

Reporting Period: April 1 through June 30, 2000

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: July 25, 2000

## I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

### A. Organize Workshops for Rehabilitation Groups

#### 1. Program Activities:

After a series of meetings with ODTA (Office of Disability Technical Assistance) staff, it was decided that they and MOLISA would host the next workshop and that the theme will be Employment for Disabled People. HVO agreed to handle all operational details and cover the cost of the event; ODTA will be responsible for developing the agenda. Tentative dates were set for July 10-12, and it was decided that the venue will be in the Central Region (Danang).

#### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

ODTA has contacted MOLISA and obtained approval for the event. After initially insisting that the workshop be held in Hanoi, they finally accepted the Danang location. MOLISA expressed concern that there might be too many foreigners in attendance and set a limit of twenty non-Vietnamese participants. About fifteen expatriate NGO staff are expected to attend.

In June, ODTA decided to change the July dates to August so that their incoming director, John Lancaster, would be able to attend the workshop. The new dates are August 9-11.

### B. Pilot Test Team-based Approach

#### 1. Program Activities

The two initial training events were carried out in March; there were no other program activities this quarter.

#### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results

Follow-up visits by the team trainers are planned for Danang, November 6-10, and Bach Mai Rehabilitation Department, November 13-17.

### C. Promote and Support Professional Associations

#### 1. Program Activities:

a. The communications package project with the Vietnam Nurses Association was expanded last year to include the Therapy Departments at MOH and the Medical University in Ho Chi Minh City as well as the PWD group, Anh Em Tuong Tro.

It was decided to augment the project even further this quarter to include nine medical universities, three medical secondary schools and the Disability Forum, each of which received a computer and modem, a printer/fax machine, an overhead projector, slide projector and screen. Agreements were signed with the participating organizations to clarify that they would cover all operating and maintenance costs after installation.

b. HVO Technical Assistance Group member, Dr. Marie O'Toole, and nurse volunteer, Dr. Gayle Pearson, visited in late June. They traveled to Thanh Hoa to discuss the Rutgers linkage with Hong Duc University and met with the Vietnam Nurses Association in Hanoi.

#### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results

a. The equipment was procured from three different suppliers, each of which was responsible for delivery. HVO staff monitored installations in Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho, Danang, Hue, Thanh Hoa and Hanoi. Confirmation was received from the others of satisfactory receipt of the equipment. Participants were responsible for providing an adequate location, current stabilizers and phone lines for internet connections. Options for computer training are being investigated, and the utilization of the equipment will be evaluated after an orientation period.

b. The visit by Drs. O'Toole and Pearson was very successful. Both were quite pleased with the project at Hong Duc University and were excited at the opportunity for Rutgers University to strengthen its linkage through the use of the internet educational courses that are being developed. Dr. Pearson traveled to Vietnam as the first volunteer with Nursing Overseas, a new division of HVO. Since the nursing linkage is poised to grow, with the internet connections, the program in Vietnam will offer some exciting opportunities for nursing volunteers to share their talents and skills. We are pleased that Vietnam was the first recipient of a volunteer from this new division.

The visit with the Vietnam Nurses Association went well. Mr. Pham Duc Muc, VNA's Vice President, has returned from a year's study in Bangkok and seemed quite refreshed and renewed in his enthusiasm for pushing the organization ahead. It is hoped that his

return from the Thailand experience will ease some of the tensions that have developed in the last couple of years with VNA.

The next activity proposed by the VNA is a conference and training course in management and leadership to be combined with the celebration of VNA's tenth anniversary in October.

#### D. Support Groups of People with Disabilities

##### 1. Program Activities:

Nguyen Hong Ha was named Program Coordinator for the Disability Forum in April and began work on May 8. Her duties include management of a monthly email newsletter, maintenance of the Disability Programs directory, preparation of databases and organization of workshops and meetings. Ms. Ha uses a wheelchair and, since HVO's offices were not wheelchair-accessible, a new location was sought in April and May to accommodate both HVO and the Disability Forum.

##### 2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

A ground-floor location was prepared and furniture and equipment installed in May and June. HVO's address remains unchanged, and the larger office is now shared with the Disability Forum. Preliminary activities have been collection of information from PWD groups to include in the directory, updating of the email address list and preparations for the workshop in Danang.

#### E. Develop Professional Capacities of Physical Therapists, Nurses and Physicians

##### Program Activities:

There were no formal training activities this quarter. VINAREHA's annual conference is scheduled for August 16-18 in Danang. The organizers have decided to use a "participatory method" based on their experience at HVO's workshop in December.

## II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

The communications equipment installed in various educational institutions this quarter is meant to further develop channels of communication among those agencies involved in disabilities issues in Vietnam and elsewhere. As part of the planning process for the August workshop, both explicit objectives and less formal ones have been discussed. Among the latter: it is hoped that designating a MOLISA-partner NGO as host of the event will serve as a positive example of cooperation and collaboration among organizations.

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

The Disability Forum has now been established with an office set up and a Coordinator hired. Communication links are being established with current and new members. At their request, the American Red Cross, Counterpart International, CAMA Services Vietnam and the Hoi An Disabled Group were added to the Disability Forum's roster this quarter. Work has begun on the email newsletter, calendar of events and publications distribution system.

#### IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

The second quarter this year was one of transition in many respects. Lerna Lusanta and Dr. Jeffrey Ashley met with participating NGOs in May as part of the transfer of responsibility from AID/Philippines to AID/Cambodia. Since HVO's Project Coordinator, Nguyen Thi Minh Chau, has been accepted for a graduate course in Public Health, she will be departing for the U.S. in August. A recruitment process to find her replacement has been started but has not yet resulted in a final decision.

#### V. DATA COLLECTION

Not Applicable this quarter.

#### VI. FINANCIAL/EXPENDITURE

To be sent under separate cover.