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ADVANCING MEDICAL CARE AND REHABILITATION EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2020 | IMPLEMENTER: HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL |
PLANNED BUDGET: \$5,410,000

Increased road traffic, longer life expectancy, and better health services reflect some of Vietnam's recent social and economic transformations. Coupled with these developments is the need to address public health challenges in Vietnam, such as congenital brain defects and acquired brain injuries. Although many Vietnamese know how brain lesions can affect the quality of life of persons with disabilities, much more can be done to improve serious gaps in service provision and to meet the needs of individuals. The Advancing Medical Care and Rehabilitation Education project enhances the health and well-being of Vietnamese persons with disabilities by providing higher quality and sustainable services, raising awareness of their needs, and strengthening advocacy efforts. This project works with the National Rehabilitation Center in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, as well as Dong Nai, Thai Binh, and Thua Thien Hue provinces.

DEVELOPS A MODEL OF CARE

The project is developing medical and functional rehabilitation protocols for persons with brain lesions to be used throughout the country. Models for both center-based treatment and home-based services strengthen the ability of referral centers within the Ministry of Health to manage comprehensive medical and physical rehabilitation for at least 8,000 adults and children with physical impairments.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ACTIVE HEALTH, REHABILITATION, SOCIAL WELFARE PROFESSIONALS

The project trains health personnel in medical rehabilitation, physical and occupational therapy, nursing, and counseling as part of a comprehensive rehabilitation provision model. To cover specialized services, existing physical therapy training institutions will use the common curriculum that the project will develop and create a pool of qualified Vietnamese occupational therapists who practice certified techniques.

EXPECTED RESULTS

By September 2020, the project expects that over 8,000 persons with physical impairments will benefit from services in hospitals and rehabilitation centers, and among them, 400 children and adults will be followed to measure the quality of services. Over 400 health and rehabilitation professionals, community workers, and volunteers will be trained to set up upgraded rehabilitation services. Teams consisting of 15 trainers in brain lesion care, 15 teachers in physiotherapy, and eight teachers in occupational therapy will be established to conduct certified, comprehensive rehabilitation care. While the National Action Plan for Rehabilitation includes a model of comprehensive interventions, this project will establish a system to measure the impact and progress for persons with disabilities' conditions and provide evidence for policy advocacy purposes.

In the photo: Occupational therapy services (Handicap International)