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# Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP)

## BENEFICIARY UPDATE – September 2014



*This young man, who is hearing impaired, and his father are receiving skills training from PDSP, to be able to communicate more effectively.*

The USAID Persons with Disabilities Support Program (PDSP) is a three-year program focused on meeting the immediate and longer-term needs of people with disabilities in Vietnam. The program, also known as the Program of Comprehensive and Integrated Support for Persons with Disabilities, started in October 2012. The two main components of the program are providing direct assistance to persons with disabilities and building the capacity of local government and NGOs to provide a sustainable support network for PWDs.

### SUPPORTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The project has reached over 8,000 persons with disabilities in Danang, Dong Nai, and Binh Dinh provinces in Vietnam. Of those, 7,100 have received direct assistance from the project. 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.
- 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 with the project's assistance.
- 498 persons with disabilities were engaged in leadership training and social and advocacy events.

### 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. Some results include:

- 502 parents and caregivers of children with disabilities were trained on home-based rehabilitation techniques.
- 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.
- 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 laws or policies were issued to strengthen support for persons with disabilities by Danang, Dong Nai and Binh Dinh local governments.

For more information:

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