

Reporting Period: January 1 through March 31, 2000

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: April 25, 2001

## I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

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

#### 1. Program Activities:

a. The next nationwide workshop, "Inclusive Education for Disabled Children" is scheduled for May 3 and 4 as a joint effort of HVO, CRS, Pearl S. Buck and Radda Barnen. As in Danang last August, the agenda will be the responsibility of the MOET-affiliated NGOs while HVO will handle logistics and administrative tasks.

b. Planning for the "Campaign 2001" regional conference scheduled for December in Hanoi has begun. In March, the Disability Forum met with representatives from Japan and Hong Kong to assist with preparations for this major event. Several hundred people with disabilities are expected to attend. MOLISA is the host ministry, and they have invited the Disability Forum project coordinator to participate in planning meetings.

c. Planning for an event to celebrate the national PWD Day on April 18 was also initiated this quarter. The concept is an "encounter" between PWD groups of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

#### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. In a series of meetings in March, the MOET agreed to act as host for the event. There was a conference in December to consider the current state of inclusive education, so one of the objectives for this workshop will be to begin formulating an action plan.

b. It is expected that MOLISA will require a great deal of support in preparing for Campaign 2001, partly because Hanoi does not have adequate public transportation and hotel accommodations for large numbers of PWD. It will be the function of the Disability Forum to offer assistance where possible and attempt to involve PWD groups in the decision-making process.

c. While legally obliged to work through the Society for the Protection of Orphans and Disabled People, the initiative originated within the group of PWD organizations of

Hanoi. Four member NGOs have agreed to support the effort.

B. To support the university linkages through the development of distance learning opportunities

1. Program Activities

There were no activities this quarter.

C. To develop training components with VIETCOT

1. Program Activities:

a. The one-year orthotics course continues at VIETCOT. Several of the students have expressed interest in continuing their training with a one-year prosthetics course, if one were to be offered.

b. Discussions were initiated during the quarter to consider the project design for the coming three years. The VIETCOT school will begin another three-year course in October and hopes to implement either a follow-up prosthetics course or a series of modular in-service training courses.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

a. The students are doing well, for the most part, although several of them might have difficulty in passing the examination, according to VIETCOT staff. The clinical placement phase will begin at the conclusion of the course.

b. A decision has not yet been reached as to which of the shorter-term courses will be offered. Neither has it been determined to what extent HVO will support the various activities.

D. Develop further the professional capacities of nurses, rehabilitation doctors and physical therapists

1. Program Activities:

A week-long workshop on Interdisciplinary Pediatric Rehabilitation was planned for March, in conjunction with Secondary Technical School #2 in Danang. The team consisted of HVO nursing volunteers Dr. Jill Derstine and Dr. Margaret Shepard, Occupational Therapist Dr. Moya Kinnealey, and Physical Therapist Dr. Kim Nixon-Cave.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

Two weeks prior to the event, which was scheduled with the school back in December, the director at School #2 decided they could not host the event and it would have to be

cancelled. With all the plans already made, the National Institute of Pediatrics in Hanoi graciously agreed to host the workshop. The workshop proved very successful, with the team working with patients in the mornings and lecturing on techniques in the afternoons. As Dr. Derstine stated in her report, she felt that the Temple team "made a definitive impact on the participants and staff at NIP. The lectures were effective, but the fact that they spent each morning working on the mats with the pediatric patients and the staff resulted in a camaraderie that I had not seen before.....I really think that the impact that the team made at NIP probably did greater good for the patients than we could have done at Danang."

## II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

The National Coordinating Committee for Disabilities has been formed, and a staff of three has been installed in offices near ODTA, which has agreed to cover the cost of their operations. It is largely due to ODTA's influence that MOLISA has tacitly recognized the Disability Forum as a legitimate participant in the planning process for Campaign 2001 and other disability-related issues.

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

January marked the beginning of the latest three-year project cycle, during which the focus will be the development of a network of organizations and individuals involved with disabilities issues. The Disability Forum should become more independent and sustainable with the increasing participation of PWD groups, especially those in HCMC and Hoi An.

## IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

As usual, the first quarter of the year was interrupted by the Tet holidays and the project director's home leave. HVO's Permit of Operation which expired in mid-September has yet to be renewed by PACCOM. Such delays, it should be noted, are not uncommon. But the new Memorandum of Understanding, negotiated with the Rehabilitation Steering Committee of the MOH last quarter, has now been signed by both parties. The MOU covers the 2001-2003 project timeframe.

## V. DATA COLLECTION

## VI. FINANCIAL/EXPENDITURE