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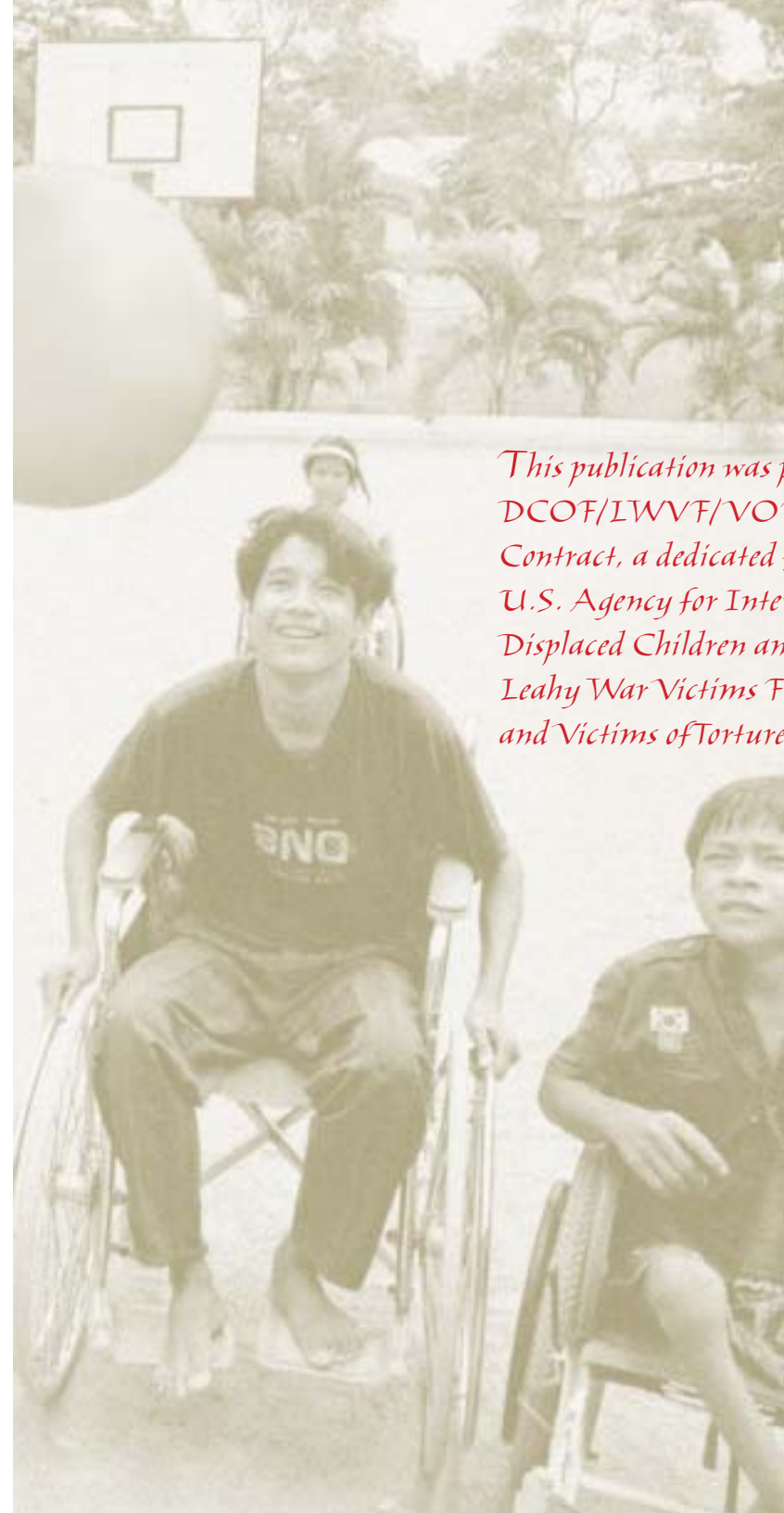
WAR VICTIMS FUND

2004

Portfolio Synopsis

U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT





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Since 1989, the Leahy War Victims Fund has provided more than \$115 million to 26 countries.



Photo courtesy of NOAH HENDLER

INTRODUCTION

Since its creation in 1989, the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (LWVF) has focused on responding to the needs of civilian victims of conflict in war-affected developing countries.

USAID's LWVF provides a dedicated source of financial and technical assistance for people living with disabilities, particularly those who have sustained mobility-related injuries from unexploded ordnance, antipersonnel landmines, and other direct and indirect causes of disability—including polio and other preventable diseases that might result from interrupted immunization campaigns.

In 2003, while maintaining its primary objective of expanding access to affordable, appropriate prosthetics and orthotic services, the LWVF intensified its efforts to advance the economic, social, and political integration of civilian war victims and people living with disabilities. Barrier-free accessibility to school, work, recreation, and opportunities for political engagement, and the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and implementing programs that

affect them, are increasingly important components of LWVF-sponsored programs. The LWVF works to enable people with disabilities full participation in communities, schools, industries, and civic enterprises.

Highlights of efforts, impact and the challenges the LWVF still faces are outlined in this introduction.

PROGRAM IMPACT IN 2003

Orthopedic Services

Although figures are inexact, the World Health Organization estimates that in the developing world, close to 24 million people (approximately 0.5 percent of the total population) are in need of an orthopedic device. The provision of rehabilitation services is not keeping pace with this growing number.

In 2003, the LWVF continued its focus on improving mobility and independence for people with disabilities. Nearly 10,000 orthopedic devices were produced and fitted to clients in Angola, Cambodia, Liberia, Senegal, and Vietnam. Additional service delivery programs were initiated in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, and Sudan.

Orthopedic Technologies

At the core of the LWVF's work is a belief in providing effective interventions. Token handouts, whether ineffective or poorly fitted devices or inappropriate or

inadequate physical therapy, not only fail to improve the lives of clients, but may further impair their health and functioning.

For this reason, USAID's LWVF emphasizes investments in technical training, development, and operational research to ensure high-quality services that are sustainable in the long term. With access to appropriate prosthetics and orthotics and medical services, people with disabilities are better able to provide for themselves and their families.

To that end, the LWVF sponsored several major evaluations of the factors that contribute to durability and strength in prosthetics—including an assessment of the most cost-effective prosthetic feet, which must withstand significant strain and the degrading effects of tropical climates. Through support to the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), USAID's LWVF has helped set the standards for orthotic interventions in use today and has provided important insights on the affordability, durability, maintenance, and function of orthopedic components.

Social and Economic Opportunities

Although culturally and geographically diverse, projects supported by the LWVF share a common thread: the belief that people with disabilities deserve economic, social, educational, and political opportunities.

“A City for Everyone,” a USAID-funded initiative developed by the Polus Center, promotes social and economic integration by making Leon, Nicaragua more accessible to people with disabilities. The program has incorporated universal barrier-free design—for example, using curb cuts to make high sidewalks accessible—as well as community involvement and employment opportunities such as fostering small enterprises. The program has led to the development of a government-endorsed Disabilities Leadership Institute that is promoting research, learning, and public policy solutions for people with disabilities.

In Vietnam, through Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped, a ministerial-level National Coordinating Council on Disabilities is providing strategic planning to the government and nongovernmental organizations (NGO) in areas such as transportation, accessibility, and vocational rehabilitation. These efforts resulted in the adoption of accessible construction codes and standards by the Ministry of Construction.

In southern Lebanon, the World Rehabilitation Fund is spearheading a project to provide sustainable income generation in an area with a large population of war victims. The program has established a production-marketing cooperative in a mine-affected area along with several agricultural projects, including bee-keeping and honey production, high-end poultry and egg production, and the sale of dried herbs. The project has led to increased economic self-sufficiency for an initial 100 survivors and their families, with plans for broader participation soon to be implemented.

Partnerships

Through partnerships with multilateral donor and philanthropic organizations, the LWVF expands access to services and opportunities for people with disabilities. Collaboration with organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross and the World Health Organization has allowed the LWVF to respond with targeted, effective approaches to the needs of victims of war, and to replicate successful initiatives.

In 2003, the LWVF partnered with the World Bank Vietnam's Innovations Day, an initiative that provides start-up funding for creative ideas and offers opportunities for the exchange of ideas in ways to improve the social and economic status of people with disabilities. Five grants were awarded to local groups with additional competitions planned beyond Vietnam.

In collaboration with the U.S. State Department, the LWVF partnered with Warner Brothers Studios to develop two public service announcements for Cambodia. The announcements, which promote landmine awareness and the inclusion of people with disabilities, are being shown on television and in local theaters, health facilities, and other public gathering places in Cambodia.

CHALLENGES FOR FUTURE WORK

The LWVF strives to assess and strengthen the effectiveness of its efforts in developing countries, and of the services and delivery systems it supports.

Along with the hurdles inherent in the aforementioned areas, the LWVF has identified several other issues that present significant challenges to programs' ability to meet objectives and achieve lasting results.

Sustainability

Ensuring long-term sustainability—and in particular, financial solvency and stability—remains foremost among the challenges faced by every program the LWVF supports. Increasingly, efforts are targeting income generation among groups and cooperatives representing and employing people with disabilities. Yet few of the supported workshops or rehabilitation clinics will succeed in being fully self-sustaining in the near term. Rehabilitation programs in post-conflict countries require continued, reliable financial support.

The LWVF is exploring the creation of reliable funding sources such as endowments similar to those in use in the United States.

Host-country Priorities

While many governments strive to provide rehabilitation services, doing so is rarely a high priority. When funds grow scarce or budgets shrink, these services are often the first to face cuts or elimination.

Rational government policies—which acknowledge the potential for and comparative advantages of involving the public, commercial, not-for-profit, and faith-based sectors—are critical components for

successful country responses. The LWVF is working to identify opportunities where efforts to influence policy reform might be most needed and feasible.

Measuring Impact

The LWVF believes that orthopedic workshops and centers should never be evaluated solely on the number of devices they provide, but instead on how well they meet the needs of the patients they serve, and whether the services enable a return to an acceptable level of functioning.

More effort must be made to use follow-up surveys and other mechanisms to measure the impact of services on improving people's satisfaction and ability to actively participate in their communities and families.

Meaningful Participation

All too often, programs and activities are developed without the input, feedback, or involvement of those they are designed to serve. The LWVF views the grassroots-level participation of people with disabilities as critical to the success and long-term integrity of its programs.

The LWVF encourages its partners to include people with disabilities, and to promote their participation in developing and implementing programs.



THE YEAR AHEAD

USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund remains dedicated to its fundamental mission: working with the Agency's valued partners to provide flexible and effective programming to people in need. In 2004, the LWVF will continue to address the needs of people with disabilities through a focus on developing field-level standards for devices and services; identifying employment opportunities and resources; and providing unencumbered access to a full range of the civic, social, and familial interactions that lead to a meaningful life.



Photo courtesy of STEVEN MEYERS, Polus



Global Initiatives

Prosthetics and Orthotics Training and Technologies

Implementing Partner International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)

Funding Period September 2000 - September 2006

Amount \$3,654,339

Purpose Strengthen rehabilitation in the developing world through educational and technical guidance to professionals, agencies, and nations.

Accomplishments

- Designed and field-tested a cost calculation program and tool that will be used by non-governmental organizations to better plan and implement rehabilitation programs.
- Designed and is currently field-testing a monitoring and evaluation program and tool to enable local and international organizations to better manage and measure the impacts of rehabilitation programs.
- Tested several major prosthetic component designs and published the results, to strengthen and enhance the quality and quantity of devices available to people in need.



The International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics is a multidisciplinary organization comprising people with professional interest in the clinical, educational, and research aspects of prosthetics, orthotics, rehabilitation engineering, and related topics. ISPO has more than 2,500 members in some 75 nations around the globe; its permanent secretariat is located in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Leahy War Victims Fund support for ISPO began in 1995 with a grant for a consensus-building conference on appropriate prosthetic technology. The conference brought together more than 100 rehabilitation experts to address questions on how best to use resources and measure effectiveness in developing country programs. The conclusions and recommendations reached at that conference, set standards used around the world today. A second conference, also supported by USAID and ISPO, took place in Tanzania in 2000.

Over the past nine years, the LWVF and ISPO have collaborated on several interrelated projects—ranging from evaluating and field-testing commonly used prosthetic and orthotic technologies and techniques to developing protocols and tools to measure the costs of rehabilitation, and monitoring and evaluating programs. The results of this work enable the LWVF to better analyze project funding requests and evaluate the impact of its programming.

Under the current initiative, the LWVF and ISPO are collaborating to strengthen the quality of educational programs providing prosthetic and orthotic training and to increase the number of professionals qualified to provide appropriate services. Over 50 national staff will receive internationally accredited training through five schools based in Cambodia, El Salvador, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

In addition, the program will provide upgraded training for teachers, school exchange programs, and improved educational materials.

Over 50 orthopedic technologists will receive internationally accredited training through five schools. These schools are based in:



Photo courtesy of STEVEN MEYERS, Polus

- *Cambodia*
- *El Salvador*
- *Pakistan*
- *Tanzania*
- *Vietnam*

Global Initiatives

Prosthetics and Orthotics Training and Technologies

Implementing Partner	World Health Organization (WHO) (Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists)
Funding Period	September 1998 - September 2006
Amount	\$1,190,848
Purpose	Support prosthetic and orthotic education and training for students in Africa and Asia.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Established the continent's only wheelchair development and training program; in 2003, this program graduated its third class of students.■ Graduated seven students from orthopedic programs ranging from a one-year upgrade to a four-year Bachelor's of Science (BSc) degree in 2003.



Education is an important element ensuring the technical sustainability of rehabilitative services for war victims and people living with disabilities. Accordingly, USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund supports several international and regional training centers for orthopedic technicians around the world. Fund-assisted centers operate in Cambodia, Central America, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Vietnam.

Founded in 1981, the Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT), enrolls students from Africa and other continents. It is part of the University of Dar Es Salaam and operates under the auspices of the Directorate of Training and Manpower Development of the Tanzanian Ministry of Health. It is also affiliated with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, the teaching hospital for the northern zone of Tanzania, as well as Tumani University.

TATCOT is the only African-based center that, in addition to three-year Category II degrees, provides full, four-year Category I (BSc) curriculum accredited by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. Graduates are employed in more than 19 countries, many by national ministries of health.

In addition to providing scholarships to these degree programs in prosthetics and orthotics, TATCOT offers a unique training program in wheelchair technology. The program was initiated by the British organization,

Motivation, which promotes a holistic approach to improving the well-being of wheelchair users around the world— and has since been fully integrated into the college.

Most of the students in the three-year course are wheelchair users themselves. They hail from numerous countries, including Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. Scholarships are given to individuals who have been identified by governments and institutions that guarantee employment after graduation.

The grant supporting TATCOT is implemented through the World Health Organization. Although the program's broad goal is to support prosthetics training for any qualified African applicant, priority is given to those affiliated with national programs that demonstrate strong commitment to sustainable orthopedic services. The program has become internationally renowned and draws students from other regions.

Global Initiatives

Wheelchairs

Afghanistan, Handicap International/Belgium

This two-year, \$207,984 project located in southern Afghanistan (Kandahar Province) aims to improve the mobility, physical conditions, and general welfare of people using wheelchairs. Objectives include:

- Develop and strengthen the ability of local organizations to provide appropriate wheelchairs to people in southern Afghanistan.
- Improve socio-economic integration of people requiring wheelchairs in southern Afghanistan.

Albania, Albania Disability Rights Foundation

This three-year project will provide \$387,950 to improve the life and social well-being of people requiring wheelchairs. Among its key objectives:

- Improve access and mobility for 1,080 people provided wheelchairs and requisite training.
- Improve skills in independent living for wheelchair users and their families by providing information and training.
- Train 240 specialists to provide treatment for wheelchair users and their families.

A wheelchair is more than just an aid to mobility. It can be a means to self-sufficiency and increased self-esteem. It can be a vehicle to meaningful employment and a wider range of community, social, and family interaction.

Central America

(Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala),
Polus Center for Social and
Economic Development

This four-year, \$1,030,000 project will increase the mobility of people with disabilities by producing and disseminating high-quality wheelchairs; increasing the economic opportunities and social inclusion of wheelchair users; mobilizing grassroots organizations and social networks representing people with disabilities to identify their needs and speak in a unified voice on issues of access and representation.

Objectives include:

- Establish a wheelchair outreach in Honduras and increase the capacity and sustainability of wheelchair production in Guatemala and Nicaragua.
- Increase social and economic opportunities by providing direct employment and through the training and awarding of 54 grants to individuals and organizations.
- Establish an advisory board to work with disability organizations in three country sites.



Photo taken with permission by LLOYD FEINBERG

Philippines, Handicap International/France

This four-year, \$750,000 project will support the integration of people with disabilities in Mindanao, southern Philippines, by providing wheelchairs and training. Objectives include the following:

- Establish a wheelchair production facility that will produce 25 wheelchairs per month.
- Establish five wheelchair distribution sites staffed by physiotherapists and wheelchair technicians.
- Train five social workers to coordinate and develop inclusion activities such as facilitating reintegration into schools for children in wheelchairs, and strengthen the ability of people with disabilities to network and advocate for themselves.

Worldwide, Motivation Charitable Trust, United Kingdom

This five-year, \$2,373,515 project seeks to improve the sustainable livelihoods and quality of life for wheelchair users in low-income countries.

Among the key objectives:

- Improve access to wheelchair funding for poor and marginalized wheelchair users.
- Provide training in recognizing and accessing rights for people with disabilities.
- Increase the number of service providers and the range of wheelchairs available.
- Equip existing service providers to sustain local interventions once the program is completed.

Conservative estimates put the number of people with disabilities in developing countries at close to half a billion. Of these people, an estimated 20 million require wheelchairs to be mobile. Despite this overwhelming need, only a small percentage are able to obtain an appropriate wheelchair; the training needed to assist them in functioning in the wheelchair and obtaining their maximum independence; or the opportunities to be contributing members of their families, communities, and society. Many humanitarian and development agencies are involved in prosthetics and orthotics programs, but few offer a comprehensive approach to providing services and training to those requiring wheelchairs.

Since 1989, the LWVF has invested significant resources in developing and implementing rehabilitation programs worldwide. Several of these programs have included relatively minor wheelchair provision and services activities. This year, the LWVF issued an annual program statement in an effort to expand the scope of LWVF activities specifically addressing the comprehensive needs of persons requiring wheelchairs.

*Regional
Initiative
Central
America*

Support for Landmine Survivors and Other Persons with Disabilities

Implementing Partner	Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) <i>(Subgrant to the Polus Center for Social and Economic Development)</i>
Funding Period	April 2000 - September 2005
Amount	\$1,214,633
Purpose	Improve the physical, social, and economic status of people coping with landmine injuries and disabilities.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provided 65 academic scholarships in the area of rehabilitation.■ Conducted a workshop to educate employers regarding issues of accessibility, employment skills, and adaptations for people with disabilities within work and community environments.■ Worked with community leaders in El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras to develop short- and long-term strategic plans for socio-economic reintegration for people with disabilities.

Accomplishments under a subgrant to the Polus Center:

- Increased production at Walking Unidos by 150 percent in 2003.
- Established a leadership institute for people with disabilities in partnership with the University of Leon in Nicaragua to promote research, learning, and public policy solutions for people with disabilities.



The Pan American Health Organization and USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund have developed a regional approach to improving the physical, social, and economic development of landmine survivors and other people with disabilities in Central America. Targeting the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, the program has enhanced professional development and training in the region through a variety of methods including academic scholarships and microfinance activities to extend savings and credit programs to people with disabilities.

Through a subgrant to Polus, partial funding is provided for the Walking Unidos clinic. The clinic manufactures and fits prosthetic limbs and orthotics as well as providing prosthetic repairs, adjustments, and foot replacements. The clinic is fully managed and operated by national staff.

Polus has also provided technical assistance to local communities, raising awareness and understanding of accessibility, barrier-free environments, and inclusion. It measures success by how quickly communities take on the responsibilities themselves. By establishing coalitions with community leaders, Polus has facilitated the development of short- and long-term strategic plans to transform communities and workforces into inclusive, barrier-free environments.



Photo courtesy of STEVEN MEYERS, Polus

*Regional
Initiatives
Pan-Africa*

Prosthetic Training Center

Implementing Partner International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD)

Funding Period September 2002 - September 2007

Amount \$2,750,000

Purpose Ensure the continuity of physical rehabilitation projects in war-affected countries and support similar programs in other African countries.

- Accomplishments**
- Provided equipment and orthopedic components to 24 projects in 11 countries: Cameroon, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Syria, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
 - Provided SFD prosthetists to 13 projects in six countries to implement practical training on specific cases with selected patients, control the state of the equipment, and assist workshop managers in selecting candidate prosthetists for further training in Addis Ababa.
 - Organized seven, one-month training courses for 26 prosthetists. ICRC also provided training in Damascus and Nairobi for an additional 12 workers.
 - Produced and fit more than 2,500 prostheses.



A major obstacle to providing prosthetic and orthotic services to persons with disabilities is the inadequacy of sustainable services and people with the technical skills to provide the disabled with the quality prosthetic and orthotic devices they need over the course of a lifetime. Another major obstacle is the affordability of materials needed to make and fit prostheses/orthoses. Successful intervention requires training local professionals and establishing workshops and clinics to enable such professionals to obtain and offer needed devices at realistic prices.

To overcome these obstacles, the International Committee of the Red Cross has developed an efficient method of producing low-cost, consistently high-quality modular polypropylene prostheses in a centralized production facility. In addition to supplying centers with equipment and orthopedic components to manufacture prostheses, USAID's LWVF and ICRC have enhanced training opportunities in the region. Expatriate prosthetists based in Addis Ababa and Nairobi provide their expertise to the supported centers. Training courses have been organized in Addis Ababa for prosthetists, and the program sponsors technicians to receive training at the Tanzania Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists.

*Regional
Initiatives
Sub-Saharan
Africa*

Omega
Initiative

Implementing Partner

PACT Inc.

Funding Period

September 2001 - September 2006

Amount

\$8,000,000

Purpose

Provides funding and technical support for a broad range of rehabilitation services for war disabled civilians in sub-Saharan Africa through large and small subgrants.

To date, the following subawards have been provided through the Omega Initiative.

**Ethiopia, Vietnam Veterans of
America Foundation (VVAFA)**

This four-year, \$2,452,154 subgrant was awarded in January 2002. Among its key objectives:

- Build capacity and strengthen service provision of the Dessie Orthopedic Center.
- Improve accessibility to rehabilitation services in Bahir Dar.
- Increase the availability of wheelchairs in the region.

- Improve access to social and economic opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Facilitate expansion of networking among organizations of and for people with disabilities.
- Advocate for 1) greater public awareness of disability issues, 2) improved policy dialogue, and 3) increased opportunities for people living with disabilities.

Democratic Republic of Congo, Handicap International/Belgium

This August 2002 subgrant provides \$792,024 for a three-year project with the following objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity of the Rehabilitation Center for Handicapped Persons (CRHP) physical therapy department to provide quality treatment and mentoring.
- Ensure that CRHP orthopedic workshops produce high-quality appliances that respond to the needs of people with disabilities.
- Assist the walking and mobile aid workshop in resuming its production and provision of quality tricycles and walking aids.
- Strengthen links with existing community-based networks.
- Improve CRHP general management.
- Create a platform of coordination between CRHP and other orthopedic centers in Kinshasa.



Photo courtesy of MARTIN LUEDERS

Sierra Leone, Handicap International/France

This May 2003 subaward provides \$1,089,000 for a three-year project to:

- Ensure the production and affordability of prosthetics, orthotics, and rehabilitation services.
- Improve the accessibility of services for people in need of rehabilitation services, and institute quality follow-up measures.
- Develop national competency and skill in the field of prosthetics, orthotics, and rehabilitation services through training.
- Strengthen the national capacity to manage the rehabilitation centers and services.

Sierra Leone, Christian Aid for Under-Assisted Societies Everywhere (CAUSE)

As of April 2003, a \$347,940 subgrant funds a two-year project designed to:

- Support the socio-economic reintegration of amputees, war wounded, and other vulnerable people in Kono and Kailahun Districts.
- Promote and support sports and recreation activities for people with disabilities.
- Support advocacy and community sensitization efforts on disability issues in areas where socio-economic activities are taking place.

South Sudan, Medical Care Development International (MCDI)

Begun September 2003, this \$1,041,344, 28-month project aims to:

- Expand access to orthopedic and physical therapy services in Rumbek County and adjacent regions in southern Sudan.
- Improve the quality of orthopedic care for people with disabilities in southern Sudan through the promotion of appropriate and prosthetic technology.
- Increase the social and economic reintegration of civilian victims of war.



In September 2001, USAID awarded a cooperative agreement to PACT to manage this \$8 million initiative. PACT is partnered with Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) in this venture. PACT serves as the lead organization, responsible for overall program management and coordination; VVAFA is responsible for technical oversight.

The key elements of the Omega Initiative include the mandate to award, manage, and support subgrants to local and international organizations in order to support its broader program goal, provide technical assistance to award recipients and other organizations, and develop an informational website: www.omegainitiative.org. Subawards are made on a competitive basis. The Omega Initiative has awarded five large grants in countries that have been seriously affected by conflict, and has recently developed a mechanism to award 10 to 15 small grants.

*Country
Program
Afghanistan*

Comprehensive
Disabled Afghan's
Program (CDAP)

Implementing Partner

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Funding Period

April 2003 - April 2006

Amount

\$2,800,000

Purpose

Assist survivors of landmines and other war-related injuries.

Objectives

- Provide assistance—in partnership with the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled—to the more than 20,000 veterans with disabilities in Kabul.
- Provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to coordinate disability issues across Afghanistan and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.
- Create an effective employment support and community works program.
- Provide funding and technical assistance to 11 national and international NGOs to continue and improve services and projects for people with disabilities.



Photo courtesy of HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL

- Initiate legislative and policy reform in disability, within the following key sub-objectives:
 - Develop local guidelines for and awareness of accessibility issues.
 - Identify existing disability legislation and new legislation in employment and educational rights.
 - Participate in existing international treaties.
 - Create awareness campaigns on the rights of people with disabilities.

Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of disability in the world. There are estimated to be more than 700,000 people with disabilities in Afghanistan, and the number is rising due to accidents with landmines and unexploded ordnance. The Afghan government's capacity to provide services for its disabled population has been severely hampered, and as a result, most services are provided by NGOs. This represents a major successful humanitarian and medical effort, but remains inadequate to cover the vast numbers of people in need.

Since early 2003, USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund has been supporting the Comprehensive Disabled Afghan's Program (CDAP), the focal point for providing assistance for those with disabilities in Afghanistan.

CDAP works closely with the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to provide rehabilitation services to approximately 20,000 disabled veterans in Kabul and technical assistance to strengthen disabled persons organizations and the disabled community in general. Services are coordinated through five community disability centers. Moreover, the program is enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to coordinate disability issues across Afghanistan and effectively advocate for the rights of the disabled.

AFGHANISTAN

Under a new two-year agreement currently in negotiation, the partnership will provide funding to 11 national and international NGOs to increase the quality and scope of rehabilitation services delivered, as well as enhance the NGOs' monitoring, evaluation, and technical training efforts. Additionally, an inter-ministerial National Disability Commission will be created. This body will be responsible for developing a national disability strategy and will initially focus on designing local accessibility guidelines, developing legislation in employment and educational rights, and participating in international treaties and conventions.



Country
Program
Angola

Rehabilitation
Project

Implementing Partner Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Funding Period September 1996 - November 2004
(program amendment in progress)

Amount
\$5,921,873

Purpose Improve the lives of people with mobility-related injuries through rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration.

Accomplishments

- Repaired more than 350 prostheses and orthoses.
- Produced and delivered 1,800 mobility aids.
- Provided 6,000 physiotherapy interventions.
- Strengthened the capacity of a local Angolan organization to identify and transport beneficiaries to the Rehabilitation Center and to provide follow-up counseling and socio-economic support to the most vulnerable.
- Involved 100 athletes with disabilities in soccer and wheelchair basketball.
- Initiated peer educator training for HIV awareness and prevention within the Rehabilitation Center and through sports.

For almost the past four decades, 12 million Angolans have been directly affected by armed conflict. As many as 100,000 Angolan men, women, and children are landmine victims. In addition, thousands of Angolans suffer from otherwise preventable, disabling diseases such as paralytic polio.

Through the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), USAID supports separate initiatives in Angola that specifically address the needs of child victims of Angola's civil war. Synergies between DCOF's efforts and those funded by the Leahy War Victims Fund are sought at every opportunity.

USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund has been supporting rehabilitation efforts in Angola since 1991. In 1996, the LWVF began a partnership with the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation to expand orthopedic assistance to underserved and isolated eastern regions of the country. These areas were primarily under rebel control, with the exception of the Moxico provincial capital of Luena, where the Regional Rehabilitation Center is based. Despite the challenges of working in what was until February 2002 a war zone, VVAF established a fully functioning orthopedic workshop. The workshop has remained operational since its





inception in 1997, and now receives regular referrals from the three eastern provinces of Moxico, Lunda Sul, and Lunda Norte.

VVAF has also developed a number of approaches to helping war victims re-enter society and participate in social, economic, and recreational activities.

This is achieved primarily through providing technical assistance and training, and partnering with local organizations.

With the cease-fire and peace accord holding, the LWVF has consolidated the investments made to date, and is focusing its ongoing efforts on the long-term sustainability of rehabilitation services in the region. It is expected that the Luena Regional Rehabilitation Center will ultimately be integrated within the National Rehabilitation Program and core operational costs assumed by the Ministry of Health. Negotiations have begun toward this end.

Country Disability
Program Action
Cambodia Council (DAC)

Implementing Partner Handicap International/Belgium (HI)

Funding Period September 1998 - April 2005

Amount \$1,077,748

Purpose Formally mobilize governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved with disability and rehabilitation issues to promote and support the needs of people with disabilities.

Accomplishments

- Strengthened communications among government, NGOs, international agencies, and the business sector for disability-related issues and programs.
- Increased the access to and availability of disability-related information and services in Cambodia.
- Identified critical areas for focus in the disability sector and, to address them, established DAC working groups on legislation, inclusive education, medical rehabilitation, awareness raising, rural income generation, disability database development, and capacity building for women with disabilities.

Country
Program
Cambodia Prosthetics and
Rehabilitation
Program

Implementing Partner Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Funding Period March 1996 - December 2005

Amount \$12,560,451

Purpose Strengthen the range of services provided through national rehabilitation centers.

- Accomplishments**
- In the past year, produced and fitted approximately 980 prostheses, 2,400 orthoses, and 550 wheelchairs.
 - Made significant progress toward nationalization of the rehabilitation program, which is targeted for completion in 2005.
 - In the final stages of spinning off wheelchair manufacturing and silk-weaving components into small business enterprises.

From the early 1970s until the formation of a coalition government in the late 1990s, Cambodia experienced a devastating period of civil strife, displacement of its population, foreign military occupation, and extended political isolation. Years of war led to the total collapse of public services, including the primary health care system. During the reign of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian cities were depopulated and the country's economic and social infrastructures were largely dismantled.

The extensive laying of landmines during the conflicts of the mid-1980s has had a major and lasting impact on Cambodia. As many as 6 million landmines remain scattered across the country; a 240-mile belt along Cambodia's border with Thailand holds some 3 million mines. Landmines and unexploded ordnance have killed or injured tens of thousands of Cambodian men, women, and children, leaving many of the survivors permanently disabled.

As a result of the country's fractured health care infrastructure and widespread poverty, most of these victims have little access to appropriate physical, vocational, or economic rehabilitation assistance. There are few viable structures through which people with disabilities can achieve mobility and independence.



Photo courtesy of ROB HORVATH



In response, the LWVF began supporting the VVAF Cambodia Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Program in 1992. Today, the Kien Khleang Physical Rehabilitation Center is recognized as the country's leading rehabilitation center, offering victims of war and other disabilities the most comprehensive physical rehabilitation services in the country. Kien Khleang combines the production, fitting, and distribution of mobility devices with physiotherapy services and follow-up for all patients once they return to their communities. The center also produces prosthetic feet and wheelchairs for other rehabilitation NGOs throughout the country.

In 1994, VVAF inaugurated a Rehabilitation Support Service to provide physical therapy at the Kien Khleang center as well as community follow-up care to patients who have returned home. Outreach teams now visit patients in Phnom Penh and in villages within 30-40 kilometers of the capital city.

Some 20,000 Cambodians, most of them war victims, have been treated since VVAF's operations began. VVAF reports that while demining efforts and landmine awareness education are helping to lower injury and amputation rates countrywide, the number of orthotic cases at their centers continues to increase. Four years ago, Kien Khleang staff fitted 20-30 orthotic braces a month; in 2003, that number rose to 120. Over 50 percent of beneficiaries for these services are women and children.

Photo courtesy of VIETNAM VETERANS OF
AMERICA FOUNDATION



VVAF's program includes two other physical rehabilitation workshops. The Prey Veng workshop, located near the border with Vietnam, provides nearly one thousand prosthetic and orthotic devices a year. The Kratie workshop, located in northeast Cambodia at the easternmost extent of the old Ho Chi Minh Trail, provided over 400 prosthetic and orthotic devices in 2003.

It also includes the comprehensive and commercially successful Joom Noon silk project that engages nearly 100 individuals in the remote province of Preah Vihear in northern Cambodia. The enterprise—which last year sold more than 4,000 silk scarves and shawls—is approaching complete self-sufficiency and, through contracts with various department stores, commands a reliable market in the United States.

In addition to serving the disabled population, VVAF was one of the first organizations in Cambodia to hire workers with disabilities, a group now representing a sizable percentage of the core workforce of 200 Cambodians.

The second major LWVF investment in Cambodia is the Disability Action Council (DAC). The USAID-supported DAC helps the Cambodian government, nongovernmental organizations, and international agencies to better provide services for citizens with disabilities. The DAC serves as the national coordinating body on disability issues and monitors a National Plan on Disability. The DAC's primary objective is to



Photo courtesy of VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA FOUNDATION





create an effective communication network among government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and religious organizations concerned with the needs of those with disabilities.

The DAC supports the efforts of various implementing agencies working on vocational training and income generation, physical rehabilitation,

CAMBODIA

inclusive education, community-based projects for children, and the training of rehabilitation personnel. It also plays a strong role in advancing national legislation on the rights of those with disabilities and advocating on their behalf.

The DAC has exceeded its original goals. Through its offices, some 15 agencies and networks now coordinate efforts serving war and landmine victims and others living with disabilities.

Although culturally and geographically diverse, all projects that are supported by USAID's Leahy War Victims Fund share a common goal:

creation of increased opportunity through the restoration of mobility, provision of accessibility, and the inclusion of people with disabilities in determining their own destiny.

Within that goal, we attempt to achieve three main objectives:

- Improve the technical skills of orthopedic technicians and rehabilitation practitioners and the quality of their services.
- Increase opportunities for the social, economic, educational, and political inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Improve national governments' understanding of and ability to meet the needs of war victims and other people living with disabilities.

LEAHY WAR VICTIMS FUND



GUATEMALA
EL SALVADOR
HONDURAS
NICARAGUA

SENEGAL
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA

ALBANIA

DROC

ANGOLA

GRANT RECIPIENTS



Country War Victims *Program* Assistance *Laos* Project

Implementing Partner The Consortium (World Education and World Learning)

Funding Period June 2000 - October 2004

Amount \$3,161,904

Purpose Mitigate the risk and impact of unexploded ordnance accidents on people living in Xieng Khouang and Houaphan Provinces.

Accomplishments

- Provided technical and management training to more than 400 medical, nursing, and technical staff in Xieng Khouang and Houaphan Provinces. They are now responsible for improved management and training in the provinces.
- Upgraded training skills of 110 medical staff in Xieng Khouang, Houaphan, and in central-level training hospitals in Vientiane.
- Expanded a landmine awareness education program to 1,200 schools in 19 districts of the four provinces most highly affected by unexploded ordnance in Laos.
- Developed a curriculum of student-centered, activity-based instructional materials for more than 86,000 students in the five primary school grades.
- Provided training in student-centered teaching and learning to over 2,800 primary school principals and teachers.
- Established 70 school-based unexploded ordnance education and community awareness puppetry troupes.



Photo taken with permission by ROB HORVATH



More than 25 years after the political and military conflicts in Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, landmines and other unexploded ordnance continue to maim and kill civilians in Laos.

The U.S. government has pursued an active role in the unexploded ordnance program of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for six years, and has contributed more than \$16 million to promote mine clearance, community awareness, and medical care for accident victims. USAID's experience in the country through the Leahy War Victims Fund dates to 1991. In 1995, a grant was awarded to The Consortium to upgrade medical, surgical, and emergency facilities and services, and to promote mine awareness efforts. Those activities took place in Xieng Khouang Province, one of the regions most affected by unexploded ordnance.

Today, support to The Consortium—which is led by the U.S.-based organizations World Education and World Learning—is designed to build on the success of efforts in Xieng Khouang and to expand operations into neighboring Houaphan Province. Ongoing work focuses on the medical intervention and educational programs to reduce the effect of unexploded ordnance on the lives of people in the two provinces.



Country Program Lebanon

Preventing Landmine Injuries and Expanding Economic Opportunities for Landmine Survivors

Implementing Partner

World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc. (WRF)

Funding Period

June 1998 - December 2004

Amount

\$5,077,739

Purpose

Develop practices, policies, attitudes, and capacity that address the socio-economic problems stemming from landmines—including the development and implementation of programs to decrease landmine injuries, assist victims, and alleviate the related social burden.

Accomplishments

- Catalyzed the establishment of the Development Cooperative of Jizzine with many partners working together for the first time. Commercial interests, public relations firms, and government and private entities all interact with a cooperative of people living with disabilities.
- Created an accessible learning and community development resource center.
- Created a model cooperative that can be replicated in other regions of the country.
- More than 100 beneficiaries and 700 dependents belong to the cooperatives which provide an average monthly income of nearly \$600.

Photo courtesy of NADIM KARAM,
WORLD REHABILITATION FUND

The Middle East confrontation and internal civil conflict brought Lebanon to the verge of collapse in the 1980s. Hundreds of thousands of landmines were deployed throughout the country that resulted in fatalities and injuries and left large areas of agricultural, grazing, and recreation land inaccessible, especially in the South and in the West Bekaa Valley. This environment has stabilized, enabling the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) to embark on an initiative to revitalize the most severely affected areas, focusing primarily on agricultural and economic development.

The World Rehabilitation Fund, in partnership with USAID and the Leahy War Victims Fund, continues to expand support for its programs targeting people with disabilities in Lebanon. In 1996, WRF launched a nationwide prosthetics and orthotics program, facilitating greater awareness and understanding of the magnitude of the landmine problem and the related social burden. Findings from this effort set the foundation for a multifaceted nationwide humanitarian mine action program launched with USAID funding in June 1998. This program is the first of its kind in Lebanon.

With USAID support, WRF manages the “Expanding Economic Opportunities for Survivors of Landmines in the District of Jizzine in South Lebanon” program, designed to foster economic inclusion of war-affected individuals. Through the initiative, landmine survivors engage in income-generating activities such as egg production, bee keeping and honey processing,



and other competitive agricultural enterprises. Beneficiaries are involved as stakeholders in a legal resource cooperative that provides employment opportunities and management, marketing, and product processing services.

Eggs, honey, and medicinal herbs are sold by the cooperative or directly by beneficiaries, with financial returns sufficient to enhance the lives and well-being of victims, their extended families, and the community at large. The program allows for benefit without the need to alter lifestyle or compromise on established social roles and obligations—for example, a widow can be involved without having to leave her home and family.

Two years into its life, the program has been shown to favorably and significantly impact the lives and well-being of hundreds of participants. The program has also enabled better understanding of the challenges facing community-based development projects targeting disadvantaged individuals.

*Country
Program
Liberia*

Rehabilitation
of War Victims

Implementing Partner United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Funding Period September 2000 - September 2003

Amount \$1,669,915

Purpose Improve the quality of prosthetics and orthotics services in Liberia.

Status The Ganta Workshop was destroyed during fighting in March 2003, and operations in Monrovia have been terminated due to the conflict. Services at Benedict Menni, a center for children in need of surgical interventions, are continuing on a limited basis.

By 1996, Liberia's eight-year civil crisis had left the country with a disproportionately large number of people with disabilities—some sources suggest that as many as 16 percent of Liberia's 2 million inhabitants were reported to have disabilities, many of which are lower-extremity amputations or other mobility-related disorders. It is estimated that more than 81,000 Liberian children are disabled.

The Ganta Prosthetics and Orthotics Workshop was constructed in 1998 with funding provided to UNICEF by USAID. Since it began production in 1999, the workshop treated several thousand individuals. Leahy War Victims Fund resources helped revitalize the workshop and integrate it into the management structure of Ganta United Methodist Hospital. The hospital was one of the few medical facilities servicing a local population of more than 400,000 as well as some 50,000 individuals from nearby border towns in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Under a grant to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a number of improvements were made to the overall care and services provided at the workshop. Among them were enhancing technical training, revamping management structures, increasing physical therapy treatment, and adopting more appropriate and affordable technology.

Liberia's civil strife—and specifically the conflict that erupted in Ganta at the end of March 2003—forced UMCOR to cease operations at the Ganta workshop.

Fighting in and around Ganta continued throughout 2003, and both the town and the hospital compound suffered extensive damage. Ganta remains inaccessible.

In addition to its activities at Ganta, UMCOR began supporting activities at the Benedict Menni Rehabilitation Center (BMRC) in Monrovia in 2000. These interventions continued through much of 2003, providing ongoing support to disabled children. In June, fighting reached Monrovia, forcing an end to the majority of operations in the area. Assistance to this program has recently resumed on a limited basis.



*Country
Program
Senegal*

Strengthen Rehabilitative Services for People with Disabilities

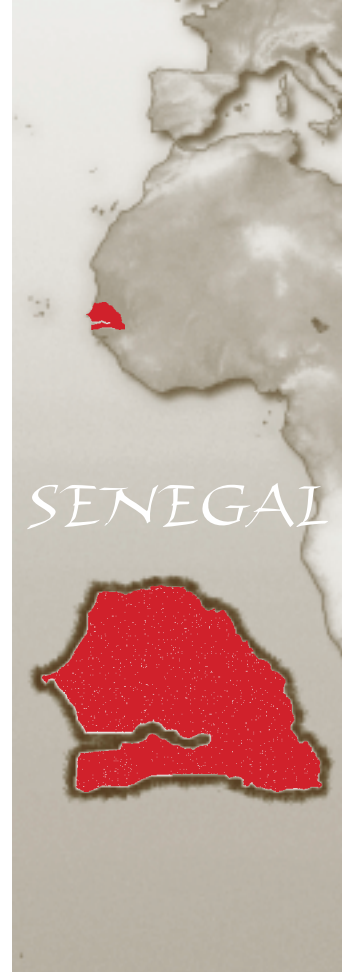
Implementing Partner	Handicap International (HI)/France
Funding Period	March 2004 - March 2007
Amount	\$1,000,000
Purpose	Improve the lives of people disabled by mine accidents and other causes, and implement educational activities to prevent further accidents.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Improve the organization and quality of care in in orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation in the Ziguinchor region.■ Help people with disabilities—mine victims or others—rejoin their communities.■ Consolidate the mine education and awareness program by turning it over progressively to the local population.

In 1982, supporters of the Democratic Forces Movement of the Casamance demanded that the Government of Senegal grant independence to the Casamance region, an isolated section of southwestern Senegal. This event sparked an 18-year conflict, which has only recently begun to be resolved. The situation worsened with the appearance of antitank and antipersonnel mines in the late 1990s. Landmines have affected the population and have hampered donor and NGO efforts in the region.

In July 2001, USAID began to provide funding to Handicap International (HI) to support its program to assist victims of landmine accidents and to raise awareness of the dangers of mines and unexploded ordnance.

The program facilitated the rehabilitation of people with disabilities in the Casamance, including the regionalization of orthopedic services. It also supported local associations that assist people with landmine injuries and other disabilities during their treatment and eased their return to families and communities. In addition, the program conducted training to integrate mine awareness messages into school curriculums and disseminate these messages throughout villages in the region.

Under a new agreement signed in March 2004, rehabilitation efforts will be extended into the region of Ziguinchor, an area also hard hit by the conflict. Moreover, HI will pilot a community relay agent program in the landmine-affected zones of Niaguis, Nyassia, and Diouloulou. Agents will assist in identifying and supporting people with disabilities in these communities.



Country Program Sri Lanka

Mobility Disabilities Project

Implementing Partner

Motivation

Funding Period

April 2002 - April 2007

Amount

\$3,746,100

Purpose

Enhance opportunities for people with mobility disabilities.

Accomplishments

- Renovated a war-damaged orthotics workshop and clinic in Jaffna.
- Refurbished and equipped a wheelchair and tricycle production workshop facility in Colombo.
- Developed and tested the first prototypes of hand-powered and power-assisted tricycles.
- Developed facilities and a training program for the Disabled Women's Garment Project.
- More than 80 people with disabilities attended five separate job-search training programs run in association with the United Nations International Labor Organization (UNILO) and the Employers Federation of Ceylon; as of September 2003, 39 of the participants have secured full-time paid employment.
- Completed a five-year plan for the Disability Organizations Joint Front (DOJF).



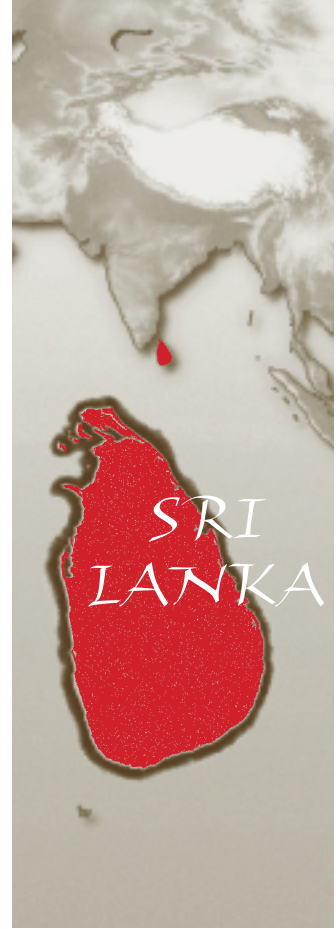
Photo courtesy of GEMUNU AMARASINGHE

Sri Lanka has endured more than 18 years of conflict between government forces backed by the country's mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who seek a separate homeland for the Tamil minority in the North and East. A cease-fire, the first in nearly seven years, began in March 2002 and has fueled hopes for a successful peace process.

Like other modern conflicts, the war in Sri Lanka has taken a heavy toll on civilians and children. Farms and villages are littered with landmines. Sri Lanka is estimated to have more than 30,000 amputees as a direct result of the civil war and the associated increase in the incidence of crippling diseases. Sri Lankan youth have paid a particularly high price for the war—nearly 80 percent of people with disabilities are ages 18 to 29.

This USAID-funded program strengthens the overall management capability of rehabilitation service delivery facilities; introduces polypropylene technology; and expands rehabilitation services to include improved job placement and training, peer support, and advocacy.

In the program's first year, work has centered on increasing the availability of appropriate prosthetics and orthotics; increasing access to wheelchairs and tricycles; and providing training, peer support, and job placement assistance.



*Country
Program
Vietnam*

Rehabilitation
Sector
Support

Implementing Partner

Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)

Funding Period

April 1999 - December 2006

Amount

\$3,336,923

Purpose

Facilitate the development of a stronger, more effective, integrated rehabilitation sector.

Accomplishments

- Increased participation in the Disability Forum by groups representing people with disabilities. This year, the number rose from eight to twenty-six groups.
- Developed and facilitated the adoption of various strategies to transfer an ever-greater share of management responsibility to organizations of and for people with disabilities.
- In collaboration with the World Bank's first Innovation Day and Knowledge Forum, awarded five grants to organizations that will provide employment and training activities for 800 people with disabilities.



Photo taken with permission by ROB HORVATH

*Country
Program
Vietnam*

Orthotic
Technologies
Development

Implementing Partner Prosthetic Outreach Foundation (POF)

Funding Period September 2002 - September 2005

Amount \$301,559

Purpose Enhance orthotic component production and manufacturing capacity at the Ba Vi Orthopedic Technology Center (BOTC).

Accomplishments

- Completed design drawings for both adult- and child-sized orthotic knee and ankle joints and prefabricated orthoses.
- Established primarily local material supplies, including the local supply of high-quality Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machining cutters and tooling.
- Established CNC machining of metal joints and quality control inspections at the Ba Vi Orthopedic Technology Center.



*Country
Program
Vietnam*

Quality
Assurance
Project (QAP)

Implementing Partner

University Research Corporation (URC)

Funding Period

September 2002 - September 2005

Amount

\$400,000

Purpose

Strengthen rehabilitation services by providing training and technical assistance in quality assurance and improved techniques.

Objectives

- Demonstrate how quality improvement techniques can be introduced and adapted to the field of prosthetics and orthotics, by prioritizing problem areas and implementing solutions.
- Establish a sustainable and replicable method of analyzing and solving problems in a particular system of care using the teamwork approach.
- Disseminate experiences and lessons learned on quality improvement methods for prosthetics and orthotics.



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AMERICA FOUNDATION

*Country
Program
Vietnam*

Prosthetic, Rehabilitation
and Barrier-Free
Accessibility Project

Implementing Partner Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH)

Funding Period September 1998 – December 2005

Amount \$4,058,238

Purpose Expand opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in educational, social, and economic activities.

- Accomplishments**
- The National Coordinating Council on Disabilities developed a comprehensive strategic plan to ensure the government's role in meeting the needs of people with disabilities.
 - Provided several hundred assistive devices to people with disabilities and on-the-job training to improve the skills of technicians at the Can Tho Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Center.
 - Ensured that the Ministry of Construction and Hanoi Architectural University are better enforcing the newly enacted Barrier-Free Access Codes and Standards.

Country
Program
Vietnam

Sustainable Benefits for the Mobility Impaired

Implementing Partner	Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)
Funding Period	April 2002 - March 2005
Amount	\$2,070,553
Purpose	Enhance the physical rehabilitation services of the National Institute for Pediatrics and Bach Mai, and extend these services to five provinces.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Provided 1,200 devices to more than 1,000 patients treated at both Bach Mai and the National Institute for Pediatrics (NIP).■ Supported eight outreach trips in which 1,000 patients were seen and approximately 500 orthotic devices were delivered.■ Supported the establishment of seven self-help groups in Hanoi and in three of five targeted provinces.■ In partnership with World Village Foundation and Vietnamese Institute of Psychology, organized training workshops for disability groups in four provinces; workshops provided assistance and training in the areas of leadership, strategic planning, and group facilitation.



Vietnam has experienced dramatic changes as it continues its transition to a market-oriented economy. In the last decade, the country has seen reductions in poverty, declines in maternal and child mortality rates, and improvements in the overall well-being of its population.

Despite this progress, Vietnam struggles to address the comprehensive needs of its population with disabilities—at present, more than 6 million Vietnamese live with disabilities, and the number is rising. Although the country has been classified as polio-free by the World Health Organization, large numbers of Vietnamese people continue to suffer the crippling effects of polio and other diseases such as cerebral palsy. Landmines, unexploded ordnance, and the increased use of motor vehicles and farm and industrial machinery further contribute to the increase in disabling injuries.

Beginning with modest funding for humanitarian programs for war victims in 1989, USAID and the Leahy War Victims Fund have supported an increasingly sophisticated and appropriate response to the needs of Vietnam's population living with disabilities. This work offers a prime example of how small, initial investments can lead to the evolution of a comprehensive national strategy for the rehabilitation of citizens with disabilities and their inclusion in a country's societal and economic transformation.



Photo courtesy of VIET-NAM ASSISTANCE
FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Today, that response incorporates government ministries and departments, donor agencies, international and local NGOs, community-based groups, and professional organizations. This collective response has led to passage of two remarkable national laws regarding disabilities and barrier-free access.

Perhaps most significantly, societal and physical barriers in Vietnam are slowly being overcome, and people with disabilities are increasingly contributing to national life and the economy.

Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH) has been a Leahy War Victims Fund partner since 1993, when USAID resources made it possible for this fledgling NGO, a Vietnam-specific entity, to become operational. VNAH has advanced the technology used to address the needs of those with disabilities and, through example and advocacy, has also advanced the policy framework relevant to people with disabilities. VNAH has supported the Government of Vietnam in its efforts to create and pass its disabilities and accessibility laws, and is assisting in the implementation of associated building design codes and construction standards.

VNAH's efforts were also central in establishing the National Coordinating Council on Disability within the government.

Additional LWVF partners in Vietnam include Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), the Prosthetic Outreach Foundation (POF), and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. All have made significant contributions to the evolution of a unified rehabilitation strategy for the country and have demonstrated an unusual ability to work together in a difficult environment.

HVO has been instrumental in providing education and practical orientation to prosthetics and orthotics professionals and those in related fields and in structuring a sustainable, multilevel training program. It has also been a catalyst in finding complementary approaches and strategies and helping establish the Disability Forum, a coordinating body for NGO and government programs.

Likewise, POF is seeing considerable success in advancing the standards for orthopedic component technology in Vietnam. Working with the BaVi Orthopedic Technology Center (BOTC), POF is assisting BOTC in the design and development of more functional, durable and lighter-weight orthopedic componentry. As a result, high-quality, locally produced components are offered at reasonable cost to hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese people with disabilities.

VVAF is an implementing partner of the Leahy War Victims Fund in Angola and Cambodia as well as in Vietnam. VVAF's rehabilitation program in Vietnam



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is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health and is based at two of the leading hospitals in Hanoi: the National Institute for Pediatrics (NIP) and Bach Mai University Hospital. In both institutions, VVAF has trained staff to improve the quality of rehabilitation services and increase the local capacity for ongoing treatment of patients. In addition, VVAF provides clinical supervision to further develop the local capacity in orthotic prescription and management. Since the start of the program in 1995, more than 7,400 orthotic devices and 150 wheelchairs have been delivered from NIP and Bach Mai.

To meet the needs of the large disabled population outside the urban areas, VVAF—with support from Ford Vietnam Limited and collaboration from Bach Mai hospital and National Institute of Pediatrics—began a Mobile Outreach Program in 1999. The program, using custom-designed and donated Ford trucks, brings basic rehabilitation services directly to the countryside. Since its inception, Mobile Outreach has visited 11 provinces, fitting more than 1,500 patients with 1,900 orthotic devices and delivering another 209 wheelchairs during outreach.

In 2003, VVAF expanded beyond providing institutional care to support the establishment of self-help groups for people with mobility impairment. The majority of members of these groups are patients who have received treatment at the orthotic facilities or from the outreach program.

Lastly, USAID's LWVF has begun support for the Quality Assurance Project, which aims to introduce quality management principles to two pilot projects demonstrating health care delivery improvements using a multidisciplinary approach. The methodology centers on the creation of small teams that represent all key stakeholders in the rehabilitation process. Through training, mentoring, and coaching, these teams will use quality management principles to identify and define priority areas, develop and test solutions, and evaluate health care outcomes.

The environment for Vietnam's population with disabilities remains difficult. The country is poor and its political leadership cautious in implementing the reforms required to increase prosperity. Yet recent moves welcoming involvement from the outside world, coupled with the impact of modern communications technology, are creating new possibilities. The efforts supported by the Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund are making a sustained difference for some of the country's most vulnerable citizens and are buttressing improved relations between Vietnam and the United States.



FUNDING GUIDELINES

The following information is provided for those interested in applying for funding from the Leahy War Victims Fund. It is intended to provide general guidance, not definitive criteria.

Grantees

Country-based projects are, for the most part, implemented through grants and cooperative agreements to domestic, foreign, and international nongovernmental organizations. These organizations are either registered with USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation or have the equivalent recognition in their country of origin. Grantee organizations work in partnership with host governments (usually the ministries responsible for health and social welfare), local NGOs capable of participating in the implementation of the project, and other international agencies working with war victims and people living with disabilities.

Funding

Funds from the LWVF are usually transferred to USAID's overseas missions where grants and cooperative agreements are negotiated and managed. When circumstances preclude this type of arrangement (e.g., in countries with no USAID mission, with multiple country projects, etc.) programs are managed directly from USAID's Democracy and Governance Office in Washington.



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Proposals

Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include Annual Program Statements (APS), Requests for Applications (RFA), and Requests for Proposals (RFP). Information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission. General information on business opportunities available through USAID can be found at www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/. Current APSs and RFAs can be found at FedGrants (www.fedgrants.gov), the government-wide portal for grant opportunities.

Unsolicited concept papers can be submitted to USAID missions or to the LWVF manager at the address listed on the back inside cover of this publication. Concept papers should be no more than five pages.

Selection Criteria

Although selection criteria for funding may vary from country to country and program to program, decisions are piloted by the six guiding principles of the LWVF:

1. Focus on countries where need and potential for impact is the greatest, within a general framework of direct assistance to people with disabilities. (With rare exception, the countries chosen to receive funding are post-conflict countries with people having primarily war-related disabilities.)

2. Focus on cost-effectiveness and quality of service.
3. Emphasize orthopedic assistance within a framework of social and economic integration of the disabled.
4. Work with representatives of the disabilities community to strengthen policies within country programs.
5. Develop local activities that can be used as models for replication.
6. Support the development of effective practices, appropriate technologies, and innovative programmatic approaches within a framework of direct assistance.
7. Include people with disabilities in the development and implementation of project activities.



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Additional information on funding guidelines can be obtained by contacting the USAID mission in the appropriate country or the Leahy War Victims Fund manager, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address listed on the inside back cover of this publication. Contact information for USAID missions can be found at www.usaid.gov/locations/missiondirectory.html; www.usaid.gov/missions/ provides links to individual USAID mission webpages.

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Leahy War Victims Fund Funding Fiscal Years 1989-2004 (in thousands of dollars)

Countries	1989-98	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	TOTAL
Afghanistan	420				1,000		1,000	2,420
Angola	4,596			1,000	900		800	7,296
Armenia	1,148							1,148
Cambodia	2,357	1,300	390	1,904	1,600	1,187	865	9,603
DRO/Congo					800			800
El Salvador	2,400							2,400
Ethiopia	2,965				500			3,465
Kenya					400			400
Laos	3,910	1,800				500	500	6,710
Lebanon	2,523	500		600		600	700	4,923
Liberia	1,840	1,000	1,700			416	173	5,129
Mali	120							120
Mozambique	9,063		1,250					10,313
Senegal			500			500		1,000
Sierra Leone			61	32	1,000			1,093
Sri Lanka	1,120	300	400	400	400	400	900	3,920
Tanzania - TATCOT	300			300	600			1,200
Uganda	3,882							3,882
Vietnam	11,605	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,000	19,905
Int'l Society P&O	200	1,078	350			1,355		2,983
Int'l Com of Red Cross	1,584		500		500	784	750	4,118
USAID Global Programs**	1,160	1,500	2,663			4,380		9,703
Wheelchairs				1,918			4,557	6,475
PAHO /WHO		500			100	478		1,078
Quality Assurance			36		400			436
Technical Assistance	1,685	522	500	2,346	300		435	5,788
State Dept/WBros			150				250	400
TOTAL	52,878	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,900	11,930	116,708

**includes support for Landmine Survivors Network, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, COPE USA

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