



# Persons with Disabilities Support Program

Since 1989, the U.S. Government has been improving the quality of life and supporting the inclusion of Vietnamese with disabilities into all aspects of society. To date, the USG has contributed over \$60 million in assistance to persons with disabilities, regardless of cause.



A child receives a wheelchair through the program. (Photo: USAID)

### Key Accomplishments

- 837 persons with disabilities received clinical exams and over 300 received physical therapy and assistive devices.
- 451 scholarships provided for disabled students; 36 youth with disabilities participated in “school to work” program.
- 60 persons with disabilities trained in managing small business, 22 of these received grants to start their own businesses; 36 persons with disabilities attending vocational training; 20 persons with disabilities received loans from local bank as a result of project’s linkage.
- Provided equipment and training for staff at the new rehabilitation unit for children with disabilities at the Danang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital.
- Established a network of 168 disability case managers in Danang and trained 27 social work master trainers.
- Provided sub-grants to eight local organizations including two disabled persons organizations to build the capacity and enhance service delivery.

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Building upon this experience working to support persons with disabilities in Vietnam and an objective to increase local capacity, USAID developed the Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP) to broadly address the needs and improve the lives of persons with disabilities. This three year project is building a case management system, strengthening medical, education and employment services for persons with disabilities, as well as enhancing selected public health disability prevention programs. The program works with local governments and nongovernmental organizations in Danang, Binh Dinh, Dong Nai, and other provinces, including those where the Government of Vietnam believes dioxin contributes to disability rates.

### EFFECTIVE DISABILITY CASE MANAGEMENT & REFERRAL SYSTEM

The Project is developing a case management system implemented by social workers and community-based rehabilitation workers. The system will help develop individualized support plans for persons with disabilities and service referral and information systems to ensure persons with disabilities receive the assistance they need.

### ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY, SPECIALIZED SERVICES

The project is strengthening the quality of medical rehabilitation services and increasing their availability to persons with disabilities; increasing school enrollment of children with disabilities; improving employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; and supporting disability enabling policies in targeted provinces. The program provides direct assistance to persons with disabilities, including support for corrective surgeries, physical therapy, assistive devices, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and refurbishment of persons with disabilities housing. It also builds capacity of disabled people’s organizations through a small grants program.

### SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE THE SEVERITY OF DISABILITIES

The program is strengthening public health services, including counseling, public education, and other pre-pregnancy services for women to help reduce the risk of birth defects. Other activities might include birth defects services and surveillance system and newborn screening services.

### DANANG MODEL EXTENDED TO OTHER PROVINCES

The vision of the program is to build and institutionalize a service system for persons with disabilities in Danang that can be a model for the entire country. Focus provinces include Binh Dinh, Dong Nai, Quang Nam, Tay Ninh, Thua Thien-Hue, and others.

The USAID-funded program is implemented by DAI and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH).