

Reporting Period: April 1 through June 30, 2001

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: July 20, 2001

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A. Support the activities of the Disability Forum

1. Program Activities:

a. The latest nationwide workshop, "Inclusive Education for Disabled Children" was held in Vung Tau, May 3 and 4, as a joint effort of HVO, CRS, Pearl S. Buck and Radda Barnen. The agenda was the responsibility of the MOET-affiliated NGOs with inclusive education programs, while HVO handled logistics and administrative tasks.

b. Planning for the "Campaign 2001" regional conference continues, with ODTA informally representing the NGO community and the Disability Forum participating in monthly planning meetings.

c. The national PWD Day was celebrated by PWD groups based in Hanoi and HCMC with an "encounter" on April 17 and 18.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. The Vung Tau workshop was the largest yet, with 140 participants representing 30 organizations, 4 Ministries and a number of schools and other educational institutions. There was active participation by blind and deaf participants. The final report has recently been completed and will be distributed in late July.

b. At MOLISA's insistence HVO has informally joined the organizing committee. There is increasing willingness to allow PWD groups to participate in the planning process, mostly due to pressure from ODTA and the regional representatives. Approximately 500 Vietnamese PWD will be invited to participate in Campaign 2001, and registration fees will be waived for at least 120 of them.

c. While the Society for the Protection of Orphans and Disabled People claimed responsibility for organizing the event, the initiative really originated with PWD organizations in Hanoi. About 200 participants discussed issues of importance to PWD on April 17 and visited Hanoi's cultural sites on the 18th. HVO joined with VVAF,

VNAH, and World Vision to provide financial support.

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:

The one-year orthotics course at VIETCOT was completed this quarter.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

Twelve of the fifteen students passed the final examinations. After a home leave, the twelve successful graduates will be assigned to their "clinical placement" sites in November while the other three will receive further training at VIETCOT.

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

1. Program Activities:

- a. Two members of the Vietnam Nurses' Association attended the International Council of Nurses' conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, which was held June 10 - 15.
- b. On June 12 and 13, a "scientific" conference was held in HCMC to consider "Professionalism, Specialization and Teamwork to Improve Quality of Health Care and Treatment". HVO financially supported the participation of some Hanoi delegates, some materials and other costs.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

- a. Ms. Nguyen Thi Hang, General Secretary of the VNA, and Mr. Nguyen Hoa, Vice-President of VNA, attended the conference and were very pleased with the event. They were able to meet with a number of the nurses who have been involved in Vietnam, with various NGOs, so that information could be shared about what each group is doing, and hopes to do.

Two HVO volunteers, Dr. Jill Derstine and Dr. Margaret Shepard, had a poster presentation at the conference, "Philadelphia to Danang: Enhancing Our Mission

Globally” which presented the March visit by the Temple University team. The presentation received a lot of attention.

- b. The event was very successful, according to organizers at the HCMC School of Medicine and Pharmacy. A large number of scientific papers were presented in two concurrent sessions over the course of two days. HVO's Executive Director, Nancy Kelly, received a special Award of Appreciation from the school.

II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

With the most recent nationwide workshops, further progress has been made in expanding the scope of the discussion from health issues to education and employment. Cooperation has been improved among participating NGOs and a more diverse group of PWD representatives have played an active role in planning and participating in the events.

III. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Disability Forum continues to develop into a recognized hub of communications for disabilities issues in Vietnam. Following up on earlier contacts, a group of Danish NGOs coordinated a program visit with the Disability Forum and HVO in late April and early May. Their purpose was to set the stage for a DANIDA disabilities program to be initiated in Hanoi at a later date.

IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

HVO Executive Director Nancy Kelly visited the program in mid-June. In addition to attending the scientific conference in HCMC, she met with partner NGOs, the MOH Steering Committee and international organizations such as WHO. She and the Project Director, Larry Wolfe, attended the "10th Conference of the Forum on Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam" in Vientiane, June 19-21.

V. DATA COLLECTION

National PWD Day event 200 participants

Vung Tau Workshop 140 participants

HCMC conference 500 participants

VI. FINANCIAL/EXPENDITURE

Submitted separately.