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# Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP)

## Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP) Project Year Two Brief



The USAID Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP) began October 1, 2012. Also known as the Program of Comprehensive and Integrated Support to Persons with Disabilities, this ambitious three year program is jointly implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH). PDSP is headquartered in Danang, Vietnam and operates in Danang, Binh Dinh and Dong Nai, with future plans for limited expansion into additional provinces of Vietnam.

Over the past two years, the PDSP team has worked to reach over 8,000 persons with disabilities in Central and Southern Vietnam and build the capacity of health providers, educators and social workers to adequately address the needs of persons with disabilities in their communities.

The project has also awarded nearly US\$900,000 in grants to 14 local partners and organizations that are supporting persons with disabilities through health

services, and rehabilitation therapy, vocational training, employment and income generation opportunities, education for children with special needs, and raising awareness about pre-conception care and the importance of newborn health screenings. The following are some project achievements to date.

### Strengthening the Support System

PDSP has reached a total of 2,819 service providers through training and other capacity building activities, advancing and strengthening the support network for people with disabilities. The project has trained teachers, social workers, health practitioners and families members who provide assistance to persons with disabilities. New case-management system set up to ensure the assistance provided to persons with disabilities address the needs and is coordinated. Teaching curricula and faculties' capacity on occupational therapies and speech have been enhanced at Danang Medical Technical Universities. Highlighted results are:



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- **451 case managers and support staff** were trained on case management and all 189 case managers and supervisors in Danang were trained on social work and gender based violence (GBV).
- **76 rehabilitation doctors and physical therapists** received training on autism and occupational and speech therapy and increased skills on diagnosis and intervention.
- **36 doctors and physical therapists** are receiving advanced training to become qualified rehabilitation practitioners.
- **79 teachers** are enrolled in a Bachelor's degree course in special education to teach students with special learning needs.
- **Seven new policies or guidelines** were issued to strengthen support for persons with disabilities by Danang, Dong Nai and Binh Dinh local governments.
- **502 parents and caregivers** of children with disabilities were trained on home-based rehabilitation techniques.

### Direct Assistance

The project has reached over 8,000 persons with disabilities in Danang, Dong Nai, and Binh Dinh provinces. Of those, 7,100 have received direct assistance from the project, with others benefiting from training and advocacy events.

Some highlights:

- **3,433 people received clinical examinations** to diagnose the conditions and identify needs for physical therapy, prostheses/orthoses, wheelchairs, hearing aids, or other assistive devices.
- **822 people with developmental disabilities were assisted**; half (49%) received assistance for IE/SE school enrollment and other educational support, and the remainder received physical/speech therapy, other medical services, and employment support.
- **575 people received wheelchairs, prosthetic/orthotic devices or corrective surgery** to improve their mobility.
- **420 visually-impaired women and men received walking sticks** and orientation

training to help them safely navigate their neighborhoods, homes and workplaces.

- **165 people received hearing aids** for partial or full hearing loss.
- **625 people received physical therapy** that helps improve their mobility.
- **166 people were enrolled in speech therapy classes** that help them communicate better with their families, classmates or employers.
- **571 children with disabilities received scholarships** for school fees, supplies, and transportation costs between their home and school.
- **196 additional children with disabilities were enrolled in schools** providing both special and inclusive education.
- **362 persons with disabilities successfully found employment** with the project's assistance or received vocational training and counseling.
- **65 persons with disabilities received help from a revolving fund** operated by the Danang DPO or a micro-credit loan from the Social Policy Bank in Danang.
- **498 persons with disabilities were engaged in leadership training** and social and advocacy events.

### Looking Ahead

Planned activities in the final year of the program:

- Training over 600 case managers and upgrading disability information systems in Danang, Dong Nai and Binh Dinh.
- Expansion of case management and disability information systems to Quang Nam and Tay Ninh provinces, including training of community case managers to utilize new systems.
- Establishing telephone hotlines for disability advisory services in Danang, Binh Phuoc and Thai Binh provinces.
- Serving over 5,000 persons with disabilities with clinical exams, assistive devices and physical or speech therapy.

*December 2014*



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- Providing over 900 persons with disabilities with vocational training, small business support, or employment opportunities.
- Equipping six schools with new resource rooms with specialized equipment to supplement learning for children with special education needs.
- Helping over 1,000 children go to schools that can meet their special needs through scholarships, enrolment assistance, financial support for uniforms and school supplies.