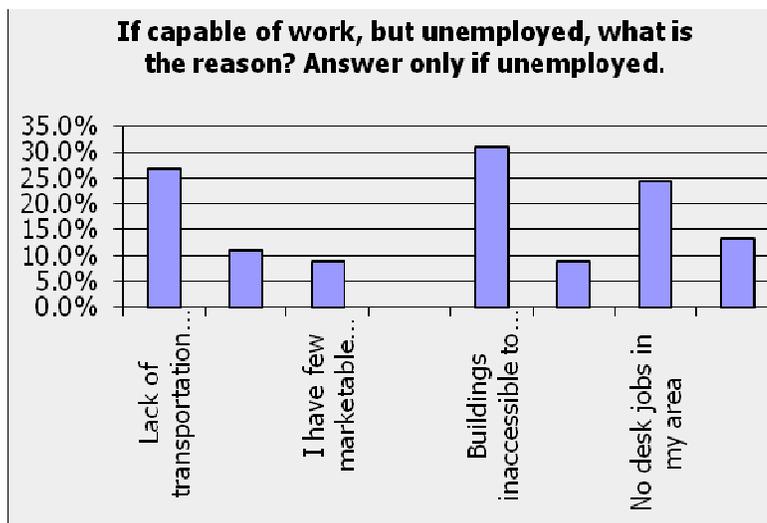


Figure 2. After receiving the wheelchair: Reasons for not being employed although able

E. Income

In terms of family income, **57%** said their income was less than that necessary for their basic needs, 38% said it was just adequate, and 5% said they had more than enough for basics (Fig 3). This remained essentially unchanged 6 months later.

Only 31% of the total said they had both adequate quantity and appropriate nutrition on a daily basis.

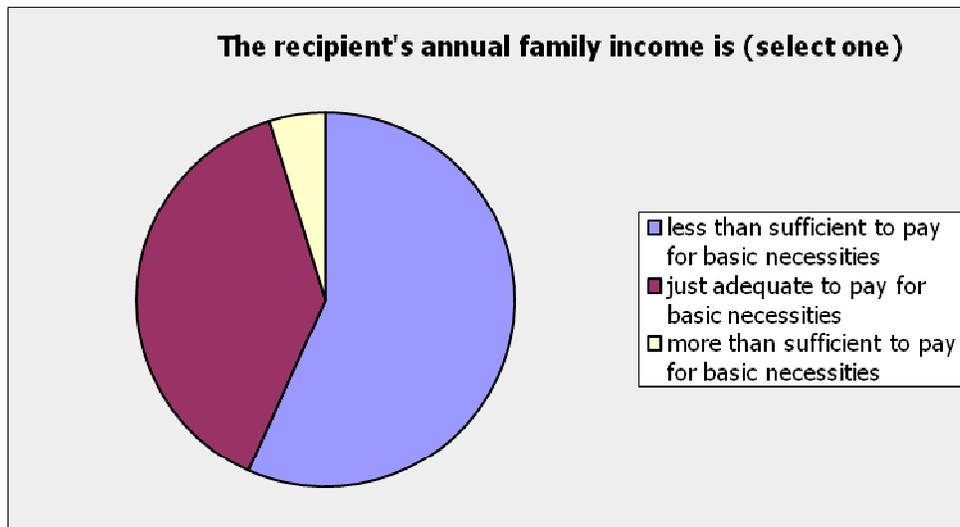


Figure 3. Annual Family Income

F. Previous Wheelchair

Regarding the previous use of a wheelchair, 10% said they had owned one before; 8% had rented one; **82% had never had one before**. The reason given by 51% in India, 79% in Viet Nam, and 87% in Chile was a **lack of money** to purchase one. 10% of the total said there was no wheelchair available to buy in their area, or it was only available to people with connections.

G. Diagnosis

In **India**, the majority of chairs went to recipients with muscular dystrophy or orthopedic problems such as fractures and amputees. In **Viet Nam**, 40% went to people with strokes; in **Chile** the highest number went to people with muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy.

II. Mobility and Chair Usage

Before receiving the wheelchair, **40%** of the total **had their mobility impaired for at least 10 years**. 10% were bedridden, 36% were carried, 12% crawled, and 41% either used a platform with wheels or walked short distances with assistance. (See Table below)

Currently, what is the main way you get from place to place? (select one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Carried	36.0%	217
Crawl	11.6%	70
platform scooter with wheels	4.0%	24
walk with help or cane/crutch	38.8%	234
bedridden, don't move	9.6%	58
Other (please describe)		14
<i>answered question</i>		603

41% of recipients moved less than 10 meters/day (See Table below).

How many meters do you typically travel per day? (sum of being carried, walking, moving on scooter, riding on bus, etc.)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
less than 10 meters	40.6%	245
at least 10 but less than 100 meters	31.5%	190
at least 100 but less than 500 meters	13.3%	80
at least 500 meters but less than 1 km	5.6%	34
at least 1 km	9.0%	54
<i>answered question</i>		603

After 6 months, only 24% move less than 10 meters/day. (See Table below)

How many meters do you typically travel per day (sum of being carried, riding in your wheelchair, walking, riding on bus, etc)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 10 meters	23.6%	133
At least 10 but less than 100 meters	38.1%	215
At least 100 meters but less than 500	20.0%	113
At least 500 meters but less than one km	9.6%	54
At least one km	8.7%	49
answered question		564

Prior to receiving a wheelchair, 36% said they spent the majority of their waking hours lying in bed and 47% said they never went outside their home (See below).

How much time do you spend outside your home on the average day?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I never go out	46.6%	281
less than 1 hour	25.4%	153
at least 1 hour but less than 4 hours	16.1%	97
at least 4 hours but less than 8 hours	8.6%	52
at least 8 hours	3.3%	20
answered question		603

After 6 months, the time spent outside the home was increased. (See below)

How much time do you spend outside your home on the average day?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I never go out	36.9%	208
less than 1 hour	31.2%	176
at least 1 hour but less than 4 hours	18.6%	105
at least 4 hours but less than 8 hours	9.6%	54
at least 8 hours	3.7%	21
answered question		564

III. Health Status

A. Illness and overall health

44% of respondents considered their overall health to be **less than average at baseline**. **32.3%** thought so **after 6 months**.

32% reported being **ill one or more days/week** during the past year at baseline (see Table below)

Estimate the number of days you have been ill this past year (excluding the reason for wheelchair use)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
one day or less/month	42.8%	258
two days/month	25.5%	154
one day/week	9.3%	56
more than one day/week	22.4%	135
<i>answered question</i>		603

Those numbers decreased to **24%** following use of the wheelchair (see Table below).

Estimate the number of days you have been ill this past 6 months (excluding the presence of primary reason for wheelchair use)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
one day or less/month	51.1%	288
two days/month	24.8%	140
one day/week	8.3%	47
more than one day/week	15.8%	89
<i>answered question</i>		564

According to **8%**, they **had never received a medical evaluation** related to their condition and **8%** said there was **no medical care in the area where they lived**. **47%** said that **although care was available in their area, they either couldn't afford it, or had no way to access it**.



B. Skin Ulcers

27.5% said they **had skin ulcers sometime during the 12 months** before they received their wheelchairs. **After** use of the wheelchair, **17%** said they had developed one or more ulcers **during those previous 6 months**.

C. Nutrition

At baseline, 31% said they had **adequate quantity and quality of nutrition every day** (Fig3). That number increased to **40.6%** **after 6 months** in the wheelchair (Fig 4).

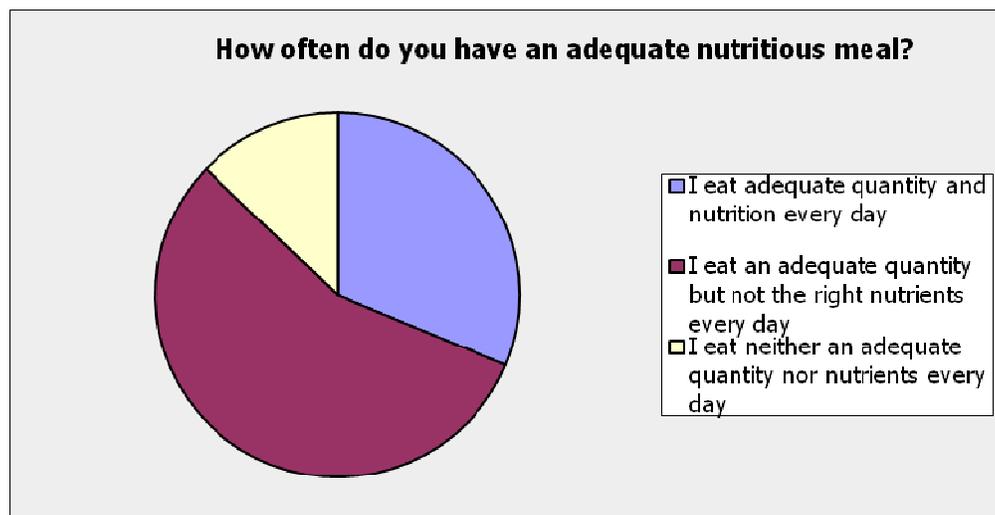


Figure 3. Percent who had adequate nutrition before the wheelchair

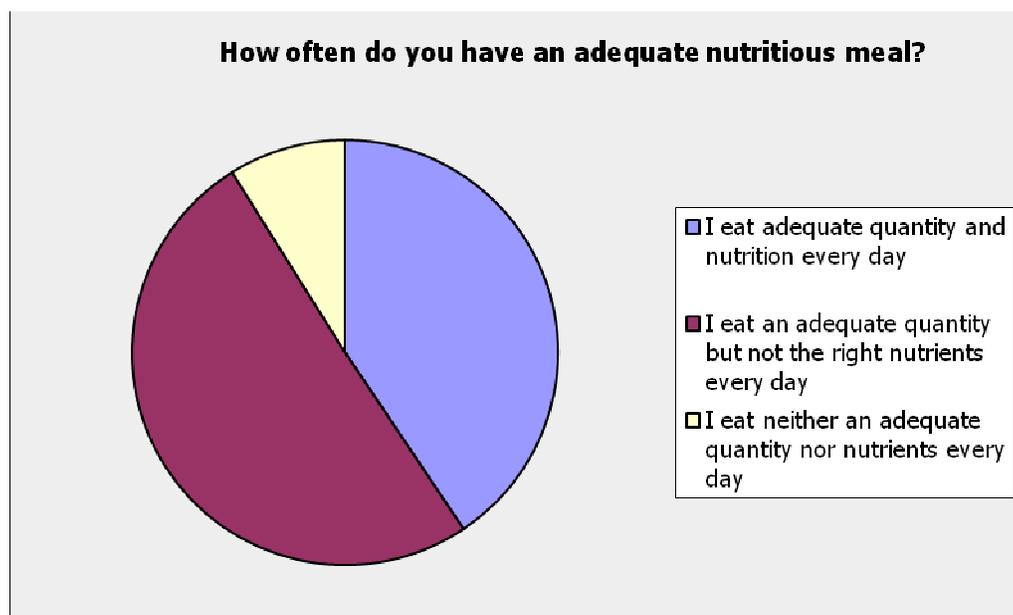


Figure 4. Percent who had adequate nutrition after the wheelchair

D. Pain

At baseline, 70% reported that they had **pain on a regular basis** - back, arm, or hip. (Fig 5)

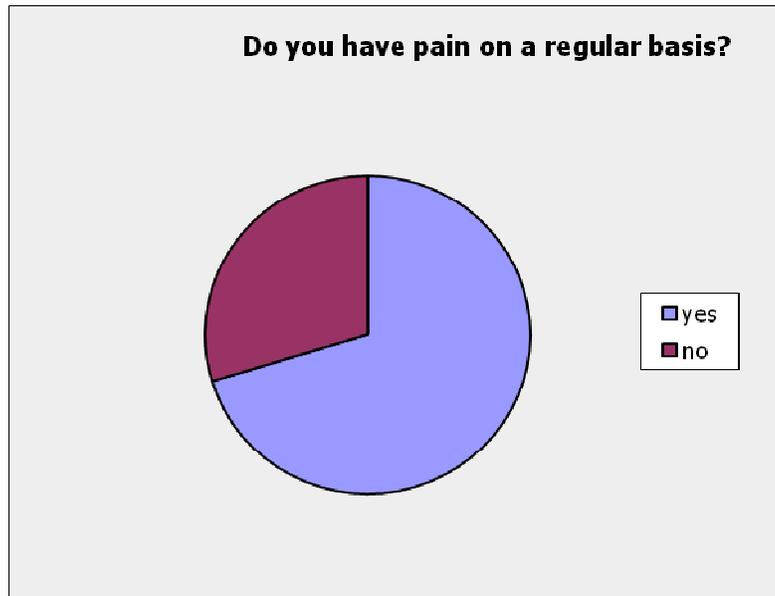


Figure 5. Percent of recipients who had pain before the wheelchair

46% had pain after 6 months in the wheelchair (Fig 6).



Figure 6. Percent of recipients who had pain after 6 months in the wheelchair

E.Mood State

At **baseline**, mood was **neither positive nor negative**. Recipients generally felt OK about their life. 98.5% believed their lives would be better after receiving a wheelchair. Mood was **somewhat positive 6 months after** use of the chair; 99.5% said life was indeed better after receiving the wheelchair.

IV. Function

Functional Categories include the following:

Mobility measures maintaining a sitting position, and all areas of mobility both inside and outside of the home, including public transportation.

Self cares includes areas such as washing themselves, toileting, and maintaining their personal comfort.

Domestic life refers to areas such as food preparation, housework, and shopping.

Interpersonal relationships measured ability to form and maintain the family and social network.

Major life areas measured difficulty with employment and education.

Community, social and civic life included engaging in religious, recreational, or leisure activities.

Changes in function following the receipt of the wheelchair show a **small change toward independent function in mobility, self cares, domestic life, and interpersonal relationships**, but not in major life areas or community, social, and civic life (See Table below)



Changes in Function Following Receipt of Wheelchair

Category	Before Wheelchair			After Wheelchair		
	None	Mild/ Moderate	Severe/ Unable	None	Mild/ Moderate	Severe/ Unable
Mobility	18.5%	38.5%	43.0%	27.2%	34.1%	38.7%
Self Cares	30.0%	39.1%	31.0%	41.9%	28.7%	29.4%
Domestic Life	3.9%	30.0%	66.1%	7.8%	24.1%	68.1%
Interpersonal Relationships	31.9%	44.0%	24.2%	50.6%	31.9%	17.5%
Major Life Areas	5.1%	26.1%	68.8%	4.9%	23.8%	71.3%
Community, Social, Civic	7.3%	34.1%	58.6%	5.0%	32.6%	62.4%

Overall

The overall amount of dependence on a caregiver where 1 represented total dependence and 10 represented total independence is as follows: **3.86 before**, and **4.22 after**.

V. Evaluation of Wheelchair

A. Injury

1.1% reported receiving an **injury due to the wheelchair**. The reasons cited were falling in the chair (4 people), getting hands or feet stuck in the wheels (3 people), or losing control of the chair (2 people).

B. Maintenance

Only **2.3%** of wheelchair recipients said they had to **repair their chair in the previous 6 months**. The **largest number of repairs** were to the **rear tires** (Fig 7).



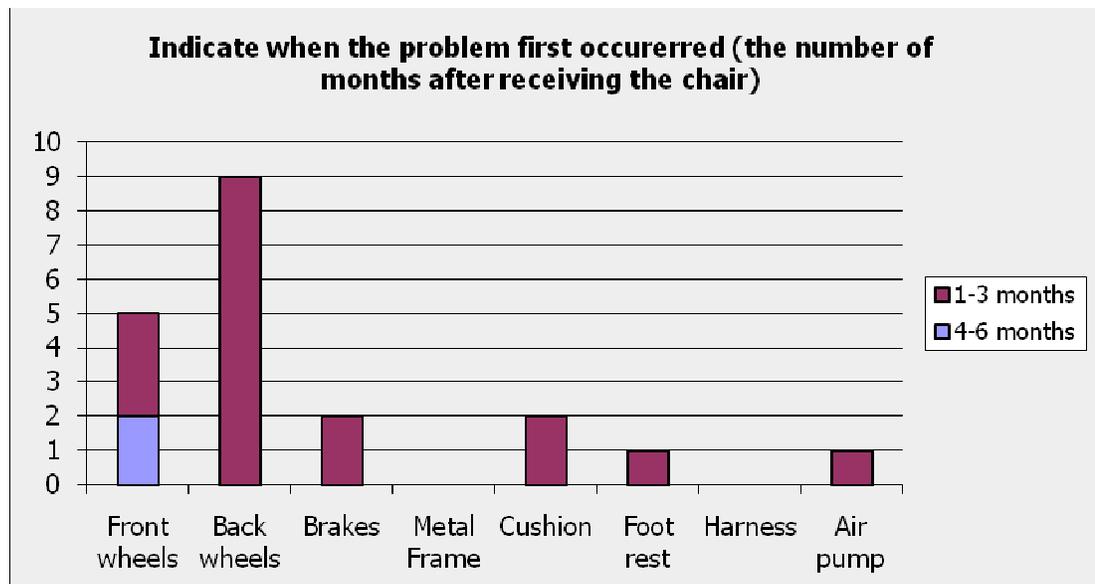


Figure 7. Number of wheelchair repairs required during previous 6 months

Air was added to the pneumatic rear tires and the **inner tube patched** as indicated below (See Tables below)

How often do you need to add air to rear tires?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	0.2%	1
2x/week	0.5%	3
1x/week	2.3%	13
2x/month	3.2%	18
1x/month	38.3%	216
Less than 1x/month	55.5%	313
<i>answered question</i>		564

How often has the inner tube been patched?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Weekly	0.0%	0
Monthly	9.0%	51
Never	91.0%	513
<i>answered question</i>		564

The **cause** which necessitated repair was believed to be **usual wear and tear** in the environment (See Table)

What do you believe was the cause of the breakdown?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Usual wear and tear in environment	85.7%	12
An accident with the chair	14.3%	2
Defective part	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		14

7 people contacted the distributors for parts or service with satisfactory results (See Table)

Have you ever contacted the people who gave you the chair in order to get new wheelchair parts or service?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I have not needed to contact them	98.8%	557
I needed a part but was unable to contact them	0.0%	0
I contacted them, but received no help	0.0%	0
I contacted them and received the help I needed	1.2%	7
<i>answered question</i>		564

Repairs cost 4 people money (See below).

How much money have you spent for repairs to your wheelchair these past 6 months?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No money	99.3%	560
Less than one typical day's wage	0.5%	3
One or two day's wage	0.2%	1
Between 3 days and one week's typical wage	0.0%	0
More than one week's wage	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		564



C. Modification of Chair

10.6% of people modified their chair to make it more comfortable in the following ways:

In what ways have you modified it? (Check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I added cushions to the back	93.3%	56
I added cushions to the sides	65.0%	39
I modified the footrests	10.0%	6
I modified the back	1.7%	1
I modified the armrests	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)		1
<i>answered question</i>		60

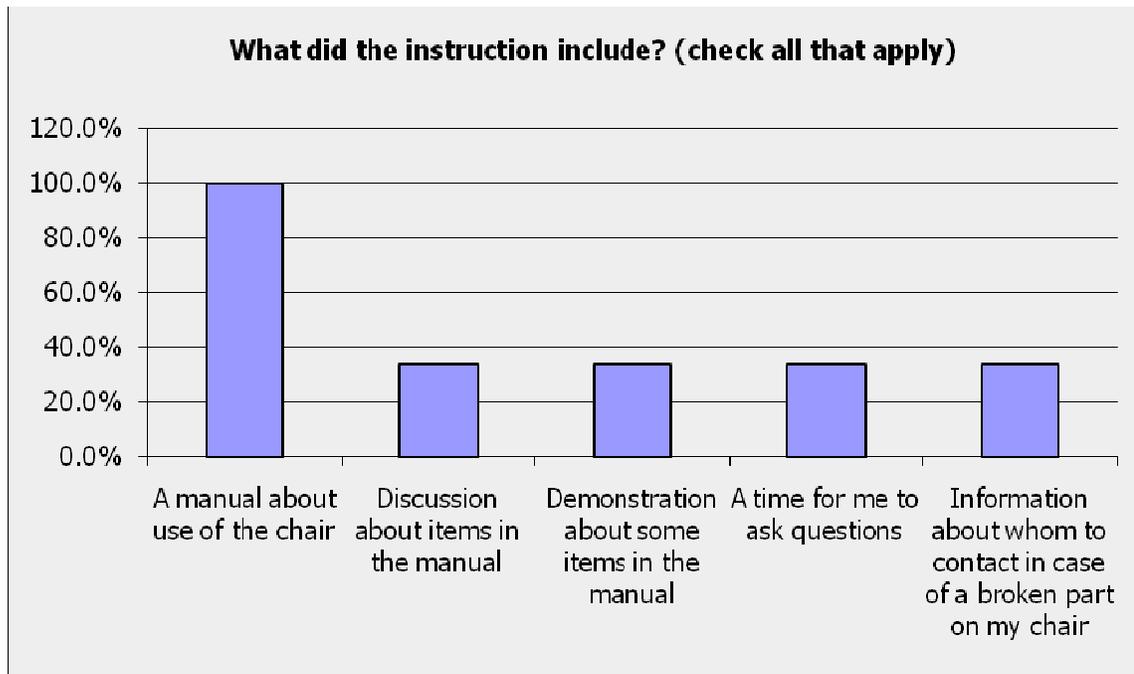
D. Overall Satisfaction with Wheelchair

Overall satisfaction using a 0-10 scale where 0 was very dissatisfied and 10 very satisfied was **8.37/10**.



VI. Evaluation of Training Manual

100% of recipients said they received training along with their wheelchairs – all received a manual. Some also had discussion of the items in it (See below).



6 months later, 99% had looked at the manual and found it helpful (See below).

If you received a manual with your wheelchair, have you looked at it since that day?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I looked at it, and found it very helpful	99.3%	556
Yes, I looked at it, but it was not helpful	0.5%	3
No, I lost it	0.0%	0
No, I didn't have any questions	0.2%	1
<i>answered question</i>		560

99.8% of them said they **had no suggestions** to improve the manual.



56% said they **knew who to contact** in case they needed help (See below)

Did your manual list whom to contact if you need a replacement part or help with your chair?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	56.9%	318
No	43.1%	241
<i>answered question</i>		559

3 persons said they had **tried to make contact** but were unable to (See below)

It you tried to contact them, what was the result?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I mailed a letter, but heard no reply	100.0%	3
I tried to telephone them, but was unable to reach them	0.0%	0
I contacted them, but they had no spare part	0.0%	0
I contact them, and a part was promised, but I have not received it	0.0%	0
I contacted them and received a new part	0.0%	0
If you needed a new part, which one was it?		0
<i>answered question</i>		3



Bangladesh

Distribution Partner: Karmirhath Hospital, whose mission is raise the socio-economic status of the poor, downtrodden and less privileged people in the society by providing affordable health care, mobility to the handicapped and training to the needy to save them from social injustices.

Total USAID Containers: 4

PO 081908-2-5 – Ordered - 8/19/08, Shipped - 11/27/2008, Arrived - 12/12/2008, Cleared – 12/29/2009

Report Incoming: 5/14/2009



Image 1 – wheelchairs are being checked for proper assembly and readied for distribution.

Image 2 – A wheelchair recipient enjoys his newfound mobility.



Recipient Story



This is Kashem Mondol. He has a stroke about 15 years ago and lost the use of his legs. Before he was given this wheelchair he either crawled everywhere we went or depended on his wife to carry him. He felt deprived of all opportunities in the society. He lost his job and felt alone. With his new wheelchair he hopes to find a new job and is very thankful to the donors in the United States that support him with this gift.

Chile

Distribution Partner – FEDES - The mission of FEDES FOUNDATION is to promote human development in two main areas: Enhance the quality of life for all members of the community, especially those who are poor, suffering or otherwise disadvantaged. Invest in human resources. Mankind is the greatest and most important asset on the planet. Training people in the context of moral values is a necessary condition for building a better world.

Total USAID Containers: 2

PO 091208-4 – Ordered 9/12/08, Shipped 11/6/08, Arrived 12/12/2008, Cleared 12/16/2008

PO 101408-2 – Ordered 10/14/08, Shipped 11/6/08, Arrived 12/12/08, Cleared 12/16/08

Report Incoming: 6/22/09



Image 1: A happy recipient at a ceremony in Chile!



Image 2: Grace Colon, wishing a recipient well after instructing her on how to use her chair.



Recipient Story



Alejandro Soto is 10 years old, some months ago Alex knees were hurting when his parents took him to the doctor they found out that he has Muscular Distrofy and another sickness in his nerves that is quite progressive, the pain kept on and Alex Could not go to school as it was hard also for him to walk. And since his parents did not have Money as to buy a wheel chair Alex will spend all day Laing in bed. He was so happy and his parents because now he will be able to go to school, go to his doctor appointment, and spend time with his friends. We told them the wheel chair is a gift from God and they could not stop thanking God, Fundación Fedes and Free wheelchair Mission.

Colombia

Distribution Partner: Caminos por Colombia whose mission is to support people living with physical disability, low income throughout Colombia, through the delivery and distribution of wheelchairs and related items to improve their quality of life and reintegration into society.

Total USAID Containers: 1

PO 081108-3 – Ordered 8/11/08, Shipped 12/2/08, Arrived 1/9/09, Cleared 1/26/09

Report Incoming 2/6/09 – 6/2/09



Image 1: A young child is getting strapped into the chair with the harness



Image 2: A grateful recipient thanks the distributor.

Recipient



Story



This was the greatest lesson of Maria Isabel, a single mother (in Colombia), who brought forward her 4 children, with the conviction, gratitude and total belief that she would some day walk again, having lost mobility 11 years ago when she was run over by a car ending with several fractured and luxated discs with raquideomedular trauma .

She said she would walk again and her promise is that in such a day she will call us so some one else in need can use her wheelchair.

A person who does not inspire sadness alone inspires admiration and void with her economic resources and her physical condition(I dare not call it a disability!), taught me that beauty is within our hearts. How many of us having our own home, food for our family, our body and mind totally useful and yet we are "auto-disabled"?



Where is the most serious accident? In a person hit by a car that has been left 11 years without being able to move by itself and still loves life and is sure of physical and personal overcoming? Or us, which upon any fear or insecurity, we are paralyzed by what we can achieve ... (and this is only imaginary, but it is worse than a broken back!).

What do education and a thousand titles mean if upon situations, often imaginary, we block and become useless, against a person with limited resources and few opportunities, who can give us a lesson of optimism, gratitude and overcoming of life's adversities, compared to what we have, what we chose and what God gave us.

Costa Rica

Distribution Partner: Do it Center Foundation whose vision is to create partnerships with like minded organizations, and creating innovative sustainable projects to educate and assist the community.

Total USAID Containers: 1

PO 091208-1 – Ordered 9/12/08, Shipped – 12/2/08, Arrived – 1/7/09, Cleared 1/23/09

Report Incoming: 5/14/2009 – 8/15/2009



Image 1 : Distribution

Ceremony takes place in Costa Rica, recipients listening to the training presentation



Image 2: Volunteers help assemble the wheelchairs.



Recipient Story



This is Mrs. Josefa Martinez. She lives in a small town about ½ an hour away from Liberia, Guanacaste, called Cañas Dulces. Now, she doesn't live in the middle of this little town. She lives about 3 kilometers up from the middle of town into the mountain, through a dirt road. They don't have their own transportation, nor does a bus or a taxi cab go by at anytime through that road.

In October of 2009, Josefa will be 102 years old. She has 11 children. One of her daughters (and the daughter's husband) are the ones that live with her and take care of her in a little house made of wood, zinc, and dirt floor.

Josefa likes to go to Church on Sundays, and come out a little bit more often. That is why she needed a wheelchair.

She was pleased and happy, very grateful with the Foundation on giving her a Birthday gift in advance.

Dominican Republic

Distributing Partner: Fundacion Samaritana chairwoman Audeliza Solano Lopez is a lawyer and journalist. She has also served as Deputy Director of the Office of Community Development in Samaná, Dominican Republic. Fundacion Samaritana aids the underserved residents of Samaná through donations of food, school supplies, wheelchairs and medical programs. The organization offers prenatal and neonatal clinics, builds and restores homes, and sponsors the transportation for students studying in other cities.

Total USAID Containers: 1

PO 091208-2 – Ordered 09/12/08, Shipped 11/27/08, Arrived 01/05/09, Cleared 01/15/09

Report Incoming: 02/19/09- 05/07/09



Img. 1: A recipient's legs and torso are adjusted by volunteers who have prepared for the distribution by viewing the Free Wheelchair Mission user training video.



Img 2: Audeliza Solano Lopez distributes wheelchairs with the assistance of local doctors and physical therapists, who volunteer their services for these projects.

Recipient Story



My name is Rafael, I am 67 years old, and I lost my leg over ten years ago. I worked for more than 30 years as a locomotive wagon assistant for the local sugar mill company (La Romana, Dominican Republic). At the time I lived in a village called Las Cejas, located in the eastern side of the island. During the sugar crop season we would go into the farm area, fill the locomotive wagons with sugar canes, and then haul them back to the mill, where they converted it into refined sugar.

One night in 1997, while we were coming from a place called Magdalena, I was riding in between two wagons, waiving my kerosene lantern to warn the man who worked at the station, so he would make the necessary changes to the railroad tracks. To this day, I can't explain what happened, all I remember is that suddenly I found myself hanging from one of my legs, while the rest of my body was swinging from one end to another, as the locomotive ran on the tracks. Since there was no electricity in the village, and because of

the noise that the locomotive made no one could see or hear my predicament, no matter how loud a yelled.

I started to pull on the leg that was caught between the wagons, hoping to break loose and eventually fall to the ground. However, when I was finally able to break loose, I fell right on the railroad tracks. My leg was severed by the locomotive wheels, just below my waist line. When I woke up a couple of days later I was in a hospital bed with one leg. I must say that I wanted to die,

and for months I tried to end my life.

Prior to losing my mobility, I always took pride in the fact that I worked very hard to put bread on the table to feed my family. Living in a country where social security and disability benefits are virtually non-existent, I had to turn to begging to survive. That has been very hard for me.

When I learned that I was going to receive a free wheelchair I got very excited. I would no longer be confined to my bed; I would no longer have to beg in order to eat. I am still a very strong man, I said to myself. I am going to build a shoe shine box, and I will ride up and down the streets in my wheelchair shining shoes for people.

Please don't feel pity for me! Now that I have this wheelchair my life will be much better. I hope that the people at Free Wheelchair Mission will continue to send wheelchairs to my country.

There are thousands of people just like me: confined to a bed inside their shacks because they can't afford the RD\$14,350.00 Dominican pesos (about US\$400.00) for a wheelchair. For us it is a choice between eating, and mobility. As much as we need to be mobile, eating is way more important. Please keep hope alive, continue to help us!

Thank you!



Ecuador

Distribution Partners: *Friends of Ecuador* whose mission is to relieve poverty in Ecuador by responding to the demonstrated needs of disadvantaged persons in organizations and institutions such as hospitals, schools and orphanages, any of which may or may not be church-affiliated, in Ecuador.

Fundacion Vista Para Todos – who exists to bring Integral Health Services of good quality and at low costs to the most needy people of our country through permanent attention in our Health Units and through Medical Brigades using the best technology without forget the ethical and showing love, respect and concern to every patient coming to see us.

Total USAID Containers: 2

PO 081108-4& 5, Ordered 8/11/08, Shipped 11/27/08, Arrived 1/5/09, Cleared 1/23/09 & 2/17/09

Report Incoming: 2/9 – 6/11, 2009



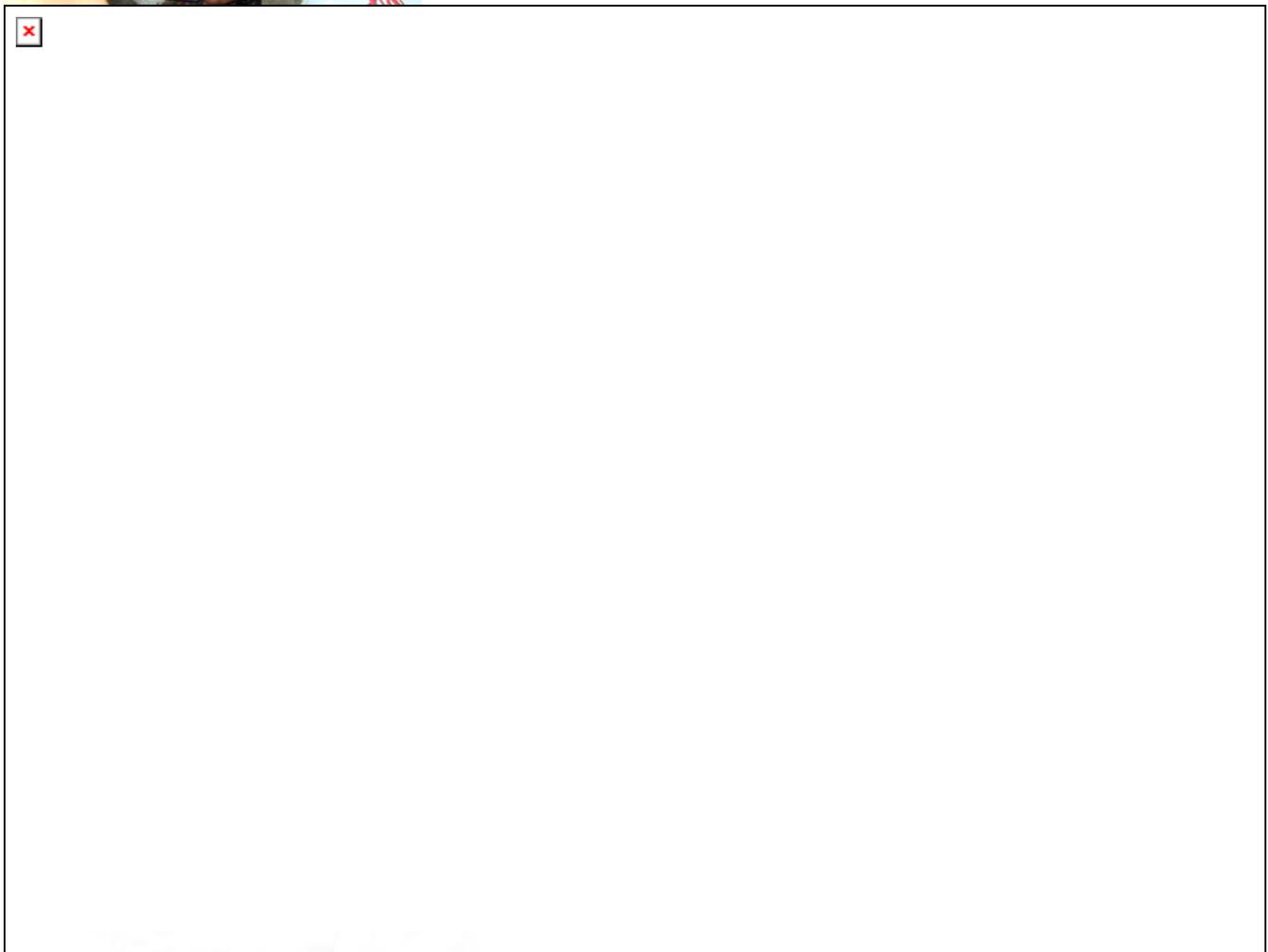
Image 1: Jose Olmedo before his wheelchair



Image 2: Jose in his new wheelchair.

Recipient Records

Our partners keep careful records of each recipient and make sure the check back with these recipients if they need any service.



El Salvador

Distribution Partner: Flying Doctors a volunteer-based nonprofit organization that helps improve the health and well-being of the peoples of Mexico and Central America through the provision of no-cost, high-quality healthcare and health education clinics in rural villages in northern Mexico (northern Sonora and Baja), El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras; and among migrant labor populations in the Coachella Valley of the southwestern United States.

Total USAID Containers: 1

PO 072908-5 – Ordered 7/29/08, Shipped 9/1/08, Arrived 9/22/08, Cleared 10/16/08

Report Incoming 3/30/09



Image 1: Members of flying doctors and Lion's Clubs gather to distribute wheelchairs and train recipients.



Image 2: A recipient is given the gift of love along with her wheelchair.



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Recipient Story



Maria Aquino who is 75 suffered a stroke and has been looked after by her husband for the past year. She said, "this wheelchair means the world to me and I am thankful my husband can now take me outside and to the market."

Honduras

Distributing Partner: Surgical Medical Assistance Relief Teams (SMART Teams, Intl.) is a US founded organization with home office in Tegucigalpa. President Teresa A. Searcy founded SMART Teams in 1991 in Springhill, Kansas and has since provided surgical, medical and dental services to over 25,000 people in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Ecuador.

Total Containers: 2

PO 072408-1 – Ordered 07/24/08, Shipped 11/26/08, Arrived 01/05/09, Cleared 01/21/09

PO 082908-5 – Ordered 08/25/08, Shipped 11/28/08, Arrived 01/17/09, Cleared 01/13/09

Reports Incoming: 02/27/09- 05/14/09



Img 1. Chepe Benavides explains where to look on the manual to find contact information for Teresa and SMART Teams.



Img 2. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable to the effects of disability and poverty. SMART Teams seeks to reach this demographic with their free medical services.

Recipient Story

The wheelchair giveaway was a blast as usual! Sergio Lovo and his wife, co-owners of the Hotel Flamingo in Choluteca, graciously loaned us the use of the hotel courtyard to build and giveaway the wheelchairs. Leader Esteban Troches and the Choluteca Boy Scout Troop aided in the assembly, once again!



The case which broke my heart was a young woman who was paralyzed while giving birth to her second child, a son. She cannot move her arms or legs and has been confined to the bed for the five years since he was born. She is so thin, it is scary, but she has a brilliant smile. Her neighbor found out about the wheelchair giveaway and made sure all the paperwork was in our hands where she could receive a free wheelchair.



Then her neighbor brought her to the Hotel to receive her chair. The neighbor prayed with her, thanking God for providing the wheelchair which they had been praying for her to receive for several years. Her husband lifted her carefully into the chair. The smile says it all!



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Medical Reports and Thank You letters were returned for every recipient:

*Le Agradecemos al ministerio Chiqui nos.
 Por haber Desquizado esta silla
 ya que lo tanto útil para cada uno
 de nosotros nos hace difícil tenerlo
 con nuestro propio esfuerzo que estádo el mañana
 Le doy la gracias por lo que me
 hecho por cada uno de nosotros y
 darle mil gracias y que Dios todo
 poderoso los de mas fuerza para poder
 adquirir a nuestros mas. Que Dios
 Los bendiga hoy, mañana, y siempre
 Mil Gracias
 Francisco Funez Cruz.
 Gracias por los donaciones*

Thanks to SMART Ministries for finding this wheelchair for every one of us who find it difficult to have our own chair and you gave us one. A thousand thanks and may the mighty God give

you more strength to give many more. May God bless you today, tomorrow and forever. A Thousand thanks.

Francito Funez Cruz
 San Lorenzo, Valle, Honduras

DOB 6/20/1920



Dr. Cristóbal Rodolfo Castro Dubón
 Colegiado No. 6227
Medicina y Cirugía
 U.N.A.H.
 Tel 7812914 cel. 33867113

NOMBRE: Francito Funez Cruz FECHA: 19-01-09
 Edad: 880 Sexo: M. Hora: _____
 Rx paciente con codo por degeneración,
entrela en ambos rodillos y
lumbal que cronica de pi al tendorete
la deambulacion en genero ddon olo
menor aban. Soldado y momb
Pano de nese de silla de
neodos, la que sero muy
util al paciente



Dr. Cristóbal Rodolfo Castro Dubón
 Colegiado No. 6227



India

Distributing Partner: Sathyam Literature Service Trust, Truth International. Founded in 1988 by Dr. CV Vadavana, Sathyam Ministries has been providing health care services, caring for the residents of slums and leper colonies, and operating disability clinics, orphanages, and vocational schools throughout the whole of India.

Total Containers: 3

PO 081108-2 – Ordered 08/11/08, Shipped 09/11/08, Arrived 10/02/08, Cleared 10/13/08

PO 082908-1 – Ordered 08/29/08, Shipped 11/24/08, Arrived 12/12/08, Cleared 01/29/08

PO 112908-2 – Ordered 08/29/08, Shipped 11/24/08, Arrived 12/12/08, Cleared 01/29/08

Reports Incoming – 03/20/09- 05/08/09



Img 1: Laxmamma has been without mobility for three years, since losing her leg in an accident. The sole supporter of two sons, she looks forward to returning to work in her wheelchair, funded by USAID.



Img 2: The addition of an adjustable footplate proves especially useful for recipients afflicted by paralysis or stroke later in life.

Recipient Story

Madhavan Nair was a rich man owing acres of land during his youth. He was married with three children. But unfortunately his wife died and he married again. His children took on their own lives and left the old man and his wife alone. Not long his second wife too died and he was left all alone in life. Now his children send him to an old age home and there he lived. But once he fell in the bathroom and he had a hip dislocation and restricted to his bed. The old age home seeing his disability applied for a wheelchair at Sathyam Ministries and was gifted one. He was extremely happy to get one as he could move about.



Manoj Kurien is a Standard 10 student. His both legs were affected by bilateral congenital deformity of both legs by birth. He is the youngest in the family and taken well cared by the family. His father takes him to school and he is a very bright student. He is sad that like other kids of his age he cannot move about and needs help. But he does what ever he can with his ability. One of his teachers asked his father to contact Sathyam Ministries to get a Wheelchair and he did accordingly. Now, He is very happy using a wheelchair. He shares his joy with his parents.

Peru

Distribution Partner: Camino de Vida/ Operation Blessing International – CDV is a mega church in Peru that has joined forces with OBI to bring relief to God’s children. Work in disaster relief, microenterprise, hunger relief, water wells and medical services are all important elements in their mission.

Total USAID Containers: 4

PO 062508-1 – Ordered 6/25/08, Shipped, 8/6/08, Arrived 9/25/08, Cleared 10/2/08

PO 072908-1, 2 – Ordered 7/29/08, Shipped 8/31/08, Arrived 10/8/08, Cleared 10/22/08

PO 101408-3 – Ordered 10/14/08, Shipped 11/27/08, Arrived 12/24/08, Cleared 1/12/09

Report Incoming 11/11/08 – 3/30/09



Image 1:
Inspection of
the
wheelchairs
before
distribution



Image 2: Recipient
received her new chair
and manual.

Recipient Story

During the campaign we had the privilege of visiting Melanie Garcia who was born mute and cripple. Melanie lives with her mother Ana Anorga and two younger brothers. Melanie was born with what the doctors call a small spinal cord. This prevented Melanie from walking and as a result of not having the money to repair this problem she became blind. At the news of this tragedy her father told her mother that there is no way that his daughter could be born this way, he abandoned the family and remarried.

This situation left Melanie's mother to take care of the family all by herself. Mrs. Anorga had to leave Melanie home alone while she went to work in the market working as a food vender. The wheelchair that was handed to Melanie is like the hand of God literally reaching down and doing a miracle. This chair enables Melanie to go out for the first time and helps her mother to take her to the doctor and dentist and she can even go with her to work. Melanie does not have to stay home alone any more. As a result of this wheelchair the mother and family rededicated their life to the Lord.



Viet Nam

Distribution Partner: Giving It Back To Kids. US-founded 501(c)3 organization with home office in Da Nang. Viet Nam representative Mr. Truong Bao Long (Img. 1) visited distribution sites in Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City to train regional staff to distribute using the User Training Manual.

Total USAID Containers: 3

PO 062508-2 – Ordered 06/25/08, Shipped 08/06/08, Arrived 08/22/08, Cleared 08/29/08, Report: 09/17/08

PO 101408-1 – Ordered 10/14/08, Shipped 11/28/08, Arrived 12/15/08, Cleared 12/28/08, Report: 01/22/09

PO 102008-2 – Ordered 10/20/08, Shipped 11/28/08, Arrived 12/15/08, Cleared 12/28/08,

Report: 03/30/09



Img. 1: Mr. Truong Bao Long, of Giving it Back to Kids, demonstrates to a crowd of recipients how to engage the brakes on their new wheelchairs.



Img 2: Recipients follow in their Vietnamese manuals during Long's presentation.

Recipient Story

We began early this morning. We were headed for Quang Ngai province where the Mei Lei massacre occurred during the Vietnam War. It is about 3 hours by van.

It is always so hard to try and describe to someone from a country where wheelchair accessibility is law what a wheelchair means to someone in Viet Nam. People spend their lives crawling (if able) or depending on others for mobility. Many never leave their houses for years.

Our wheelchairs come from Free Wheelchair Mission. Through their support, we will soon have distributed over 19,000 wheelchairs in Vietnam in 3 years. These chairs not only impact the lives of the recipients, but of the family and friends who take care of them. That, my friends, is a lot of impacted lives!

At today's distribution I learned that, due the heavy fighting in this area during the war, there's a higher-thanordinary

percentage of disability from mines, unexploded ordnances, and Agent Orange—this, in addition to other causes like strokes, etc.

Today we gave away 100 wheelchairs. On my mind, though, are the several who left today without chairs: one man hopping through the mud on one leg; another using his hands and 2 blocks of wood to move. The sight of them leaving without wheelchairs is not easily forgotten. There just were not enough to go around. Here are a couple of the stories from some that did get chairs today:

Nguyen Thi Thao, Age 69 (*Translated from Vietnamese by Ms. Tam Tong, Giving It Back to Kids*)

As I walked around today's distribution I saw this old man lovingly leaning over this woman. A younger girl was gently rubbing the woman's arm. The man was the husband. He had been married for 49 years. When I told him it looked like he loved his wife very much he smiled broadly, nodding and saying, *"Thank you, I love her very much."*

I saw his wife, Thao, begin to tear up hearing her husband of 49 years still say he loved her. They had 7 children and lots of grandchildren. The young lady was one of the grandkids.

He continued, *"Since she had her illness (stroke) she has not been able to move. I must take total care of her. She cannot bathe or use the restroom without help. I have been praying for a wheelchair for a long time. I have asked for wheelchairs from agencies 4 separate times but have never received one until today. Thank the donors for me. This wheelchair will help us and improve our simple lives. It has been several years since I have been able to take her outside to visit friends and relatives. Now because of this free wheelchair I can take her out. This is a wonderful Tet (Lunar New Year) gift!!"*

