



Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities

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 people with disabilities regardless of cause.



Recognition of employers and employees with significant contribution in promoting employment of persons with disabilities in Vietnam (Photo: USAID/Vietnam)

Key Accomplishments

- 2001: Establishment of National Coordination Committee on Disabilities
- 2002: Passage of Barrier Free Codes and Standards for Public Constructions
- 2006: Passage of Barrier Free Codes and Standards for Public Transportation
- 2006: Issuance of First National Action Plan on Disabilities (NAP) for 2006-2010
- 2007: Passage of Barrier Free Codes and Standards for Information, Communication and Technologies
- 2007: Formation of BREC
- 2007: Revision of Vocational Law to include Disability Article
- 2010: Enactment of Vietnam Disability Law
- 2011: Issuance of Second NAP for 2011-2020
- 2012: Formation of Vietnam Federation for Disabilities (Vietnam DPO)
- 2012: Revision of Labor Code to include disability article
- 2013: Passage Penalty Decree for Vietnam Disability Law

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The USAID-funded Inclusion of Vietnamese with Disabilities is being implemented by the Vietnam Assistance to the Handicapped (VNAH) to assist Government of Vietnam (GVN) partners to develop and implement disability related policies and programs.

NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICIES: The program's support has been instrumental to the development of national legislations and policies concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, including the first comprehensive national Disability Law, guaranteeing the rights of persons with disabilities and equal participation in society for persons with disabilities through accommodation and access to health care, rehabilitation, education, employment, vocational training, cultural services, sports and entertainment, transportation, public places, and information technology. National Coordination Committee on Disabilities reported in 2012, approximately 170,000 persons with disabilities received healthcare as the result of the Disability Law. The program helped develop a new National Action Plan on Disabilities (NAP), toward which the GVN has committed to fund at approximately \$10 million annually through 2020. Over 50 provinces drafted provincial disability action plans following the NAP.

EMPOWERING DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS: The program builds capacity of persons with disabilities and their representatives, including the National Coordinating Council on Disabilities and Vietnam Federation of Disabilities, and support the formation of many of disabled person organizations at sub-national level. Activities focus on developing leadership skills, organizational and institutional development, local service programs for persons with disabilities and monitoring and evaluation systems. Fifteen organizations or self-help groups of disabled persons, at the provincial and district level, in nine provinces and parent associations in two provinces are supported by the program.

SOCIAL WORK TO ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: In partnership with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA), the program supports the development of human resources in social work with persons with disabilities. The project provides technical assistance in developing university social work curricula with persons with disabilities for bachelor's and master's degree programs and short course curricula on social work with persons with disabilities for vocational training colleges. In addition, the project supports the Ministry to develop guidance on case management for disabled persons.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCLUSIVE BUSINESS FOR PWD: In partnership with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the program established the Blue Ribbon Employer Council (BREC) in 2007. As of September 2013, BREC has 195 members of local and international employers which hired more than 2,000 persons with disabilities. The program also pioneers vocational rehabilitation in Vietnam by piloting service models in Danang and Hanoi, the curriculum at Hanoi Medical University and national guidelines on vocational rehabilitation with MOLISA.