

The International Center
Program Update
January-December 2016



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER



VVAF Update

January – December 2016

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

February: Tet Holiday

March 18, 2016: The Dai Dong Commune Health Station distributed mobility devices and, people with disabilities were trained on how to adjust and use the devices. A summary on the use of wheelchairs, crutches, walking frames and sticks was also delivered to each person.

March 16, 2016: The MAPG was approved by the Prime Minister

April 2016: IC, SPD/MOLISA, and a technical group reviewed and provided comments on the questionnaires currently used by VNAH in 14 provinces.

Moving Without Limits

In early April, IC and SPD/MOLISA met with a technical group to review and provide comments on the questionnaires currently used by VNAH in 14 provinces.

The group suggested revising the questionnaire to accommodate the key data on PWD and UXO/landmine survivors, and agreed to contract relevant experts to (1) review and develop the survey questionnaire which could be used for both PWD and UXO/landmine survivors and (2) review the technical suitability & adaptability of DIS to be customized and expanded against the updated questionnaire and the requirements for use at national level. In addition, IC will also work with IT experts to study the possibility of customizing the

current DIS for use at the national level.

For developing the collecting and tracking information on PWD/landmine survivors, IC discussed with Danish Demining Group (DDG) a potential cooperation for using mine action applications "Linking Communities to Mine Actors through Digital Platforms" to apply new ways of reporting accidents through adding websites, email, mobile phone, and sms in the surveillance system, in addition to hotlines, which will be established by IC and SPD/MOLISA. The DDG's application is being piloted in Quang Tri, under the umbrella of Quang Tri War Legacies Coordinating Center (LWCC), to provide add-on values to the current hotlines operated by LWCC. DDG informed the group that an evaluation workshop on this application will be conducted in August, before DDG decides whether or not to continue expanding and replicating this application.

SPD/MOLISA and IC discussed piloting the project in either Quang Tri or Thua Thien Hue. Advantages of Quang Tri are having the LWCC and the DBU, while Thua Thien Hue is going to conduct a provincial PWD survey with the support of VNAH in 2nd quarter. Another option is Ha Giang, a northern province bordering with China where there is high number of UXO/landmine (especially landmine) survivors. SPD is now running a rehabilitation project for PWD in this province.





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August 19, 2016: IC and MAG held a Landmine Working Group meeting to discuss issues relevant to the continuation of Landmine removal activities in Vietnam.

July 2016: A 5-day screening was held in Sia and Quang Ngai CHS for 142 people from all 10 communes and towns; 56% of the people were prescribed with P&O, mobility aids, and daily living devices.

September 9, 2016: A DPO meeting was held in the Quang Nam Province

September 21, 2016: IC participated, with MPI and VNMAC, in a meeting with the US Embassy on the MAPG Co-Chairs TOR.

October 20, 2016: VNMAC Inauguration Event

December 9, 2016: IC and VNMAC held a meeting with the US Embassy to ask for the Embassy's support to hold a meeting with potential development partners.

December 28, 2016: The People's Committee signed Decision No.4655/QĐ-UBND, allowing for the continuation of disability project work.

VVAF Improves Data Collection Efforts

VVAF continues to assist with effective data collection in landmine rehabilitation efforts. The 3rd draft of the data collection forms were completed and have been piloted at five communes of Van Ninh District, Khanh Hoa Province. Information on 1805 disabled persons, including landmine/UXO victims, have been collected.

A November 16-17, 2016, training was held on the application of data collection forms on persons with disabilities and landmine/UXO Victims in Van Gia Town, Van Ninh District.

The training was provided to 45 trainees; including Social staff, workers, and the head of the village in 5 communes of the Van Ninh District, including Van Thang, Van Gia, Van Luong, Van Phu, and Dai Lanh. There were 2 parts of the training, theories and practice. The practice of the form allowed the trainee to complete the form by themselves and remember the details of form while the theories part allows trainees to discuss technical issues directly with trainers and their co-workers.

Also, a technical consultant, together with IC and SPD, drafted the basic information on technical requirements of the software needed for this objective. This document is the initial step to provide to other units and organizations for continuing consultation.

On August 19, 2016, correspondence from MOLISA assigned Khanh Hoa as the first Province to implement the pilot project. The correspondence assigns Khanh Hoa to focus on the pilot of data collection forms including promoting the certification of disability in the area; testing and completing data collection forms; collecting information on PWDs and landmine victims in 5 districts of Khanh Hoa Province; monitoring and evaluating the pilot project; and evaluating the results of the pilot model and recommending the expansion of the model to other Provinces going forward.

After the release of this correspondence, in September 2016, a field visit was conducted in the Khanh Hoa province. The aims of the visit were to discuss the details of the implementation plan at both provincial and commune level.

During the visit, the implementation plan for 2016 was also finalized. IC and MOLISA met with the Leader of the Khanh Hoa Department of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs (DOLISA) and all stakeholders involved in implementing the Project, including the Ninh Hoa Center for Social Protection; the Social Protection Department of Van Ninh District; leaders of 5 communes selected for pilot project including Van Gia, Van Thang, Van Phu, Van Luong communes; and Social Workers directly involved in the project.



Meeting chaired by Khanh Hoa DOLISA



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NEW FORESTS PROJECT UPDATE 2016

Seed Program:

In the second half of 2015, NFP sent another seed shipment out to five organizations around the world. While we had worked with two of the organizations before, Nature-Care Cameroon and Zimconserve, three of the organizations are new to NFP. This means that this last seed shipment was sent to Ecuador, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Tanzania. We are thrilled to be expanding our seed distribution, and have already been in contact with other organizations interested in receiving a 2016 seed shipment. We are looking forward to receiving field reports with new photos and project information now that we've crossed the six-month mark. We expect to send one more seed shipment in the fall of this year to an expended list of counties.



Small Grants:

The New Forest Project Small Grants Program had been halted after the last successfully implemented project in 2014, as further funding has been difficult to guarantee. However, as more and more organizations continue to apply, we will be re-examining this policy and considering a grant for Fall 2016.

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New Forests Project

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NEW FORESTS PROJECT UPDATE 2016

Small Grants:

The New Forest Project Small Grants Program had been halted since its last successfully implemented project in 2014, as further funding has been difficult to guarantee. However, our generous donors have provided us with increased funding in recent months, even as our solicitation efforts have been limited. As such, we will be re-examining this policy and considering a grant for Spring 2017. Our previous small grants have provided extensive support to impoverished communities around the globe, including providing fuel-efficient wood cook stoves to rural communities in Zimbabwe through our local partner, Zimconserve. The picture to the left shows a mother utilizing one of these cook stoves in Epworth, Zimbabwe.



Going forward, we will reach out to previous partners and continue to evaluate small grant applications that we receive as we continue to work to better the world through effective agroforestry and environmental restoration efforts.

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