

Reporting Period: July 1 - September 30, 2003

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G-0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: October 30, 2003

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A. Support the activities of the Disability Forum

1. Program Activities:

a. The "Access for All" project was initiated during the quarter with a recruitment process to find a project coordinator.

b. Forum members participated in a conference on HIV/AIDS in early August. They were invited to give a presentation on how to organize self-help groups.

c. Although the "Good for Business" project proposal was still pending approval by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) this quarter, student intern Jessica Flannery did some preliminary work including contacts with prospective employers.

d. Plans for a November workshop on employment were further complicated by news of a regional conference in Singapore that month.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. The Access working group conducted a series of interviews and selected Trinh Cong Thanh as project coordinator. He is a law school graduate, amputee, and Forum volunteer. The project's first scheduled activity is a training course on October 18.

b. When project coordinator Nguyen Hong Ha became ill, several members of the VVAF trainee group stepped in to make the presentation. Nguyen Hong Oanh and Tran Van Tinh explained to an audience of HIV-positive young people the benefits of organizing for mutual support. The event resulted in longer-term contacts between the two groups, including plans to jointly celebrate their respective international days in early December.

c. With approval assured, preliminary work on the employment project resulted in a series of meetings with Hanoi hotels who expressed interest in hiring PWDs. Materials were prepared for distribution at the AmCham annual gala on October 18.

d. The Management Committee decided that, due to a continuing series of complications, the next workshop would be postponed until early next year.

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

1. Program Activities

Planning began with Temple University, the Dreyfus Foundation, and Hue Medical College for a workshop on "Problem Solving for Better Health." The workshop is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 7. It is hoped that the workshop will become an annual event and an integral part of the nursing training. By focusing on problems in the community, solutions can be sought and addressed, thereby benefiting both the nurses and the local community.

C. To develop training components with VIETCOT

1. Program Activities:

The "clinical placement" phase of the program was scheduled to begin on October 13 for both the three-year Category II course and the special one-year orthotics course.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

The students were on summer break this quarter.

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

1. Program Activities:

a. The series of CBR retraining courses continued this quarter, as well as the follow up courses in technical areas. Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh were the sites of CBR events starting on September 29.

A course on treatment of amputees was offered in Hanoi starting August 11 and one on post-surgical care was offered in Danang starting August 25.

A special workshop to edit nursing textbooks was held in Nam Dinh the week of September 15.

- b. Arrangements were finalized for Mr. Tran Ba Thien, a PWD leader from Ho Chi Minh City, to attend the Community Development Society Conference at Cornell University July 21 – 23.
- c. Planning continued with the Nagano College of Nursing in Japan for Ms. Nguyen Thi Suong to attend their conference, “ Windows on the World: Regional Conference on Collaboration in Cross-Cultural Nursing in Asia-Pacific.” The conference will take place October 18 – 19.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

- a. All of the courses and workshops were carried out as planned, with no difficulties reported. MOH reports are pending.
- b. Mr. Tran Ba Thien and his colleague Grace Mishler served on a panel addressing Community Health and People with Disabilities. Their focus was on building social awareness of people with disabilities. Feedback on the conference has been very positive.

II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

Coordination mechanisms with NCCD continued to develop with the impending publication of the manual on self-help groups and the inaugural conference of the Vietnam Association of Business Enterprises of Persons with Disabilities on September 18.

A visit by a delegation representing JICA and APCD on August 29 served to strengthen ties with regional disabilities organizations. And a sizeable group from NCCD and the Disability Forum plan to participate in the Asia and Pacific Disability Forum Conference in November.

III. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

HVO's operating permit from PACCOM expired on September 30. Having already sent the pro forma letter of request for extension, we do not expect a quick response. The larger issue for ensuring continuity of the project is to obtain agreement from MOLISA to serve as HVO's government counterpart after next quarter.

In a meeting on August 27 Mr Tue of NCCD offered his suggestions as to how to proceed. Contacts have been made with the Minister of MOLISA, to be followed up later by letters to MOH and PACCOM officials. It is hoped that the process will be finalized mid-way through the final quarter of the year in order to extend the project director's visa, which expires at the end of December.

IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

Much attention was focused this quarter on preparations for extending HVO's activities beyond the current grant. Pending approval of the grant for 2004-2006, an agreement must be reached with MOLISA and an operating permit renewal obtained from PACCOM.

While progress this quarter has been satisfactory, these processes must be completed during the final quarter of this calendar year if project activities are to continue without interruption.