

**NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL
ON DISABILITY (NCCD)**

**2010 annual report
on status of people
with disabilities in Vietnam**

HANOI, DECEMBER 2010

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Foreword

Vietnam actively participates in international agreements regarding people with disabilities. Vietnam signed the International Treaty on the Rights of People with disabilities in October 2007. It is simultaneously committed to fulfill the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action “on promoting an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities” in Asia - Pacific the second Decade of People with disabilities (2003-2012) with 7 specified priorities and one additional national priority of “improving social awareness on issues related to people with disabilities.” To fulfill its international and regional commitments, Vietnam has gradually perfected its legal framework and policies on people with disabilities as well as implemented programs and projects that support people with disabilities in order to create a legal environment for and to mobilize the participation of people with disabilities to integrate into and thrive in the community.

Vietnam National Coordinating Council on Disability (NCCD) was established under the Decision No. 55/2001/QĐ-BLĐT BXH by Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in 2001. The committee has the role of coordinating, promoting and monitoring the development and enforcement of policies, legislation and action plans concerning people with disabilities in Vietnam. In 2010, NCCD published its first Annual Report to review activities for people with disabilities in Vietnam, to draw lessons from the practical implementation and to give direction to activities in the coming years. The report of 2010 is based on a synthesis of reports by members of NCCD, by localities, by persons with disabilities, and on results from the implementation of project “Supporting people with disabilities in the period 2006-2010”.

In the process of drafting this report, NCCD has received the support and contribution from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Ministry of Information and Communication, related agencies, organizations of/for people with disabilities, Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH), USAID and specialists such as Mr. Nguyen Bao Cuong, Mr. Pham Huy Tuan Kiet and NCCD office.

The report of 2010 is our first annual report and thus cannot avoid having areas to be improved. We look forward to receiving comments with which we can further improve reports of the coming years.

NCCD would like to express our sincere thanks to the valuable contributions from agencies, organizations and individuals. We hereby present you with **“2010 Annual Report on Status of People with disabilities in Vietnam”**.

Hanoi, 31st December 2010

National Coordinating Council on Disability

I. INTRODUCTION ABOUT NCCD

1.1. Structure and Organization

NCCD was established in 2001 following the Decision No. 55/2001/QĐ-BLĐTBXH by Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA). NCCD is comprised of 23 members including 13 Ministries, sectors and 5 organizations of/for persons with disabilities. The Honour Chairperson is Minister of MOLISA and Head of the Committee is Deputy Minister of MOLISA Nguyen Trong Dam. NCCD holds regular meetings with the participation of all Members every three months. NCCD's standing committee is located in MOLISA's head office.

NCCD has effectively undertaken its role of coordinating and promoting relevant ministries and sectors on persons with disabilities, closely linking with relevant agencies and organizations and its members to promote established action programs for the last 10 years. NCCD has become an information centre on disability issues for the International, United Nations, the Asia-Pacific region and many countries in the world, as well as a centre providing foreign and international agencies and organizations with information about Vietnamese persons with disabilities. Every year, NCCD meets and works with hundreds of international guests and experts who come to exchange and investigate NCCD's activities and disability issues in Vietnam. For Vietnamese community of persons with disabilities, NCCD is a reliable address for the expression of and sending feedback to the implementation of policies and programs in practice, which helps NCCD collect information, make suggestions and submit reports to the Government's Office and the National Assembly's Office.

For the last years, NCCD's activities have focused on the communication and promotion of the implementation of seven priorities in the Biwako Millennium Framework (BMF) and one added priority of Vietnam, which is awareness raising and communication. NCCD's staff has participated in international and regional conferences to introduce NCCD's working models in Vietnam. In particular, in the evaluation report on People with disabilities in Asian and Pacific the second Decade, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) highly appreciated NCCD's activities, its positive contributions to the national, regional and international disability field.

1.2. Functions and Missions

With its role of coordinating and promoting activities among relevant ministries and sectors on disability, maintaining close connections with relevant organizations and agencies and its

members to promote the implementation of specified action programs, NCCD's functions and missions are as follows:

- Building programs and action plans which are related to the social inclusion of and support for persons with disabilities;
- Leading and coordinating with members of NCCD, Ministerial units, domestic and international organizations to develop, proliferate and supervise the implementation of laws and policies on persons with disabilities;
- Leading and coordinating with domestic and international agencies, units and organizations which work on persons with disabilities-related issues in organizing specialized conferences, conducting professional training, visiting, conducting surveys, exchanging experience, improving staff capacity for partners, organizations of and for People with disabilities.
- Implementing programs, projects on supporting People with disabilities which aim at resources mobilizing and technical assisting relating to the rights of People with disabilities;
- Implementing the campaigns for programs and projects by international organizations in order to support funding for People with disabilities' activities; transferring the programs and projects to the localities for their implementation;
- Organizing the supervision, investigation and research on legal rights and obligations of People with disabilities;
- Promoting the implementation of recommendations by the Asia-Pacific Decade of People with disabilities;
- Implementing annual and unexpected meetings by the Coordination Committee and ensuring the permanent operation of the NCCD's Office; collaborating with relevant units to consolidate and supplement Members of the Coordination Committee.
- Conducting the financial and asset management as stipulated by the current law.
- Conducting the quarterly, annual and unexpected reporting on the assigned issues.

1.3. Coordination activities

- a) Receiving new information and resolutions related to People with disabilities by the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for the communication with relevant agencies and organizations of and for People with disabilities;
- b) Reporting and frequently providing UNESCAP, regional and international organizations with information about Vietnamese People with disabilities as required by them;
- c) Coordinating assisting activities, facilitating the equality for People with disabilities in

the society, supervising the effective and comprehensive implementation of provisions in the Law on People with disabilities and seven priority fields in the Asia-Pacific Second Decade on People with disabilities (2003-2012);

d) Collaborating with relevant units and agencies and international organizations to hold conferences, workshops and training relating to People with disabilities;

e) Contributing to the building and adjustment of legal documents relating to People with disabilities;

f) Negotiating with international organizations on providing finance and technical equipment to support relevant agencies and organizations in the implementation of the supporting programs for People with disabilities ;

g) Receiving, proliferating and supervising People with disabilities supporting projects.

1.4. International collaboration

NCCD has established good relations and effective collaboration with regional and international organizations and agencies including United Nation Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD), Asia-Pacific Disability Forum (APDF), International Labour Organization (ILO), World Bank (WB), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Germany International cooperation organization (GIZ) and other foreign non-governmental organizations who are operating in Vietnam such as Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH), Pearl S. Buck International (PSBI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Concern Development Organization (WCDO), Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO), Netherlands- Vietnam Medical Committee (MCNV), Hands of Hope, etc.

NCCD's international cooperation has helped mobilize assisting resources including finance, technique and international experience in the field of People with disabilities , which contributes to the effective implementation process of the domestic issue of People with disabilities , as well as make contribution to and share Vietnam's valuable experience and lessons with international community in handling issues relating to People with disabilities and participating in the handling of global issues of People with disabilities .

II. OVERVIEW OF DISABILITY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN VIETNAM

2.1. The reality of Vietnam's People with disabilities

The survey on the living standards by Vietnamese residents in 2006 (VHLSS, 2006) showed that People with disabilities from 5 years old accounted for 15.3% of the population. In addition, the latest Vietnam's Population and housing census conducted in 2009 has shown that the percentage of People with disabilities from 5 years old has been 7.8%, which is equivalent to 6.7 million people, out of whom around 53.8% has been female and approximately 75% live in rural areas.

Although the above statistics may not thoroughly and accurately express the scale and structure of People with disabilities in Vietnam, to some extent, it shows that the issue of People with disabilities and disability is common in Vietnam ¹ which needs to be paid more attention to in the national socio-economic development.

In the coming years, the number of People with disabilities will tend to increase due to traffic accidents, labour accidents, more serious environmental pollution; other causes of disability will likely be different from the previous phase, causes such as inborn disability and war diseases tend to decrease whereas causes such as accidents tend to increase as a result of the robust industrialization and urbanization in Vietnam.

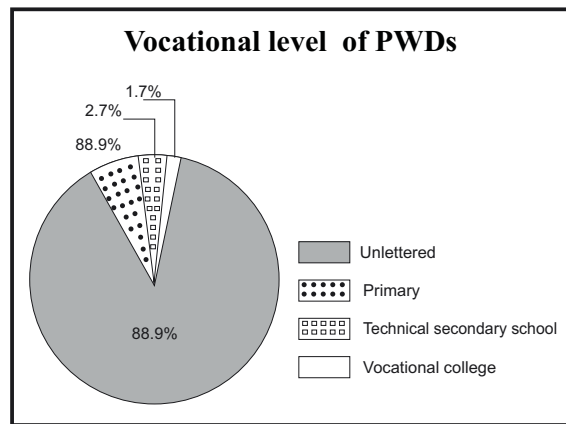
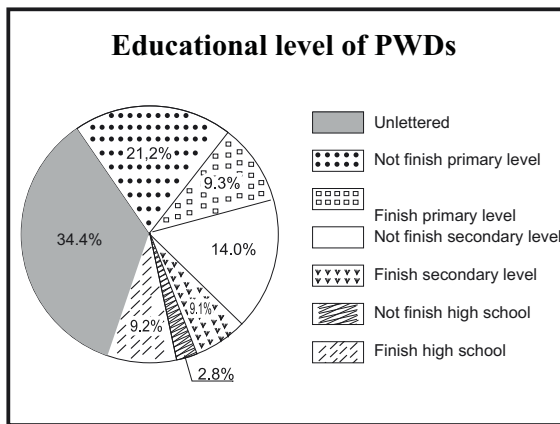
Regarding the social aspect, sample surveys ² show that there are People with disabilities in approximately 8% of the households in Vietnam; it means there is 1.12% on average. Around 75% households with People with disabilities live in rural areas and 32.5% is classified as poor households (two folds higher than the general poverty percentage at the same period), about 24% of households with People with disabilities have to live in temporary houses, 65% live in semi-solid houses. Facing difficulties, most of the households with People with disabilities (82.2%) only meet the basic needs of food, housing and clothes for the People with disabilities, and other needs are met limitedly. The sample surveys show that over 80% households are facing difficulties in medical examination and care for People with disabilities, over half of the number of households (51.2%) with People with disabilities have difficulties in caring and supporting People with disabilities in their daily life and nearly 55% of them are in need of employment and production capital to generate employment for People with disabilities.

Regarding People with disabilities, the sample surveys have illustrated an alarming situation of themselves and their lives. The majority of them have low-level education and have

1 It is estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the percentage of persons with disabilities generally accounts for nearly 10% of the population

2 Investigation on the implementation of the Ordinance on Persons with disabilities in 11 cities/provinces in Vietnam, 2009, MOLISA.

not been trained in professions. Of the total number of People with disabilities, around 21% of them can still work and 62% of whom are doing economic activities to generate income; they mainly work in agriculture-one of the three fields with the lowest productivity and surplus value in the national economy. Due to their limits in disability and qualifications, most of the People with disabilities have limited, low and unstable income which can not cover their daily expenses; as a result, their lives and their families face numerous difficulties. Approximately 80% of People with disabilities in urban areas and 70% in rural areas depend on their families, their relatives as well as social allowance. Those who can live independently only accounts for 11% of the total.



Source: Investigation on the implementation of the Ordinance of Persons with disabilities, MOLISA, 2008

Along with their limits caused by disability and their qualification limits, People with disabilities not only face daily burdens like food and clothes but also face barriers (including social prejudice, unsuitable infrastructure...), which can not be overcome when they wish to equally participate in the community without supports from the State and the community.

2.2. Policy and law systems on Vietnamese persons with disabilities

In order to implement United Nations' Conventions and Resolutions as well as the Asia-Pacific region Campaigns and the Action Programs on People with disabilities in which Vietnam is a member; as well as to fulfil the responsibility of the Party, the state and the society for People with disabilities, legal documents on People with disabilities have been issued, programs and projects on supporting People with disabilities have been implemented with the active participation of individuals and organizations in the whole society. The issue of People with disabilities expressed in the optimum legal document- The Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam approved by the National Assembly in 1992 and amended in 2001 clearly stipulates: 'The old, the disabled people, orphans are supported by the State. The State and the society create favourable conditions for the disabled children to study and to take a suitable

vocation.’ The protection of People with disabilities is mentioned at the Articles 59 and 67 of the Constitution.

Following the Ordinance, Vietnam issued many legal documents related to disability issues that are implemented to ensure the rights and benefits of People with disabilities in all aspects of society. These documents can be divided into the following 6 groups: (detailed in appendix 1)

- *Firstly, group of documents on the education for People with disabilities;*
- *Secondly, group of documents on healthcare for People with disabilities;*
- *Thirdly, group of documents on labour and vocation for People with disabilities;*
- *Fourthly, group of documents on social protection;*
- *Fifthly, group of documents on cultural and sport activities;*
- *Sixthly, group of documents on smart traffic and accessibility in transportation and public construction.*

Up to now, the country’s socio-economic situation has seen numerous positive changes for the last ten years of applying the Ordinance of Persons with disabilities, the State has had better conditions and more social resources to pay attention to People with disabilities and handle this issue. As a result, to continue solving the issue of People with disabilities more effectively, Vietnamese National Assembly has approved Law on People with disabilities which came into effect since 1/1/2011. This has been the most powerful legal document on People with disabilities and acted as the comprehensive legal foundation for supporting People with disabilities in the next phase.

III. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES ON VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

3.1. Raising awareness about disability and People with disabilities

a) Policies

Legal documents confirm equal rights of People with disabilities in all aspects of social life, which lays the foundations of awareness raising activities. The ordinance on People with disabilities dated 1998 and the Law on People with disabilities dated in 2010 state that People with disabilities are ensured their rights to equal participation in social activities; living their life with maximum independence and in community harmony; being exempt from or paying reduced fees for social activities; being provided with health care, functional rehabilitation, education, vocational training, employment, legal support, access to public works and transportation vehicles, information technology, and cultural, sports and tourist services, as well as other services which are suitable for their type of disability and level of disability severity.

Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (Biwako Framework) is one of the policies in the Asia and Pacific region that Vietnam Government has committed to implementing. Vietnam has complemented one priority called Priority 8 “Raising awareness about People with disabilities and disability issues” to the framework, which has been supported by the regional countries.

According to legal policies, functions of state management regarding People with disabilities are assigned to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; other ministries and ministerial-level agencies and involved Government-attached agencies, within their management scope, collaborate with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs to undertake state management regarding People with disabilities; People’s Committees of all levels are responsible for state management regarding People with disabilities at localities; Vietnam Fatherland Front and its member societies, together with other social organizations take responsibility of propagandizing and mobilizing the people in implementation of policies on disability. Therefore, the State administrative agencies, Vietnam Fatherland Front and social organizations have the major responsibility for raising community awareness about disability issues and People with disabilities.

b) Outcomes

Regarding policies on People with disabilities, the expectedly effective policy implementation requires a deep understanding of People with disabilities and communities, as well as how they can contribute to the whole society. Thus, raising awareness about disability and People with disabilities has been of concern by agencies of all levels in Vietnam.

Awareness raising campaigns have been continuously conducted in different ways, from indirect communication or the media, via radio, television, newspaper, poster, etc., to direct communication through workshops on guiding the implementation of new policies that support People with disabilities, through providing documents relevant to policies and laws on People with disabilities, and through seminars on People with disabilities, contests of legal awareness about People with disabilities, and through frequent activities for People with disabilities at national scale.

Remarkably, the implementation of awareness raising campaigns has been largely improved since 2006 by implementing the project “Assisting Vietnamese People with disabilities in the period of 2006-2010”. Upon the project implementation, the media from central to local level have increasingly promoted communications campaigns about People with disabilities. Voice of Vietnam has created radio programs about People with disabilities on VOV1, VOV2, VOV news, etc. Central and local radio and television stations and news agencies have worked in collaboration with each other in order to communicate news and good practices about People with disabilities, and set good examples of people who sponsor People with disabilities and good examples of People with disabilities who rise on their own. Departments of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs at localities have organized training sessions to help policy implementers learn how to execute new State policies on supporting People with disabilities; and provide branches, agencies and mass organizations with documents relevant to policies and laws on People with disabilities so that they can be disseminated to the entire people. In addition, Departments of Culture, Sports and Tourism have co-ordinated such communications activities as using large posters, banners, slogans, and play staging to propagandize information about People with disabilities. Annually, on the occasion of Vietnamese People with disabilities’ day, Association for the Support of Vietnamese Handicapped and Orphans in cooperation with Vietnam Television organizes the art program “One heart – One World” and TV shows such as “The Home Builder”, “Overcome Fate”, etc., with the aim of introducing good examples of People with disabilities who have succeeded, on their own, in the fields of business, sciences, sport, and culture.

Although there are no statistics to evaluate the change in community awareness about People with disabilities, the above-mentioned activities have contributed to changing attitudes and awareness of the society and of People with disabilities themselves about disability issues. The results of the sample survey conducted in 2008 on the execution of laws on People with disabilities³ reveal that up to 80 percent of the staff members who work in the fields related to

³ The survey on the execution of laws on People with disabilities, conducted in 11 provinces/cities of Vietnam, 2008, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.

People with disabilities have heard of and grasped basic contents of policies on People with disabilities. Similarly, about 76 percent of the People with disabilities and almost 80 percent of the households with People with disabilities have heard of and comprehended basic contents of State policies on supporting People with disabilities and households with People with disabilities⁴.

Moreover, increased social awareness is demonstrated through the increasing responsibility of the Government, the State administrative agencies and every organization and individual in the society for People with disabilities. The law on People with disabilities, which has been approved in 2010, with the contributions of many Government agencies, branches and industries, organizations of People with disabilities, and individuals in the whole country to the law developing process, is evidence for these changes. Solving problems about disability and People with disabilities now is not only the demonstration of affection, ethics, and good national traditions, but also the legal responsibility of the State.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

Evaluations by ministries and branches show that, by large, awareness of the society about disability and People with disabilities in Vietnam has been considerably raised over the past few years, but the awareness in fact has not led to effective outcomes yet. The first reason is, not all the people in the community has been properly aware of disability and People with disabilities. Mostly staff members at political, economic and social agencies, social workers, mass organizations, households with People with disabilities and some of the People with disabilities who are policy beneficiaries have certain awareness of the issues. The majority of people have very limited awareness, and it is being slowly altered. The second reason is the awareness about disability and People with disabilities is insufficient; people largely concern about policies that directly support People with disabilities and social priorities for People with disabilities rather than other regulations and policies, especially those assuring People with disabilities' rights and helping them have equal participation in society. According to the results of the survey on the execution of the ordinance on People with disabilities undertaken by National Assembly's Committee for Social Affairs in 2008 in four provinces and cities among 486 participants, up to 77.2 percent of them had no idea about the Ordinance; 64.4 percent of the People with disabilities surveyed believe that People with disabilities are dependants, 29.7 percent of them think that People with disabilities are useless.

Findings from a survey sponsored by Ford Foundation and conducted in 2007 in four provinces and cities in Vietnam by Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS) are shown as followed. The results partly reflect the limited community awareness about disability and PWDs; accordingly, in their opinion, disability and People with disabilities mean charity, discrimination, shortcomings and limitations.

⁴ This percentage reflects the awareness of policies that directly support People with disabilities; for those that indirectly support People with disabilities, the percentage is much lower.

Community attitudes toward people with disabilities	Percentage of agreeing responses
Being pitiable	From 98% to 99%
People with disabilities rely on others	From 18% to 32%
People with disabilities can't live a normal life	From 40% to 59,4%
People with disabilities are suffering due to their fate	From 56% to 65%
People with disabilities now deserve suffering for bad things they did in their previous incarnation	From 14% to 21%
Seeing People with disabilities means having bad luck	17%

Source: Institute for Social Development Studies (ISDS), 2007

Below are the main limitations and challenges that have restricted the effectiveness of community awareness raising about disability and People with disabilities during the execution of policies on People with disabilities over the past years.

- Limited or even no budget for disseminating legal documents on People with disabilities and social propaganda;
- Formalistic and cursory communication activities;
- Poor forms of propaganda, which have not gained attention of the propagandized people;
- Infrequent, small-scaled propaganda that has been mainly conducted in urban areas and densely populated areas, on holidays and Vietnam's traditional days like Vietnamese Day of People with disabilities, International Day of People with disabilities, Vietnamese War Invalids and Martyrs' Day. As a result, people in remote areas have not been aware of policies on People with disabilities;
- Administrations at different levels have not been truly concerned about the issues; instead, they assigned some mass organizations to coordinate the awareness raising campaign.

3.2. Health care for People with disabilities

a) Policies

In Vietnam, health care for People with disabilities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, which is to collaborate with other ministries and branches to develop and implement health care programs for People with disabilities. Policy framework on health care for People with disabilities, which has addressed issues of medical facilities development and health care priorities for People with disabilities, has been relatively complete. Some of the important policies are as followed: Community-based functional rehabilitation strategy, Law on Health Insurance No. 25/2008/QH12 dated 14th November 2008, and Law on medical care which was recti-

fied by the National Assembly and has come into effect since January 1, 2011. Such policies are the legal framework to provide People with disabilities with health services.

b) Outcomes

Over the past years, the Government and the Party have issued many legislations and policies for the health care of People with disabilities in Vietnam. According to the report by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, social health insurance cards have been issued and granted to 100 percent of People with disabilities from very low-income households in localities; orthopaedic and functional rehabilitation measures, and orthopaedic devices have been provided for about 300,000 People with disabilities for free; supporting devices such as wheelchairs, pushchairs, artificial limbs have been provided for more than 100,000 People with disabilities; orthopaedic surgeries and functional rehabilitation aids have been provided to hundreds of thousand children with disabilities.

Network of commune-level dispensaries have been established in almost all provinces in cities in the country. 98.6 percent of the communes have their own dispensaries; there are doctors in 67.7 percent of the dispensaries; and there are community health workers in nearly 85 percent of the villages, who are able to satisfy basic medical demands of people and People with disabilities. Community-based functional rehabilitation establishments have been developed in over 50 % of the districts and over 50% of the communes in 51 out of 63 provinces and cities.

The evaluation by National Assembly's Committee for Social Affairs in 2008 reveals that 52.4 percent of the People with disabilities were financially supported for their health check and functional rehabilitation by being allowed to pay reduced fees.



Health check for People with disabilities in ward 8 Tan Binh district

Report on the implementation of Decision 239/2006/QĐ-TTg on supporting People with disabilities in the period of 2006-2010 by the Ministry of Health shows that health care for People with disabilities is being properly concerned, which aims at fulfilling the following objectives: ensuring medical access for about 70 percent of the People with disabilities; providing functional rehabilitation operations for over 3,000 People with disabilities; refining the criteria for classifying types of disability and levels of disability severity; implementing community-based functional rehabilitation in 50 percent of the provinces; 50 percent of the districts and 50 percent of the communes in the country; and simultaneously improving staff's expertise about functional rehabilitation, especially those working at local health care providers; developing services of early identification and intervention for disabilities in children.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

People with disabilities still have very limited access to health services, especially those living in remote or difficult areas with poor transportation conditions. The results of the survey conducted in 2008 on the execution of laws on People with disabilities by the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs release that 58.34 percent of the People with disabilities and 80% of the households with People with disabilities are having difficulties accessing health care services for People with disabilities.

Although almost all of the communes have their own dispensaries but the quality of such dispensaries is limited. Only 46 percent of the dispensaries satisfy national standards. Doctors and teachers in the country and in the remote areas are not well qualified. Medical equipment and devices are rudimentary and backward, which cannot ensure the quality of the dispensaries.

Most of the households with People with disabilities suffer from financial problems (32.5 percent of which are considered poor households). Therefore, they have limited access to health services, especially high quality services because extra-expenses such as expenses for travel, accommodation, caring, medicine, etc., besides treatment fees, cannot be afforded by People with disabilities and their households. Further, procedures for and regulations on the use of social health insurance cards in cases of referral are too complicated to the majority of People with disabilities.

40 percents of the poor cannot have access to health services due to their poverty

At the 1st Health Economics Conference organized on 7-8 December 2010, Ly Ngoc Kinh, former director of Vietnam Administration Medical Service, vice-chairman of Vietnam Health Economics Association, said that "There exists a paradox in the society that the poor are often affected by many diseases but their accessibility to health services is much lower than that of the others." More specifically, around 40 percent of the poor cannot have access to health services since they have no money. For the same reason, they only go for a medical examination, on average, 2.9 times per year per person, while high-income people go to see a doctor 4.7 times per year per person. 40 percent of the high-income people, in comparison with 12 percent of the poor, can afford outpatient treatment in provincial-level hospitals. Up to 85 percent of the rich and only 20 percent of the poor are cured of diarrhoea.

Accessibility of the poor to health services in remote areas is extremely low due to a number of barriers; for example, the procedure of granting social insurance health cards is so complicated and the payment procedure requires plenty of documents from the insured.

Source: www.vietnamnet.com

Limitations and challenges in health care for People with disabilities:

- Though a community-based functional rehabilitation model has been implemented since 1987, the model has so far been operated mainly by health sectors. The contributions from other sectors are limited. Funds for implementing the model are limited, which mainly comes from international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Consequently, the program has not achieved the best results;

- Quality of health networks at commune or district level remains low. Commune-level dispensaries are short of equipment; the available equipment is backward. They also lack medicine, doctors and health workers with expertise in functional rehabilitation. Additionally, there have not been preferential policies for medical workers who are caring for People with disabilities and doing functional rehabilitation interventions for People with disabilities;

- There has not been a policy on granting social health insurance cards for persons with severe disabilities who are not from low-income households, and for persons with minor disabilities;

- The use of social health insurance cards remains problematic, especially in referring the patient to another health care provider for treatment or for functional rehabilitation. Medical care costs of several types of disability requiring functional rehabilitation measures, which are adopted in health care institutions, are not covered by social health insurance agencies. Most of supporting devices of People with disabilities are not paid by social health insurance agencies.

3.3. Education for children with disabilities

a) Policies

In the field of education-training, a number of policies on support for People with disabilities' access to education, the rights of institutions and people involved in providing education to People with disabilities, and policies that include regulations on the forms of education for People with disabilities have been issued and implemented to provide support for People with disabilities to access into the national education system. Some of the important policies include

Law on Education 2005 and Decree 75/2006/NĐ-CP guiding the implementation of some articles of the Law on Education with regulations on education for People with disabilities such



The Scholarship Awarding Ceremony for students with disabilities overcoming their difficulties

as Decision 23/2006/QĐ-BGD-ĐT issued on May 22nd 2006 by the Ministry of Education and Training issuing regulations on inclusive education for People with disabilities; Cross-ministerial circular of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, and Education and Training on August 10th, 2005 guiding the implementation of support policies on the universalization of junior secondary schooling which stipulates that ‘Pupils with disabilities of poor families are exempt from tuition fees and school construction fees.’

b) Outcomes

In implementing the Law on Education and Ordinance on Persons with Disabilities, the Government, ministries and localities have channelled resources on establishing and developing suitable forms of education for People with disabilities. Up to now, the 03 forms of education for People with disabilities being implemented are inclusive education, specialized education and integrated or semi-inclusive education, which have helped create favourable conditions for People with disabilities to select the form of education best suited with their disability levels and ability.

Inclusive education

The management of inclusive education has become part of the activities undertaken by educational management agencies and institutions. A system of inclusive education support centers at the provincial level has been formed in 20 provinces and cities nationwide.

A training network on inclusive education for cadres, teachers has been established and developed at universities, colleges and research institutes. The number of management cadres and teachers involved in providing education for People with disabilities has been increasing in both quantity and quality. Since 2002, nearly 300 students finish training programs on education for People with disabilities at university and college level each year. More than 10 thousand management cadres for kindergarten and general education at district and provincial education and training departments all over the country have received training on education for People with disabilities.



Children with disabilities overcoming their difficulties in inclusive education

The scale and scope of education for People with disabilities have been expanded; facilities to ensure People with disabilities’ learning have been added and improved. As reported by provincial educational and training departments, in the 2001-2002 school years, there were about 70,000 People with disabilities attending 1,900 schools in 97 districts of 541 provinces/cities. In the 2003-2004 school years, the country had 100,000 People with disabilities receiving inclusive education. In the 2004-2005 school year, about 230,000 children with disabilities went to school, accounting for 24.22%, and

in the 2007-2008 school year, about 290,000 Children with disabilities went to school, which accounted for 28% of the total number of Children with disabilities.

Social participation in inclusive education has been promoted with local authorities, social organizations, communities and individuals participating and giving active support for inclusive education through activities such as mobilizing Children with disabilities to go to school, making financial contributions to improve schools' facilities, buying study equipment and providing different forms of insurance to People with disabilities. In addition, organizations and individuals at home and abroad have given effective technical and financial assistance for the implementation and promotion of inclusive education for People with disabilities in Vietnam, with more than 20 international organizations providing direct support in this field.

Specialized education

The system of specialized schools has developed in both quantity and quality. From 90 schools in 2001, now there are 106 specialized schools for Children with disabilities throughout the country with facilities, classrooms, equipment and other conditions relatively sufficient to provide care, specialized education and rehabilitation for People with disabilities, as well as to develop several specialized education programmes for some forms of disabilities including mental disability, hearing impairment and sight impairment.

The number of Children with disabilities participating in specialized education keeps increasing, with 7000 Children with disabilities going to school in the 2001-2002 school year, 7,500 in 2003-2004, and about 9000 participating in specialized education institutions in the 2006-2007 school year.

Integrated/ semi-inclusive education or other forms of education

Other forms of education for People with disabilities such as community-based day schools and classes at communes, mixed classes, schools with village-based classes (with one main campus and satellite classes), ethnic boarding schools, flexible classes, love classes...have been established with various forms so as to serve the needs for care, education and rehabilitation of not only People with disabilities but also children with special needs.

c) Constraints, difficulties and challenges

At present, education for Children with disabilities in Vietnam is still limited in terms of both quantity and quality. The majority of Children with disabilities have not been able to access to education, especially Children with disabilities in rural and mountainous areas and the group of children with mental disabilities. The 2007 report by the Institute of Educational Science on education for Children with disabilities showed that up to 55.49% of girls and 39.01% of boys with disabilities have never been to school. The annual rate of children mobilized to go to school is very low and increases very slowly with 24.22 % for the 2005-2006 school years, nearly 27.38% for 2006-2007 and in the school year 2007-2008, only 28 % of Children with disabilities went to school, mainly at kindergarten and primary levels⁵. Moreover, the situation of dropout rate

⁵ The rate of Children with disabilities at lower-secondary is only about 0.91% of the total number of Children with disabilities going to school.

among Children with disabilities is also a matter of concern. According to the 2007 report, as much as 32.99% of Children with disabilities going to school have dropped out of school.

In addition, the network of educational institutions for People with disabilities is still insufficient, and with low quality. In 2002, there were only 90 specialized educational institutions for People with disabilities in the country. In 2008, the number was 105, and now, only 02 more were added, bringing the total number of specialized educational institutions for Children with disabilities to 107. There is also a severe shortage of educational management cadres and teachers who can meet minimum qualification requirements to provide education for Children with disabilities.

The difficulties and challenges towards education for Children with disabilities that have been identified from the implementation process in the past years include:

- The awareness of People with disabilities and their families on education for People with disabilities is still limited, so the benefits of education for People with disabilities have not been appreciated. Surveys to evaluate the implementation of laws on People with disabilities conducted in 2009 showed that only 26.1% of households with People with disabilities wanted support to send them to school and only 6.9% of People with disabilities surveyed from ages 6 to 18 wanted to have education;

- There have not been sufficient data and information on the scale, gender structure, and disability type structure among Children with disabilities. Current data and information in all fields are lacking and inconsistent among ministries and sectors from central to local levels;

- There is a shortage of specialized education institutions for Children with disabilities. The current institutions are unevenly located and mostly concentrated in urban areas, thus failing to meet the learning needs of Children with disabilities in other regions;

- There are difficulties in education for the deaf. While deaf students mostly learn in specialized primary schools, they do not have the opportunity to study at higher levels because of the lack of available schools. At present, there are only some pilot classes for deaf students at higher levels in several provinces;

- The existing inclusive education support centers are not enough with limited capacity to implement their function of providing support on inclusive education. These centers are mainly concentrated in some cities and provinces;

- Human resources for inclusive education support is lacking in number and weak. The networks of key teachers on inclusive education for each district, school cluster and school have neither been established nor worked effectively;

- State budget allocations for education of Children with disabilities have not met the needs for education among Children with disabilities;

- Legal documents on protection, care and education for People with disabilities have not provided sufficient and detailed articles on contents and targeted objects of inclusive education; the mechanism for supervising the implementation of legal documents relating to integrating

inclusive education into the mainstream education and training system shows a lot of shortcomings.

3.4. Vocational training and employment for People with disabilities

a) Policies

The government has guided the implementation of the issue of vocational training and employment for People with disabilities. The 2006 Law on Vocational Training includes Chapter VII which regulates that vocational training for People with disabilities must be aimed at enabling People with disabilities to acquire job skills suited with their ability to create their own jobs or find jobs to ensure a stable life and community integration. The government has also committed to provide financial support and other preferential loans to vocational training institutions for People with disabilities. To promote vocational training for People with disabilities, the Labour Code issued in 1994 includes a separate article with 4 items regulating employees who are People with disabilities. The article clearly states that “The State shall protect the right to work of People with disabilities and encourage the recruitment of and creation of jobs for People with disabilities.” The State also implements financial support policies for People with disabilities to create jobs. Articles 125 of the Labour Code states “The State shall annually set aside funds in the budget in order to assist People with disabilities to recover from their disability or to regain their ability to work, or to train People with disabilities, and shall formulate policies to provide low interest loans to People with disabilities for them to create self-employment and stabilize their own lives.”

b) Outcomes

Vocational Training for People with disabilities

Vocational teaching and vocational training are important contents in training and improving the quality of social human resources in general and also to ensure jobs for employees. For People with disabilities, vocational training is the premise for creating and promoting jobs, helping them to gradually integrate into the community.

In Vietnam, the State has attached great attention to vocational training for People with disabilities, creating favourable conditions from vocational training facilities development to support policies for People with disabilities to get vocational training, and preferential policies for people involved in vocational teaching for People with disabilities.

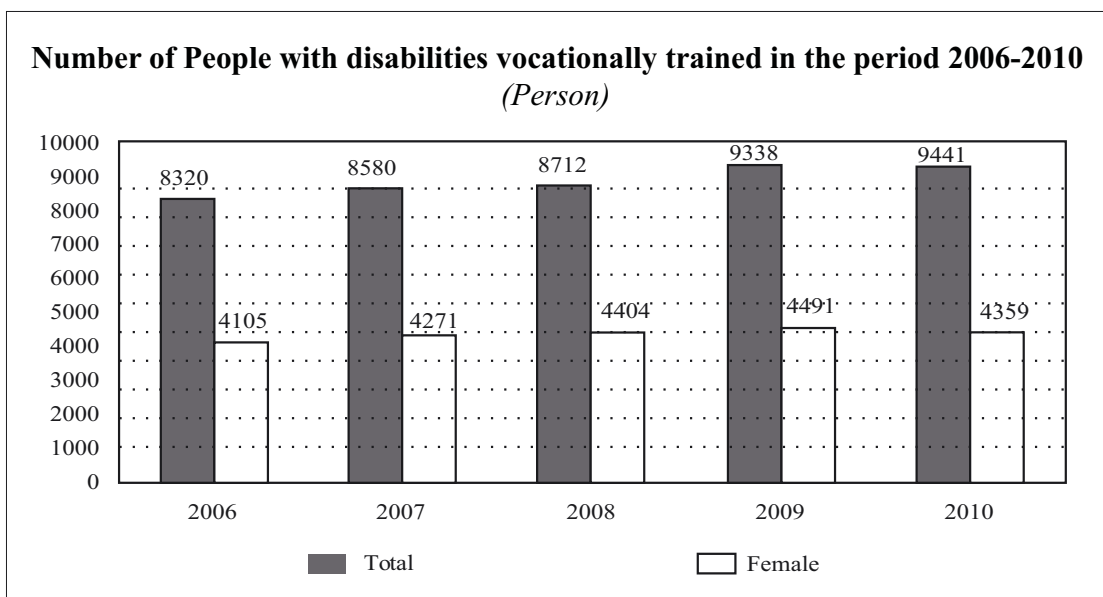
The number of vocational training institutions in Vietnam has increased their scale and scope and improved their quality. At the same time, vocational training for People with disabilities is gradually socialized with the participation from more private sectors. At present, there are 256 vocational training institutions (of which 78 are private institutions) located in 56 cities and provinces throughout the country. In these total 256 training institutions, there are only 55 specialized institutions in vocational training for People with disabilities, and the rest participate in providing vocational training for People with disabilities.

State management on vocational training from central to local levels have been strengthened. Legal documents on vocational training stipulate that vocational training institutions for People with disabilities be given priority to favourable location, capital support, training funds, tax deduction and exemption, and loans at preferential interests. Other vocational training in-

stitutions which include People with disabilities into their vocational training or job skill upgrading programs will be prioritized in investments and training funds. People with disabilities involved in vocational training will be considered for scholarship and social allowances, reduction or exemption of tuition fees based on the level of reduced work ability.

Over the past years, hundreds of billion dong from the state budget have been allocated to vocational training for People with disabilities through the National Target Program on education and training to invest in building institutions, support short-term vocational training for People with disabilities (2005: 11.5 billion VND, 2006: 20 billion VND, 2007: 156 billion VND, and 2009: 183 billion VND (including two targeted groups: farmers and People with disabilities).

The number of People with disabilities receiving vocational training is increasing. In the 1999-2004 period, there were 19,000 People with disabilities having vocational training; in the 2005-2008 period, about 8000 People with disabilities received vocational training each year, a two-fold increase compared to the previous period (in 2008 alone, there were about 8,712 People with disabilities receiving vocational training.)



Source: General Department for Vocational Training, MOLISA, 2010.

Employment for People with disabilities

Employment is of great significance to People with disabilities as it generates income to meet the needs of People with disabilities and their families as well as assist them in rehabilitation, social communication and integration to ensure their citizenship.

Over the years, the State of Viet Nam has applied various measures to promote employment for People with disabilities, promulgated and implemented numerous policies to give preferential treatment to encourage businesses in employing People with disabilities and support People

with disabilities' businesses, and has established the National Employment Fund. In particular, since 2006 the sector of labour, invalids and social affairs has frequently organized job fairs with a special area for People with disabilities, attracting the participation of many businesses, vocational training institutions and People with disabilities. Therefore, People with disabilities have had many more employment opportunities and the number of People with disabilities having jobs is increasing every year. Evidence includes the two-fold increase in the number of People with disabilities' production and business entities from 177 businesses with 7,821 employees in 1995 to 400 businesses employing over 15,000 people now. The Blind Association of Vietnam alone manages 146 businesses with about 4,000 workers.

The National Employment Fund has assigned the Association of the Blind to manage over VND 31 billion to provide loans to around 13,000 members for business development and job generation⁶, about 65% of households having People with disabilities have enjoyed production promotion support policies such as: tax reduction and exemption, preferential credit support, production land support...

In addition, there are innovations and efforts from organizations and individuals to generate employment for People with disabilities. Typically, with supports from VNAH and USAID, the business network to promote integrated employment for People with disabilities (Blue Ribbon Employer Council-BREC) was established in 2007 by Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). At present, the network has developed and attracted more than 100 member businesses from the northern, central and southern regions. The member businesses in the network have pioneered in providing consultation and employment of People with disabilities, in recruiting and assisting People with disabilities in an integrated, mainstream environment, and in providing informational and technical support regarding issues in workers with disabilities to businesses. End of 2010, BREC provided inclusive employment to 990 People with disabilities and vocational training to 300 People with disabilities. These results serve as the ground for promotion of business role in creating jobs in a mainstream environment for People with disabilities.

c) Constraints, difficulties, challenges

Vocational training for People with disabilities

The number of People with disabilities participating in vocational training is still very limited with a marginal increase. The rate of People with disabilities getting a job after vocational training is very low with only a small number finding jobs in large businesses, thus most people have to generate jobs by themselves. As estimated by the Commission for Social Affairs of the National Assembly, there was only about 12.1% People with disabilities received vocational training in 2008.

Difficulties and challenges:

- Inadequate understanding of vocational training among People with disabilities and their families; and their very low demand for vocational training. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs 2008 survey shows that only 13.7% of People with disabilities express needs

⁶ Employment support services for disabled people – Department of Labour and Employment – MOLISA 2008

for vocational training;

- Inadequate awareness and understanding of vocational training for People with disabilities among authorities of all levels;
- Weak and inadequate vocational training systems, incapable of meeting the demand for vocational training in general and vocational training for People with disabilities in particular;
- Inappropriate training content, training areas and forms with a too strong focus on theory and lack of practice; unavailability of textbooks and vocational training equipment specially designed for People with disabilities;
- Vocational trainers for People with disabilities lacking knowledge, skills and understanding of technical, pedagogical and managerial matters in working with People with disabilities;
- Limited capacity in job placement for People with disabilities after vocational training among employment centers;
- Unavailability of statistics, assessment and categorization of People with disabilities in terms of disability level, form and working ability to help provide vocational training appropriate to their learning and working abilities and requirements of their future employment;
- Inappropriateness of jobs and professions offered in training programs to the labour market with prevalence of short term training and training of jobs requiring low qualifications.

Employment for People with disabilities

In reality, there is a great demand for employment among People with disabilities which has been partially met. On the other hand, most People with disabilities have unstable, temporary, low-skills required jobs, and the majority have generated their own jobs or found jobs in charity organizations and institutions. Very few have found stable jobs in other agencies, organizations and businesses, or jobs that require skills and professional knowledge. People with disabilities' income from employment is low as People with disabilities mainly work in agricultural, petty industrial, handicraft and service sectors.

Difficulties and challenges:

- Along with factors reducing employment opportunities of People with disabilities like low levels in education and technical knowledge, self-constraints due to disabilities, there are social barriers in employment such as: negative attitude and concerns regarding quality of work and labour costs among businesses, some businesses "requiring good appearance", working sites, infrastructure, machinery and equipment inappropriate to People with disabilities, architectural works and means of public transport designed inappropriately to People with disabilities' use. This will take much time and community supports to overcome these barriers;
- Limited understanding about employment for People with disabilities among businesses, agencies and organizations. Most businesses are not keen on recruiting People with disabilities for such reasons as: working hours for People with disabilities not exceeding 7 hours/day, 42 hours/week as stipulated by the labour law not suitable to positions in production lines; People with disabilities' professional qualifications not meeting requirements of production technologies; health conditions of People with disabilities may cause work accidents, especially in met-

allurgical, chemical, geological, mining and mineral, and construction industries, etc;

- As stipulated by the Labour Law, working hours for People with disabilities are not over 7 hours/day or 42 hours/week. In reality, from the perspective of equal opportunities, such stipulation reduces employment opportunities of People with disabilities as it does affect production cycle and productivity of production businesses, especially businesses having production lines and shifts;

- Employment support services for People with disabilities mainly focusing on vocational training and job placement while providing limited services on job consultation, on-the-job support, and reasonable adjustments at the workplace. Organizations offering services regarding employment and rehabilitation of working ability for People with disabilities such as vocational training institutions, employment centers, rehabilitation agencies-hospitals and businesses have not yet had a strong link and cooperation since there has not been a formal program on vocational rehabilitation for People with disabilities in Vietnam. For instance, workers involved in work accidents would need the cooperation of such agencies as hospitals, employment centers, businesses, and vocational training institutions in supporting them to recover their working ability, return to their former jobs or move to a more suitable career;

- There is no official statistical data in the rate of People with disabilities having employment after vocational training, or the rate of People with disabilities staying in jobs after three months etc.

3.5. Social assistance and poverty reduction for People with disabilities

a) Policies

Social assistance policies

In Vietnam, social assistance policies consist of two main categories: regular assistance and relief assistance. The assistance policies play an important role in supporting regular and relief income for vulnerable groups such as People with disabilities, the elder people, children of especially difficult circumstances to stabilize their lives and improve their resistance to risks.

As for regular social assistance, improvements have been gradually made towards broadening target beneficiaries and increasing assistance rate. Decree No. 13/2010/NĐ-CP dated 27/2/2010 on amendments to several articles in Decree No. 67/2007/NĐ-CP dated 13/4/2007 on policies to support People with disabilities who lost their working capacity in both poor household and non-poor households, using state budget. In addition, many models of social assistance have been developed to meet the needs of specific target groups. The movement of “socializing” assistance to target groups has been broadened and resulted in partial contribution of finance to the limited state budget.

As for relief assistance, a movement of peer support and assistance has spread and involved all classes of people, civil societies, business community, international organizations and communities of Vietnamese overseas. This has resulted in a remarkable contribution to compensate for insufficient funding from the state budget. The relief assistance has contributed greatly to stabilization of risk groups affected by natural disasters.

Poverty reduction policies and programs

The recent poverty reduction policies and programs have been of great importance in ensuring social security for poor persons, poor households and poor communities. The system of poverty reduction policies is relatively comprehensive, focusing on areas of specific characteristics, remote areas, areas of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas. Poverty reduction is simultaneously implemented on three dimensions namely (i) promoting access to health care and education services, vocational training and legal assistance services, housing and clean water; (ii) supporting production development through policies such as grace credits and production land privileges for poor households of ethnic minorities, through promotion of agriculture-fishery-forestry, through development of crafts and labor export; and (iii) developing required infrastructure for communes of special difficulty. Poverty reduction programs have targeted the poorest areas. Poor people have gained access to grace credits as the borrowing procedures has been streamlined and simplified. Support policies on education and health services access have brought about practical benefits to the poor. Housing policies have contributed an important share in stabilizing the lives of poor households, especially ethnic minority households and the ones with People with disabilities.

Recent poverty reduction policies and programs have played an important role in the development of public service system, greatly contributed to improving access to health care services, education, housing, transportation, electricity, clean water, environment sanity, information and consultation services and legal assistance by the poor in general and by People with disabilities in particular. Civil societies and communities have increasingly involved and played a more significant role in community-based support activities for the poor. Many models of support services to poor and vulnerable groups (such as the old, People with disabilities, children of difficult circumstances) have been established and implemented efficiently and potentially multiplied.

b) Outcomes

According to reports by MOLISA, by 2008, monthly finance assistance has been provided to 395,962 poor People with disabilities and 8,599 households with 2 People with disabilities or more; 9,798 People with disabilities have been provided for in social assistance establishments. In comparison to year 1998, the number of People with disabilities who receive social assistance has increased four times. The monthly assistance rate has also adjusted from VND 45,000 in 2000 to VND 65,000 in 2004 and to VND 120,000 in 2007. Social assistance policies have greatly contributed to stabilizing material and spiritual lives of People with disabilities.

Besides, monthly finance assistance has also been provided to 622,783 People with disabilities who are wounded veterans, ones who subject to policies for veterans, sick veterans, military officers who had accident in action, military officers affected by professional diseases. Monthly assistance has also been provided to 133,356 persons participated in the Resistance and their blood children who are affected by chemical poisons, 4,700 households who contributed to the revolution subject to the Ordinance on Privileges to the Revolution Participants and another 30,869 people who suffer from professional diseases and accidents are provided monthly allowance.

Furthermore, the number of social assistance establishments has increased sharply. By December 2008, 571 social assistance establishments across the country (one third of which are non-state establishments) are hosting 14, 613 target persons.

Poverty reduction programs have effectively supported poor households, households of difficult circumstances and households with People with disabilities to maintain a stable life. For three years (2006-2008), nearly 4.2 million households had access to loans; nearly 2.1 poor people received livelihood consultation and technical support; 60 thousand poor people were partially or fully exempted from vocational training tuition fees; 30 thousand persons received support to do vocational training annually; about 7.8 million poor students were partially or fully exempted from school fees and school infrastructure contributions; 99.54% of poor people were covered by health insurance in 2008; 340 thousand poor households received support to eliminate sub-standard/temporary housing. The infrastructure of areas in special difficulty has been considerably improved.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

A group of People with disabilities has not benefited by social assistance policies as the target beneficiaries of the Ordinance are only incomeless and unsupported People with disabilities. The assistance rate is also too low (equivalent to 60% of the poverty standard) in comparison to the living standard of the local community and thus has not ensured the livelihood of People with disabilities.

Difficulties and challenges:

- The process of validating eligibility of beneficiaries to receive social assistance has weaknesses and thus misses out eligible persons;

- The number of nursing homes for People with disabilities is insufficient, not meeting their needs. Private sector's participation in providing care and services for People with disabilities remains limited;

- Poverty reduction programs have not yet included specific policies for target groups who are People with disabilities.

3.6. People with disabilities' access to transportation and infrastructure

a) Policies

Accessibility in transportation

To support People with disabilities to get access to public transportation and infrastruc-



Giving gifts to children with disabilities who are children of policemen

ture, the government has stipulated various legal documents that regulate priorities given to People with disabilities joining traffic. The legislation also specifies standards by which newly constructed, upgraded and renovated transportation works ensure access by People with disabilities. Roadway Traffic Law No. 23/2008/QH12 regulates privileges given to People with disabilities joining roadway traffic, which require vehicles and traffic participants to prioritize and assist People with disabilities and old people when they cross bridges or on a ferry. It also claims that newly constructed, upgraded and renovated transportation works have to conform to required technical specifications and conditions for safe transportation of people and vehicles, including pedestrians and People with disabilities. Railway Law No. 35/2005/QH11 stipulates standards for railway stations and equipments in service of People with disabilities on passenger cars. Vietnam Civil Aviation Law No. 66/2006/QH11 stipulates obligations of the carrier when carrying passengers: to take care of passengers, especially those with disabilities or in need of care during the carriage. The government also issues sectoral standards (which are being converted into technical specifications): specifications of roadway motor vehicles and buses are registered under code 22 TCN-302-06; sectoral standards for railway transportation means, passenger carriages and requirements for railway production and assembling warehouses are registered under code 22TCN- 347-06.

Accessibility in infrastructure building

In 2002 the Ministry of Construction issued accessible codes and standards in construction for People with disabilities. The codes and standards are applied to new construction and renovation of public buildings, houses, apartment buildings, roads and sidewalks. A number of documents including construction standards to ensure that People with disabilities can access and use; Housing and Buildings - Basic principles of construction to ensure the accessibility and use of People with disabilities; Road and sidewalks – Basic principles in construction to ensure the accessibility and use of People with disabilities; Housing - construction guide to ensure the accessibility and use of People with disabilities.

This is a system of legal regulations and technical solutions to meet the requirements of accessibility for People with disabilities in infrastructure building.

b) Outcomes

Accessibility in transportation

• Awareness-raising and dissemination activities

Since 2004, awareness-raising and dissemination activities for stakeholders (managers, drivers and conductors, lecturers and students of transportation) have been carried out regularly in various forms, including:

Organizing workshops to raise awareness on and exchange experience about accessible public transportation; holding a conference to implement standard TCXDVN 265:2002 which specify requirements for roads and walkway as well as fundamental principles in transportation work to ensure the access by People with disabilities.

Compiling and publish teaching and learning materials on accessible public transportation, which will be used at university. Compiling training materials to be used for bus drivers and

conductors with one whole chapter on services for People with disabilities. So far, such training has been conducted all over the country; collaborating with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to organize workshop on integrated designs for accessible public transportation in Vietnam (to be used for projects funded by loans from JBIC); compiling and publish the book “ Legal documents on accessible public transportation”. Copies of the book have been sent to People ‘s Committees and Transportation Departments of 63 provinces and cities and related agencies for further communication, dissemination and education activities; organizing a conference to communicate the legislation for and to review the Outcomes of the Program on Accessible Public Transportation.

Over the past few years, awareness-raising activities have made positive impacts on transportation awareness, attitude and behaviour of the community and ensured the technical specifications in constructing, upgrading and renovating transportation works and means.

• **Putting accessible bus routes into being**

Ministry of Transportation worked in cooperation with organizations such as VNAH to implement pilot accessible bus routes in Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang and Hanoi. According to statistics, from 2006 to 2008, 160,773 turns of disabled passengers have used public buses in Ho Chi Minh City. Specific activities are as below:

- Renovating transportation means : installing wheelchair straps and hooks, wheelchair lifts and safety belts on some buses; removing passenger chairs to create more spaces for wheelchairs; installing inox handrails of 1 meter in height and 6.5 meter in length; draw zebras and signpost of entrance for wheelchair on buses; stick disability logos (inside and outside of buses);

- Renovating bus terminals: Creating entrance and exit for wheelchairs, lowering down the curb, creating slight slope of 1.2 meter in width, post up disability logos and information on buses in service of People with disabilities at the terminals;

- Constructing a model bus transit terminal in Long Bien District, using new designs of infrastructure in service of People with disabilities such as new curb lines that allow buses to stop close to the pavement with minimal height discrepancy between bus floor and pavement, entrance and exit lanes for wheelchairs and direction lines for visually impaired people. At present, three big cities namely Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang have put modern accessible bus routes for People with disabilities into operation.

• **Manufacturing accessible means of transportation**

Vietnam is doing pilot manufacture of



Wheelchair for people with disabilities at the airport

accessible means of transportation in service of People with disabilities. We have successfully manufactured accessible bus of stipulated standards: space and safety devices for one wheelchair are provided on passenger buses with wheelchair lift, hydraulic movement system and automatic control system for wheel-chaired persons to access. One railway passenger carriage, which ensures accessible public transportation standard, has also been successfully manufactured.

• **Organizing for People with disabilities to be fully or partially exempted from public transportation fares**

Since 2006, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have organized People with disabilities to be fully or partially exempted from public transportation fares. Until now, 16, 286 fare exemption cards have been issued and by 31st December 2008, the number is 10,000 in Ho Chi Minh City.

Railway transportation sector has also regulated a 10% discount for wounded veterans, SOS students and students with disabilities.

Accessibility in infrastructure building

In 2007, the Ministry of Construction investigated and surveyed the implementation of accessibility codes and standards in construction. Realizing that the codes and standards mainly serve people with physical disabilities, now the Ministry is continuing to complete the codes and standards to ensure the accessibility of the blind and the deaf.

After a period of application, many large construction projects takes into account the needs of accessibility of People with disabilities. Some public buildings have been renovated to improve accessibility for People with disabilities such as Hanoi Railway Station, Saigon Railway Station, Culture and Friendship Palace in Hanoi, Ethnology Museum, Ben Thanh Theatre, Culture House in Da Nang ... These efforts initially provide opportunities for People with disabilities to participate in social activities and increase their ability to live and integrate into the community. However, in reality, the number of projects that meet the accessibility needs of People with disabilities is very limited. Accessibility was applied in some public construction sites, but because of incorrect and loose applications of legal and technical documents, they failed to address accessibility of People with disabilities, such as the slope is too high, no handrails, no signs for People with disabilities.

Even in big cities like Hanoi, many renovated parks, gardens, zoos, squares did not meet the accessibility standards or did not take accessibility into consideration. For examples, stones on sidewalks of Sword Lake, Lenin Garden were highly polished so it was very easy to slip. In Ho Chi Minh city, results of a survey on public construction sites conducted by the Open University of Ho Chi Minh city showed that among 453 public construction sites serving People with disabilities such as medical buildings, administrative agencies, cultural and educational buildings, apartment buildings... built before and after 2003 (the time of the Ministry of Construction 's codes and standards took effect), there were 267 public construction sites that had main entrances with high slope (accounting for about 60% of the total surveyed public construction sites), 53 did not have toilets (for people without and people with disabilities), 34 did not have parking lots and did not offer service of keeping tricycles for People with disabilities.

Out of the 264 surveyed public construction sites, there were up to 260 ones that had no indicating signs for People with disabilities.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

Accessibility in transportation

Over the past few years, although initial progress in promoting accessible public transportation for People with disabilities have been seen, significant results of accessible public transportation have not yet achieved. It is still difficult for People with disabilities to join the traffic. This shortcoming is obvious in both the insufficient and underdeveloped transportation infrastructure and in the means of transportation.

In reality, the number of newly constructed, renovated or upgraded transportation works which ensure the access of People with disabilities is very few. Those that meet technical standards of accessible transportation are often funded by state budget or are pilot renovation works. A number of newly constructed transportation works have certain components in service of People with disabilities. However, People with disabilities still find it difficult to access them.

There are also too few means of accessible public transport. Across the country, there are only 4 bus routes of which 2 to 3 buses meet technical standards for accessible public transportation and these routes only exist in two big cities. There is only one train passenger carriage that technical standards for accessible public transportation.

Difficulties and challenges:

- There exist many shortcomings in transportation infrastructure of Vietnam. Road system is inadequate. There are limited number means of transportation which are not of expected quality and standards;

- Local governments' direction is not consistent and comprehensive. The local governments have not provided close direction and monitoring to its bodies of competence in inspecting and granting construction permission of transportation works;

- Awareness, understanding and conformity to disability rights by investors, consultation and design companies, construction companies is not sufficient. There still exists resistance resulted from the fear of cost increase. In some cases, the construction company conform to general standards but fail to meet technical requirements. (For example, the entrance slope onto pavements is over 120 which makes it hard for wheelchair people to get onto the pavements. Another example, the work is constructed based on accessible transportation design but is not integrated for People with disabilities to use as the entrance is located in hard-to-find places without any signpost.);

- There is no punishment mechanism for those who do not conform to regulations in the Standard and other related legislations in investment for newly constructed, renovated and upgraded construction works;

- The state budget for this is limited. For an instance, project 239 was evaluated to be very specific on objectives and budget allocation. However, in its review report 2006-2010, Ministry of Construction claims that it is impossible to achieve the target of "100% of newly designed

and newly constructed public facilities and transportation work conform to current regulations on disability access and 20-30% of existing facilities to be renovated to meet requirements of accessibility for People with disabilities.

Accessibility in infrastructure building

- Lack of close and consistent directions of authorities, technical agencies when assessing and licensing construction works;
- Awareness of investors is low, plus the worry that expenses will highly increase when applying accessibility standards;
- Many projects are implemented but do not properly follow technical standards because of loose monitoring;
- There is no punishment mechanism for those who do not conform to regulations in the Standard and other related legislations in investment for newly constructed, renovated and upgraded construction works.

3.7. Accessibility in information and communication for People with disabilities

a) Policies

Article 9 of International Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities claims "... States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to People with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to information and communications technologies and systems..." The sixth priority in Biwako Millennium Framework for Action also specifies the right to access to information and communication, including information and communication technologies and assistance.

Access to information and communication plays an important role in supporting People with disabilities to integrate into the community and to find jobs and job opportunities. In 2006, Vietnam stipulated Law on Information Technology. Item 6 in article 5 of the Law states that "make preferential policies to make organizations and individuals involved in information technology application and development activities in respect of agriculture, rural, remote, border and island areas and for ethnic minorities, People with disabilities or persons with difficult conditions". Besides, Circular No. 28/2009/TT-BTTTT by Ministry of Information and Communication regulates the application of standards and technology which support People with disabilities to access to and use information and communication technology. Currently, the Ministry of Communication and Information has been developing standards supporting People with disabilities in accessing information and communication technology, guidance on designing products and services of information and communication technology to ensure the accessibility of People with disabilities.

b) Outcomes

In Vietnam, the radios and television broadcast have covered all areas of the country. People in any places can get access to radios and television broadcasts if they have supporting equipment. Results from a number of sampled surveys on People with disabilities show that 76.8 -85% of households with People with disabilities have TVs; 35- 45% of them have radios.

Thus, we can conclude that People with disabilities have relatively good access to information via radio and television.

Vietnam is also one of the countries which have fastest speed of telecommunication development. The rate of people who own telephones, especially cell phones has increased remarkably. This general development has brought about many benefits for People with disabilities. In Vietnam, the speed at which the Internet spread out is also very high. People with disabilities have many opportunities to access information via the Internet. At present, there are many websites for People with disabilities such as <http://nccd.molisa.gov.vn/>; <http://www.nghilucsong.net>; <http://www.nguoikhuyettat.com>; <http://pwd.vn/>; <http://asvho.org.vn>; <http://tamhonviet.net> and <http://cung.khoinghiep.net>. Some information and communication software that support People with disabilities, including screen-reading software for visually impaired persons and communication support for deaf persons are available.

b) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

Most of People with disabilities and households with People with disabilities are in difficult economic conditions, which lead to lack of means to access information. Research results from Institute of Social Development Studies (ISDS) in 2007 show that 39% - 48 % of the sample said they lack means to access information; about 34 -35% said there were not enough communication forms and information services relevant to People with disabilities .

The development of communication service providers for People with disabilities is still very slow, mainly provided by state agencies and without participation of the private sector. The forms in which information is communicated is not diversified and do not ensure access by People with disabilities, especially by visually impaired or deaf persons.

A popular and efficient means to access information is the Internet. However, the number of People with disabilities using the Internet is still limited, firstly because of shortage of support equipment and secondly because of unavailability of the Internet in certain places at certain times and thirdly because of People with disabilities' inedequacy of skills and knowlege to use it, especially those in remote, rural and mountainous areas.

On the other hand, the policies/standards of rights of information access for People with disabilities are still in its initial development period and thus are not comprehensive with many aspects to be studied, supplemented and improved.

3.8. Accessibility in culture and sports for People with disabilities

a) Policies

Since the Decree came into effects, legal documents on culture, sports and entertainment have been stipulated to create preferential conditions for People with disabilities to participate in, to receive training in, to compete and develop their talents in sports, culture and arts as well as to enjoy cultural and sport values. Major legal documents to be mentioned include Law on Physical Training and Sports in 2003, Decision No.170/2003/QĐ-TTg dated 14/8/2003 by the Prime Minister on preferential policies for cultural enjoyment, cross ministry Circular No. 46/2006/TTLT-BVHTT-BTC dated 25/4/2006 by Ministry of Culture and Information (now known as Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) on preferential policies for cultural enjoy-

ment, Decision No. 16/2005/QĐ-BVHTT dated 04/05/2005 on the operation of provincial and municipal libraries.

b) Outcomes

Over the past years, People with disabilities' participation in cultural and artistic activities has positively increased. Since 1997, the Sports and Arts Competition for People with disabilities have been held once every five years, involving thousands of People with disabilities from all over the country. At local level, performance art festivals are also organized annually. Regulations that ensure that People with disabilities have access to movies, art performances, museum visits, relics visits have been seriously observed by organizations and individuals. The number of published Braille books has increased annually. Reading rooms in service of People with disabilities have come into being in several localities, (two reading rooms especially for visually impaired persons have come into operation at General Science Library in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi Library).

Physical training and sport activities for People with disabilities have strongly developed across localities in terms of both size and number of training areas. Several provinces and cities have established sports clubs for People with disabilities. Sport tournaments for People with disabilities are organized annually with the participation of about 500 competitors in 5-8 competition areas. Since 2006, the Paralympics are organized once every 4 years after the national sport competition. In addition, Vietnamese People with disabilities also take part in ASEAN Paralympics once every two years and many other continental and world sports events.

Furthermore, material conditions and infrastructure for cultural and sports activities of People with disabilities have gradually improved more, attracting many People with disabilities to join. The staff who support People with disabilities have also steadily improved at various levels. Research on People with disabilities' needs of physical training and sport competition has been done at all levels (including awards for People with disabilities in tournaments and competitions). Investments have been made to renovate programs, contents and training methods in service of People with disabilities in physical training and sports competition.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

Practically, due to subjective and objective reasons, the number of People with disabilities participating in cultural and sports activities is still much limited. Research results by ISDS in 2007 shows that at least two third of surveyed People with disabilities did not take part in any socio-cultural activities 12 months prior to the survey. The causes claimed by 50% of the informants were difficulties in transportation and communication, followed by inconfidence and being not invited or not knowing the venues of the events. These results reflect the barriers that hinder People with disabilities from participating in cultural sports and tourist activities.



The 13th cultural and sport festival for children with disabilities (2009)

Difficulties and challenges:

- Lack of places or even no places for People with disabilities to participate in cultural and sports activities. Until now, only 5-7 provinces and cities have sports clubs for People with disabilities with no trend of increase over the past many years;
- Infrastructure for physical training and sports (including venues and specialized equipment) for People with disabilities are inadequate, not comprehensive and not suitable. In most cases, they are not available for People with disabilities to use for their training and practice;
- The majority of cultural public facilities such as cinemas, theatres and libraries in Vietnam are hard for People with disabilities to access as they are not designed to be accessible for People with disabilities (for examples with no entrance for People with disabilities);
- Governments of all levels do not pay due attention to disabled persons' right to access cultural activities, physical training and sports by People with disabilities;
- Cultural products and services lack accessibility for People with disabilities. For instance, it is difficult for the deaf, the blind to access to information on tivi, movies, newspapers, etc.

3.9. Organization of/for People with disabilities

a) Policies

To support People with disabilities to integrate into the society on an equal basis, to improve the representation of People with disabilities at all levels as a measure to ensure their full participation and integration into the society and to promote the voice of People with disabilities in the society, Vietnam has issued legal documents on the establishment of organizations by/for People with disabilities. Below are several legislations on organizations by/for People with disabilities:

- Decree No. 88/2003/NĐ-CP by Government dated 30th July 2003 on organizing and operating associations;
- Circular No. 01/2004/TT-BNV by Ministry of Home Affairs dated 15/01/2004, providing guiding for the enactment of several articles in Decree No. 88/2003/NĐ-CP by Government dated 30 July 2003 on organizing and operating associations;
- Decision No. 21/2003/ QĐ-TTg dated 29/01/2003 by the Prime Minister on state budget funding for political- social –professional organizations and social- professional organizations in activities related to the tasks of the state;
- Decision No. 179/QĐ by Minister of Home Affairs dated 14/10/2010 on permission to establish Vietnam Association of People with Disabilities.

These are important legal documents on the establishment and operation of organizations by/for People with disabilities.

b) Outcomes

In Vietnam, organizations by/for People with disabilities have come into being in many forms and types such as Vietnam Blind Association, association of People with disabilities at provincial/ district levels, Vietnam Association of Business Enterprises of People with dis-

abilities (VABED), Vietnam Association of People with disabilities (planned to be established in 2011); Association for the Support of Vietnamese Handicapped and Orphans; Vietnamese disability forum, national and international NGOs.

The synthesis of reports on the implementation of Project 239 shows that as far as the establishment of self-help disability groups is concerned, 19 cities provinces have reportedly set up 121 local disability self-help groups with over 60 thousand members. At the time of study, August 2010, 10 out of 63 cities provinces have established provincial association of People with disabilities. The establishment of provincial association of People with disabilities faces many challenges as it relates to many legal documents and policies, especially how to find resources to sustain the operation of such associations.

Number of associations and membership of self-help groups in 19 provinces/cities of Vietnam

Sequence	Provinces/cities	Number of groups	Number of members
1	Quang Ninh	1	890
2	Hanoi	24	1200
3	Ha Giang	8	800
4	Son La	3	13
5	Nam Dinh	7	1750
6	Ninh Binh	5	59
7	Thanh Hoa	20	50,000
8	Binh Dinh	2	50
9	Da Nang	10	73
10	Kon Tum	2	11
11	Phu Yen	5	1,573
12	Quang Binh	4	25
13	Đông Nai	2	1260
14	Gia Lai	4	28
15	An Giang	5	65
16	Hau Giang	4	1367
17	Kien Giang	1	10
18	Long Xuyen	5	65
19	Lam Đông	9	320
Total		121	60,221

Source: Evaluation of Project on supporting People with disabilities in the period 2008-2010

A case study of the establishment of Nam Dinh Provincial Organization of People with Disabilities

Nam Dinh was the first province to establish provincial association for People with disabilities in 2004. Members from 2 self-help groups had carefully studied Decree 88 and 45. As there were no instructions from the central association, they had to refer to the charter of existing associations such as Association of Veterans, Youth Union, Gardening Association... to compile the charter of their association. On the basis that prerequisites for establishing an association have been met, the members filed their application to establish the association and the Provincial People's Committee approved the establishment of Nam Dinh provincial Association of People with disabilities. After that, the provincial association supported 7 out of 10 districts of the province to establish district branches of the association.

Source: Evaluation of Project on supporting people with disabilities in the period 2006-2010.

In 2010, Vietnam made encouraging progress in speed up of the establishment of organizations by/for People with disabilities. Decision No. 179/QĐ by Minister of Home Affairs dated 14/10/2010 on permission to establish Vietnam Association of People with disabilities states that the functions of Vietnam Association of People with disabilities were to organize communication activities to raise public awareness on disability, on policies by the Government and the Party, on commitments in The International Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities, on intellectual property of People with disabilities, on inventions, technical and scientific improvements made by People with disabilities. At present, NCCD is collaborating with other organizations to advocate for Vietnam Association of People with disabilities to come into being.

c) Limitations, difficulties and challenges

The establishment and development of organizations for People with disabilities are still slow. The first self-help group of Vietnamese people with disabilities was set up in 1998 and since then, over a 10-year period, the number of self-help disability groups stops at 121 with a total of 60 thousand members present in 19 out of 63 provinces across the country. It is noticeable that the establishment and development of such organizations have not met the needs by People with disabilities.

Difficulties and challenges that restrict the establishment and development of organizations for People with disabilities include:

- The establishment of provincial association of People with disabilities faces many challenges as it relates to many legal documents and policies, especially how to find resources to sustain the operation of such associations. People with disabilities often live scatterly in various locations, which result in difficulties in travelling to communicate and advocate for the establishment of disability associations or clubs. In addition, People with disabilities are often not confident and have limited awareness on the issue;

- Financial difficulties in sustaining and developing the organizations: Most of self-help disability groups find it necessary to have long-term financial source to cover operational costs, including office leasing, equipment procurement and staffing costs. Such organizations also need to be supported in fund-raising skills, how to write a project proposal;

- Regional representation is still low: such organizations often concentrate in urban areas and are not present in rural areas where the majority of People with disabilities live;

- Gender inequality: the participation of women in organizations by/for People with disabilities is remarkably lower to that of men;

- There is insufficient collaboration and coordination in the operation of disability organizations;

- The efficiency and quality of activities by associations by/for People with disabilities remain low due to their members' limited qualifications.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN COMING YEARS

4.1. Advantages, obstacles and challenges

4.1.1. Advantages

Viet Nam is one of the pioneers actively involving into international and regional commitments on the issues of People with disabilities. In the international area, Viet Nam has signed the International Convention on Rights of the Disabled (October 2007). In the region, Viet Nam has committed in the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action “Further efforts towards an inclusive, barrier-free and right-based society for persons with disabilities”, Asia Pacific Decade of People with disabilities (2001-2012) with 7 specified priority areas and another added priority area on “enhancing social awareness on the issues of persons with disabilities”. Involvement in the international and regional conventions and commitments does not only show the willingness and desire of the Government of Viet Nam to do the best for and mostly facilitate People with disabilities to deal with their difficulties as well as to overcome the social obstacles caused by the disabilities, striving towards a sustainable developing society, but also reflects the responsiveness of Viet Nam before the international community on the issues of People with disabilities. Especially, signing of the International Convention on Rights of the Disabled (October 2007) shows strong commitment and a changed view to the disabilities as a social issue rather than medical and health care issue, and a move from Charity Approach to the Human Rights Approach.

In 1986, Viet Nam started its economic renovation with transferring from centralized and subsidized economy into a market economy with socialism orientation and integrating widely and comprehensively into the international community. Over twenty years, the “renovation” has brought about huge economic and social achievements. National economic growth is rapid and stable. In the period from 1986 to 1990 GDP increased by 4.4% Per year and it reached average 8.2% Per year in the period from 1991 to 1995. From 1996 to 2000, the important stage of the “renovation” period with enhanced industrialization and modernization, the GDP was maintained at 7% Per year. In the period of 2000 - 2005, high and rapid economic growth made the GDP was attained with average GDP of 7.5% p.a. From 2006 to 2010, the GDP was still high and stable at average over 7% (8.17% in 2006; 8.5% in 2007; 6.2% in 2008; 5.3%, 2009; 6.7% in 2010). Macro-economic balances are sustainably maintained, facilitating necessary conditions and environment for economic development. Over 20 years of renovation, legal, policy framework and operational mechanism of the socialism oriented market economy has been set up comprehensively. Types of basic markets are step by step developed and regulated in the new mechanism. Market of products is growing rapidly and massively. Other markets of services, labors, technologies and real-estate are being developed. Financial potential is being strengthened with budget revenue increases of over 18% per year and average investments accounts for about 30% of total state budget expenditures.

Stable economic growth for many years enables available resources and facilitates social

policies, including those relating to People with disabilities in the future.

In the international area, International Convention on Rights of the Disabled, approved by the United Nations on 13 December 2006 and came into full effect on 3rd May 2008 marked a huge change in dealing with issues of disabilities and People with disabilities worldwide. The Convention was set up based on the International Declaration of Human Rights and established the rights of 650 millions of People with disabilities all over the world. This is the first convention that sets up a position and rights to recognize disabilities as issues of human rights. Since then, there are about 200 nations that signed the convention and Viet Nam is the 147th nation who signed it in October 2007.

The Disability Law had been approved by National Assembly in 2010 and came into full effect since 1 January 2011. The Law on People with disabilities will help to enhance awareness and legal responsibility of organizations and individuals on issues of People with disabilities, eliminating discrimination, enabling a friendly social environment for supporting activities and meeting urgent needs of People with disabilities. The Law also helps to increase living quality of People with disabilities and their families, partly narrowing down the increasing gaps between the rich and the poor and limiting of social inequality.

4.1.2. Difficulties and challenges

• Insufficient social awareness on People with disabilities

According to the evaluation of relevant ministries, there are active movements in the social awareness on People with disabilities in Viet Nam. Now, the Government of Viet Nam considers the issues of disabilities and People with disabilities as the social ones and they should be treated as human rights issues. This is an essential factor which plays a decisive role in supporting People with disabilities. However, for the whole society to change its awareness is a big challenge. In fact, changing of awareness, leading to changing of attitude and behaviours is a long and challenging process, whereas basically social awareness on this issue is insufficient and unequal among population groups as mentioned in Part 1- Enhancing of community awareness on the issues of People with disabilities in Viet Nam. Therefore, enhancing of community awareness is a big challenge in the coming time.

• Limited budget for supporting programs for People with disabilities

Limitations of central and local budgets for the programs and activities of supporting People with disabilities are usually addressed in the municipal, ministerial and industrial reports on People with disabilities. These include scarce and difficulties of disbursement and allocation of central as well as local budgets. According to reports by the Ministry of Finance on enforcement of the Decision No. 239/2006/QĐ –TTg, budget allocation for plans is usually slow due to delayed operation of those plans. Reporting by municipalities is also slow, delaying of budget allocation and balance. Items and levels of budget expenditures for People with disabilities are sometimes inadequate. Besides, some supporting activities are not funded by state budget. For instance, communications to enhance social awareness on People with disabilities are not funded separately but intertwined in other supporting activities; or the program staffs are not remunerated with salary or subsidy.

• Lack of supervision of supporting activities for People with disabilities

Lack of monitoring is one of the weaknesses of supporting activities for People with disabilities in recent years. Reports on the Project No. 239 show that:

- Targets of the project basically are not practical and there is lack of comprehensive monitoring system that provides enough information for calculating necessary indicators;
- MOLISA, who is in charge of supporting activities, cannot monitor and report systematically and frequently on their own without technical assistance, especially when the activities are taken with coordination of many industries and ministries;
- State budget allocated for the Project is too little so there is no extra funds for monitoring and evaluation;
- The Project is operated with no international financial and technical assistance for project monitoring and assessment.

- **Inefficient coordination for policy implementation in supporting People with disabilities**

As for policy implementation for supporting People with disabilities, there is involvement of multiple organizations, ministries and industries. At the central level, MOLISA is the chairing ministry while other organizations and agencies, upon their functions are coordinators to take part in certain areas. At the local level, the Departments of Labors, War Invalids and Social Affairs are the key actors and other local departments are coordinators, based on their functional responsibilities. Therefore, coordination by multiple organizations faces obstacles due to different objectives and for subjective reasons. Generally, coordination by organizations in policy implementation of supporting People with disabilities is insufficient and overlapping.

4.2. Recommendations on supporting People with disabilities in the future

Based on issues of supporting People with disabilities in the past years, NCCD proposes the supporting activities for People with disabilities in the future as follows:

- **Continuing of the Project on Supporting of People with disabilities**

The Project on Supporting People with disabilities in the period 2006-2010 has obtained essential achievements and results, contributing to improved life of People with disabilities, narrowing gaps of the poor and the rich and enhancing social equality. However, for more efficient and sustainable supporting of People with disabilities, longer and bigger projects should be developed. Setting up and operating of the Project on Supporting People with disabilities in the period of 2011-2020 is quite relevant with regulations at sub-item k, Item 1, Article 50 of Law on People with disabilities No. 51/2010/ (Article 50. Responsibilities of ministries and quasi-ministerial agencies and the people's committee of all levels, "MOLISA has the responsibility to build up and submit Projects on supporting People with disabilities to Prime Minister for approval".

Projects on supporting People with disabilities should be placed as a constructive part in the total social welfare and security system to ensure that no relevant targets are missed and no members of society are povertized due to the risks of diminishing or losing of tools for earning a living. At the same time, continuing of that Project is the foundation for building up cooperation with international donors in funding the activities in the area of People with disabilities .

- **Enhancing awareness of community and People with disabilities on disability issues**

- MOLISA- the state regulator, who is in charge of the issues of People with disabilities should develop and provide guidelines to its local Department of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs to plan and facilitate propaganda on Law on People with disabilities. Based on given functions, other ministries and industries should set up the plan for propaganda of other legal documents relating to People with disabilities. The propaganda should be done throughout the

country, focusing on the rural and mountainous areas. Besides, the people's committees of all levels should make a commitment in popularizing of the Law on People with disabilities;

- Central and local budgets should be allocated relevantly to popularizing and propaganda of the Law on People with disabilities.

- **Health care for People with disabilities**

- Development of community-based programs on early detection, intervention and functional recovery for People with disabilities should be enhanced; programs on screening and early detecting disabilities of children should be developed;

- Classification and categorization of disability based on diminished working and self-service ability should be made to set up relevant health care programs;

- Functional rehabilitation networks should be developed throughout the country. In the central line, nursing hospitals and medical centers should take the leading role to enhance functional rehabilitation activities. In local lines, all provincial general hospitals should set up physiotherapy and functional rehabilitation departments, striving to develop the provincial and district physiotherapy and functional rehabilitation with specialized staffs and to set up physiotherapy and functional rehabilitation departments of district general hospitals with specialized staffs in villages;

- Policy on exemption and reduction of hospital fees and charges should be implemented for People with disabilities of poor households;

- Communication on healthcare for People with disabilities should be enhanced by maintaining periodical health checks for senior citizens and People with disabilities at local level.

- **Education for disabled children**

- Communication should be used as a tool to enhance awareness of People with disabilities and their families on advantages of education for People with disabilities themselves, their families and society;

- Based on classification of disabilities, statistics should be made and categorized by numbers, age, gender and structure of disability to set up relevant education programs;

- Specialized education programs for disabled children should be developed in accordance with geological areas to ensure relevant allocation of programs to meet the demand of People with disabilities from different regions of the country;

- Secondary educational level should be developed and made available for deaf students;

- Inclusive education centers should be developed with at least one for each city;

- More state budget should be allocated to inclusive education and the budget for education of disabled children should be five to ten times more than that for normal children;

- Human resource development for the area of People with disabilities should be enhanced. Teacher training should be strengthened with new training code of teachers for disabled children. Professional training courses on early intervention and inclusive education should be organized for relevant staffs and managers.

- **Employment and vocational training for People with disabilities**

- Based on classification of disabilities, statistics of People with disabilities should be made and categorized by level of impairment, types of disability to design suitable vocational training that best suit their learning ability, working capacity and requirements of future jobs;

- Awareness of authorities of all levels, People with disabilities and their families on advantages of vocational training should be enhanced;

- Vocational training programs, which are suitable for ability of People with disabilities and demand of labor markets, should be developed. Vocational training for People with disabilities should be specialized based on individual needs;

- Vocational training for People with disabilities should be socialized and priorities should be given to private enterprises which provide vocational training attached to employment for People with disabilities ;

- Incentive policies should be implemented to encourage vocational training and on site employment for People with disabilities;

- Supervision and penalties should be enhanced to ensure efficient enforcement of regulations on admission of People with disabilities to work in enterprises;

- Employment services suppliers should be encouraged to provide support to People with disabilities. And coordination among relevant organizations and agencies should be enhanced to provide the services of employment or employment links to People with disabilities;

- Database and statistics on employment of People with disabilities, including the percentage of employed People with disabilities, percentage of People with disabilities involved in vocational training; percentage of People with disabilities having jobs after vocational training and those having sustainable jobs, etc;

- Regulations on maximum working time and extra working time of People with disabilities should be adjusted towards inclusion and equality with other workers.

• Social supports for People with disabilities

- Based on classification and categorization of disabilities, statistics should be made to define the numbers of the especially severe disabled, the severe disabled and the mild disabled for social supports;

- The nursing centers for People with disabilities should be newly established or renovated in line with specified standards and participation of private sector;

- A roadmap for increasing of social subsidies should be developed to ensure that the subsidies are sufficient for minimum living standards;

- Capacity building program should be provided for the executives and staffs working in the area of People with disabilities in the community and centers for social supports;

- Models of supporting People with disabilities should be analyzed and evaluated to extend the effective ones.



People with disabilities with bamboo and rattan weaving handicraft

• **Accessible transportation and infrastructure for People with disabilities**

- Regulation and licensing procedures should be strengthened to ensure that newly built, renovated and upgraded premises comply with technical standards for transport access for People with disabilities;

- Tough penalties should be applied in cases where there are violations of relevant standards or legal framework on access for People with disabilities in newly building, renovation or upgrading of premises, and public transportation;

- To ensure transport access for People with disabilities, sufficient investments should be allocated to transportation infrastructure and means. Hence, beside promulgation of standards, the Government should spend more for the transport access like airports, train stations, bus stations and boat stations, and develop the accessible vehicles such as buses and trains as well as accessible bus lines in all provinces and cities throughout the country;

- Regulations requesting transportation companies to gradually use transportation means that are friendly and accessible for People with disabilities.

• **Accessible information and communication for People with disabilities**

- The incentive policies for accessible and usable information and communication for People with disabilities should be continuously developed;

- A mechanism to provide the services of information and communication technology for People with disabilities should be set up;

- Softwares and hardwares to support disabled persons to use information and communication technology should be developed;

- Pilot models on training and employment for People with disabilities in the area of information technology should be built.

• **Accessible culture and sports for People with disabilities**

- Culture and sports clubs for disabled persons should be established in provinces;

- Culture events, game shows, performance, and games for People with disabilities should be held at local level;

- Infrastructure of games and sports should be newly built, renovated and upgraded continuously for the involvement of People with disabilities.

• **Development of organizations of/for People with disabilities**

- Establishment of Association of People with disabilities of Viet Nam should be promoted;

- Establishment and operation of organizations of/for disabled persons should be evaluated to provide basis for consideration of relevant policies and mechanisms for supporting daily operation of the associations and self-funded organizations of People with disabilities;

- A manual on establishment and operation of associations for People with disabilities should be developed and workshops should be held to introduce good models.

• **Development of feedback system on disability issues**

Viet Nam has developed and operated the feedback system on the pilot basis. The system helps People with disabilities to access information and give feedback on flaws of supporting services, violations on enforcement of relevant legal and policy framework on People with dis-

abilities to relevant organizations for necessary reaction or adjustments to ensure development and inclusion of People with disabilities in society. Pilot results shows that this is an adequate approach, which is quite helpfull for organizations as well as People with disabilities themselves in the process of supporting People with disabilities. Hence, in the coming time the feedback system on disability issues should be enhanced to attract the involvement of People with disabilities and their organizations into monitoring the policies of Government generally and those related to People with disabilities particularly.

Reference

1	International Conventions on the rights of persons with disabilities;
2	Vietnam Law on Persons with Disabilities, 2010;
3	Decree on Persons with Disabilities, 1998;
4	Report on Evaluating the implementation of Decision No. 239/2006 /QĐ-TTg on approval of “Project to support People with disabilities in the period 2011-2020”, 2010
5	Report on Evaluating the implementation of Decision No. 239/2006 /QĐ-TTg by ministries and agencies, 2010;
6	Report on 10 years of enforcing Decree on People with disabilities and related guiding documents, MOLISA, 2009;
7	Social and labour Trends in Vietnam 2009/10, Institute of Social and Labour Studies, 2010;
8	Vocational training/jobs for people with disabilities in Vietnam, Social-Labour Publishing House, 2008;
9	the Integration of people with disabilities in Vietnam, final report 2010;
10	People with disabilities in Vietnam- Institute of Social Development Studies, 2008;
11	Report on survey results on public feedback about the implementation of Decree on Persons with Disabilities, 2008;
12	Report on survey results about the implementation of legislation on persons with disabilities, MOLISA, 2008;
13	Workshops on policy development for People with disabilities in Vietnam, reports by ministries and agencies, 2008;
14	Workshop on information technology for persons with disabilities, May 2009;
15	Promoting the Employability and Employment of People with Disabilities through Effective Legislation, International Labour Organization (ILO), 2006;
15	Website of support for persons with disabilities, http://nccd.vn

APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Legal documents directly/indirectly related to People with disabilities issued in 2006-2010

Seq	Reference No.	Name of document	Issue date
1	179/QĐ - BNV	Decision No. 1179/QĐ by Minister of Home Affairs on permission to establish Vietnam Association of People with Disabilities	14/10/2010
2	6367/VPCP-QHQT	Official letter No. 6367/VPCP-QHQT by Government Office on the receipt of aids from Ms. Vreni Zollinger (Switzerland) by Ho Chi Minh City Association for Support of the Disabled and Orphans	9/9/2010
3	6228/VPCP-KTTH	Official letter No. 6228/VPCP-KTTH by Government Office on tax exemption for materials in service of the disabled and on providing free orthopaedic tools for poor People with disabilities	1/9/2010
4	386/LĐTBXH-TCCB	Official letter No. 386/LĐTBXH-TCCB by MOLISA on the implementation of public administration functions to local affiliates of Vietnam Association for Support of the Disabled and Orphans	4/2/2010
5	1646/QĐ-LĐTBXH	Decision No. 1646/QĐ-LĐTBXH by MOLISA on approving the procurement plan by the Center of Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation for Disabled Children	3/12/2009
6	7296/VPCP-KGVX	Official letter No. 7296/VPCP-KGVX by Government Office on recommendations of Vietnam Association for Support of Disabled Children	19/10/2009
7	1262/QĐ-LĐTBXH	Decision No. 1262/QĐ-LĐTBXH by MOLISA on giving permission for investment into Thuy An Center of Rehabilitation for Disabled Children	7/10/2009
8	193/2009/TT-BTC	Circular No. 193/2009/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance specifies the implementation of Decree No. 97/2007/NĐ-CP dated 07/06/2007 by Government on administrative punishment and forceful enactment of decisions in customs and Decree No. 18/2009/NĐ-CP dated 18/02/2009 by Government which amends several items in Decree No. 97/2007/NĐ-CP	1/10/2009

9	1330/QĐ-BNV	Decision No. 1330/QĐ-BNV by Ministry of Home Affairs which gives permission to Association of Business Enterprises for the Disabled to change its name into Association of Business Enterprises for Veterans and People with Disabilities and approves the charter (revised and supplemented) of the association	24/09/2009
10	6560/VPCP-ĐMDN	Official letter No. 6560/VPCP-ĐMDN by Government Office on changing the representative of the owner for the state capital in Educational Equipment Company II of Education Publishing House	22/09/2009
11	32/2009/TTLT-BLĐTBXH-BNV	Cross Ministry Circular No. 32/2009/TTLT-BLĐTBXH - BNV by MOLISA and Ministry of Home Affairs, giving guidance on responsibilities, authority, organizational structure and cadre quota of state social assistance establishments	21/09/2009
12	28/2009/TT-BTTTT	Circular No. 28/2009/TT-BTTTT by Ministry of Information and Communication, specifies the applicability of standards and technologies which support People with disabilities to access and use information and communication technology	14/09/2009
13	6242/VPCP-KGVX	Official letter No. 6242/VPCP-KGVX by Government Office on organizing conferences to honor high-achieving People with disabilities, orphans and donors	10/9/2009
14	73/2009/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 73/2009/NĐ-CP by Government on the implementation of the Ordinance on communal police	7/9/2009
15	70/2009/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 70/2009/NĐ-CP by Government on state management responsibilities in vocational training	21/08/2009
16	25/2009/TT-BĐTBXH	Circular No. 25/2009/TT-BĐTBXH by MOLISA on collecting and processing information about labour demand and supply	14/07/2009
17	58/2009/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 58/2009/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed regulations and guiding for several articles in the Law on Civil Judgement Execution and civil procedures prosecution	13/07/2009

18	08/2009/TT-BYT	Circular No. 08/2009/TT-BYT by Ministry of Health on list of pharmaceutical medicines require no prescriptions	1/7/2009
19	2218/QĐ-BYT	Decision No. 2218/QĐ-BYT by Ministry of Health on list of subsidized costs to be applied at Center of Orthopedic and Rehabilitation for Disabled Children under MOLISA	19/06/2009
20	86/2009/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 86/2009/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on approval of Socio-economic development master plan for Thua Thien Hue province till 2020	17/06/2009
21	31/2009/NQ-QH12	Resolution No. 31/2009/NQ-QH12 by The National Assembly on the plan for Law and Ordinance drafting in 2010 and supplementing plan for Law and Ordinance drafting by The National Assembly Session XII (2007-2011)	17/06/2009
22	23/2009/TT-BLĐTBXH	Circular No. 23/2009/TT-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on standard framework for vocational training fields of health and social services at secondary and advanced levels	15/06/2009
23	08/2009/TTLT-BXD-BTC-BKHĐT-BNNPTNT-NHNN	Cross-ministry Circular No. 08/2009/TTLT-BXD-BTC-BKHĐT-BNNPTNT-NHNN by Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Investment and Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam State Bank on the implementation of Decision No. 167/2008/QĐ-TTg dated 12 December 2008 by Prime Minister on policies to support poor households in accommodation	19/05/2009
24	05/2009/TTLT-BCA-BNG	Cross-ministry Circular No. 05/2009/TTLT-BCA-BNG by Ministry of Police and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on guidelines for procedures for Vietnamese overseas to register for permanent residence in Vietnam	12/5/2009
25	07/2009/TT-BLĐTBXH	Circular No. 07/2009/TT-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on guidelines for the implementation of several articles in Decree No. 68/2008/NĐ-CP dated 30/05/2008 by Government on the conditions and procedures of setting up, operating and resolving social assistance establishments	30/03/2009

26	62/2009/TT-BTC	Circular No. 62/2009/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on amendments and supplements to Circular No. 84/2008/TT-BTC dated 30/9/2008 by Ministry of Finance on the implementation of several articles in the Law on Personal Income Tax and Decree No. 100/2008/NĐ-CP dated 08/9/2008 by Government on detailed regulations related to several articles in the Law on Personal Income Tax	27/03/2009
27	06/2009/TT-BCA(C11)	Circular No. 06/2009/TT - BCA by Ministry of Police on granting and revoking license and license plates of roadway vehicles	11/3/2009
28	38/2009/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 38/2009/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on the list of educational and training areas in the national education system	9/3/2009
29	05/2009/TT-BCT	Circular No. 05/2009/TT-BCT by Ministry of Industry and Commerce on electricity prices in 2009 and guidelines for implementation	26/02/2009
30	08/2009/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 08/2009/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed regulations and implementation guidelines for several articles in the Law on Domestic Violence	4/2/2009
31	167/2008/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 167/2008/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on housing support for poor households	12/12/2008
32	07/2008/QĐ-BTP	Decision No. 07/2008/QĐ-BTP by Ministry of Justice on regulations of professional training on legal assistance	5/12/2008
33	26/2008/QH12	Law on Civil Judgment Execution No. 26/2008/QH12 by The National Assembly	28/11/2008
34	62/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 62/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on Regulations on Tertiary and Collegiate Admission on in service training	25/11/2008
35	27/2008/NQ-QH12	Resolution No. 27/2008/NQ-QH12 by The National Assembly on the plan for Law and Ordinance drafting in 2009 and supplementing plan for Law and Ordinance drafting by The National Assembly Session XII (2007 - 2011)	15/11/2008
36	117/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 117/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on Civil Defense	14/11/2008

37	26/2008/TT-BLĐT BXH	Circular No. 26/2008/TT-BLĐT BXH by MOLISA on several amendments and supplements to Circular No. 09/2007/TT-BLĐT BXH dated 13/7/2007 by MOLISA on guiding the implementation of several articles in Ordinance No. 67/2007/NĐ-CP dated 13/4/2007 by the Government on supporting target groups of social assistance	10/11/2008
38	59/2008/TT-BGDĐT	Circular No. 59/2008/TT-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on staffing quota for specialized state schools	31/10/2008
39	144/2008/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 144/2008/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on national statistic census	29/10/2008
40	97/2008/TT-BTC	Circular No. 97/2008/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on guidelines for the implementation of the State 's policies for electricity infrastructure development in rural, mountainous and island areas	28/10/2008
41	90/2008/TTLT-BTC-BLĐT BXH	Cross-ministry Circular No. 90/2008/TTLT-BTC-BLĐT BXH by Ministry of Finance and MOLISA on guidelines for the management of funding for Project " promoting vocational training capacity" in the Program of National Goals on Education and Training to the year 2010	16/10/2008
42	84/2008/TT-BTC	Circular No. 84/2008/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on the implementation of several articles in the Law on Personal Income Tax and Decree No. 100/2008/NĐ-CP dated 08/9/2008 by Government on detailed regulations related to several articles in the Law on Personal Income Tax	30/09/2008
43	05/2008/TT-BTP	Circular No. 05/2008/TT-BTP by Ministry of Justice on guidelines for legal assistance and state management in legal assistance	23/09/2008
44	103/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 103/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on obligatory insurance and civil liabilities by owners of motor vehicles	16/09/2008
45	100/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 100/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed regulations related to several articles in the Law on Personal Income Tax	8/9/2008
46	92/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 92/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed regulations and guidelines for the implementation of several articles in the Law on Legal Assistance	22/08/2008

47	89/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 89/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on guidelines for the implementation of amendments and supplements for several articles in the Ordinance on preferential treatment to revolution contributors	13/08/2008
48	73/2008/TT-BTC	Circular 73/2008/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on guidelines for the establishment, management and utilization of local employment funds and management budget for National Employment Fund	1/8/2008
49	14/2008/TTLT-BLĐTBXH-BTC-BKHĐT	Cross-ministry Circular No. 14/2008/TTLT-LĐTBXH-BTC-BKHĐT by MOLISA, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Investment and Planning on guidelines for the implementation of several articles in Decision No. 71/2005/QĐ-TTg dated 05/4/2005 on management and operation of National Employment Fund and Decision No. 15/2008/QĐ-TTg dated 23/01/2008 on amendments and supplements to several articles in Decision No. 71/2005/QĐ-TTg	29/07/2008
50	13/2008/TT-BLĐTBXH	Circular No. 13/2008/TT-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on guidelines for rewarding and honoring in agencies of Labour- Invalids and Social Affairs	28/07/2008
51	68/2008/TTLT-BTC-BTP	Cross - ministry Circular No. 68/2008/TTLT-BTC-BTP by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Justice on regulations on collecting, paying and using legal judgment execution fees	21/07/2008
52	36/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 36/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on regulations for recognizing kindergarten of national standards	16/07/2008
53	22/2008/CT-TTg	Instruction No.22/2008/CT-TTg by Prime Minister on the implementation of Law on Personal Income Tax	15/07/2008
54	10/2008/TTLT-BLĐTBXH-BNV	Circular No. 10/2008/TTLT-BLĐTBXH-BNV by MOLISA and Ministry of Home Affairs on missions, functions, authority and organizational structures of professional bodies sub-ordinatign to People's Committees of district and provincial levels, on state management missions of communal People 's Committee in terms of labour and contributors and social issues	10/7/2008
55	2374/TCT-CS	Official letter No. 2374/TCT-CS by General Department of Tax on exemption of registration fees for specialized motor vehicles in service of People with disabilities	20/06/2008
56	13/2008/QH12	Law on Value Added Tax No. 13/2008/QH12 by The National Assembly	12/6/2008

57	14/2008/QH12	Law on Enterprise Income No. 14/2008/QH12 by The National Assembly	12/6/2008
58	48/2008/TTLT-BTC-BNN	Cross-Ministry Circular No. 48/2008/TTLT-BTC-BNN by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the amendments and supplements for several articles in Cross-ministry Circular No. 80/2007/TTLT-BTC-BNN dated 11/7/2007 by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on management and operation of state funding for the Program of National Goals on rural sanitary and clean water 2006 - 2010	12/6/2008
59	68/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 68/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on required conditions and procedures for the establishment, organization, operation and dissolution of social assistance establishment	30/05/2008
60	23/2008/TTLT/BGDĐT-BLĐTBXH-BTC	Cross-ministry Circular No. 23/2008/TTLT/BGDĐT-BLĐTBXH-BTC by Ministry of Education and Training, MOLISA and Ministry of Finance on guidelines for the implementation of Decision No. 152/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 14/9/2007 by Prime Minister on scholarship policies for pupils and student learning at educational institutions in the national education system	28/04/2008
61	24/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 24/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on the amendments and supplements for article 3 in Regulations on recruitment of students for admission to junior and senior secondary schools accompanied by Decision No. 12/2006/QĐ-BGD&ĐT dated 05/4/2006 by Minister of Education and Training	28/04/2008
62	51/2008/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 51/2008/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on state financial support for production and business enterprises for People with disabilities	24/04/2008
63	43/2008/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 43/2008/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed regulation and guidelines for the implementation of Article 62 and 72 in the Law on Vocational Training	8/4/2008
64	14/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 14/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on charter of kindergartens	7/4/2008
65	04/2008/QĐ-BXD	Decision No. 04/2008/QĐ-BXD by Ministry of Construction on the issue of “National technical standards for Construction Planning”	3/4/2008

66	11/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 11/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on regulations on parent representative board	28/03/2008
67	05/2008/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 05/2008/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on the amendments and supplements in training, testing and granting driving license to People with disabilities	20/03/2008
68	03/2008/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 03/2008/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on assessing safety and technical quality and environment protection in producing, assembling and importing motorbikes and motor tricycles for People with disabilities	22/02/2008
69	471/LĐT BXH-BTXH	Official letter No. 471/LĐT BXH-BTXH by MOLISA on organizing activities on the Day of People with Disability 18 April	15/02/2008
70	27/2008/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 27/2008/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on several policies to support the socio-economic development in several Northern hilly and mountainous areas till 2010	5/2/2008
71	05/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 05/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on “Regulations on recruitment of full-time permanent students for admission to universities and colleges	5/2/2008
72	05/2008/NQ-CP	Resolution No. 05/2008/NQ-CP by Government on periodical Meeting of the Government in January 2008	4/2/2008
73	02/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 02/2008/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on professional standards for teachers working at kindergartens	22/01/2008
74	14/TB-BGTVT	Announcement No. 14/TB-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on conclusion by Minister Ho Nghia Dung the review meeting for the implementation of Resolution No. 32/2007/NQ-CP dated 29/6/2007 by Government on several solutions to control traffic accidents and traffic jams and document No. 1992/TTg-CN dated 21/12/2007 by Prime Minister on producing, assembling and importing motorbikes and motor tricycles for People with disabilities	14/01/2008
75	07/2008/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 07/2008/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on approval of the Program of National Goals on Education and Training to the year 2010	10/1/2008

76	02/2008/NQ-CP	Resolution No. 02/2008/NQ-CP by Government on major solutions to direct and regulate the implementation of socio-economic development plan and state budget estimate for 2008	9/1/2008
77	31/2007/TT-BKHCHN	Circular No. 31/2007/TT-BKHCHN by Ministry of Science and Technology on working hours and working intervals for workers performing radiation and nuclear related jobs	31/12/2007
78	62/2007/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 62/2007/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation temporary regulations on assessing safety and technical quality and environment protection used motorbikes and motor tricycles for People with disabilities prior to 01/01/2008	28/12/2007
79	32/2007/TTLT-BCA-BGTVT	Cross - ministry Circular No. 32/2007/TTLT-BCA-BGTVT by Ministry of Police and Ministry of Transportation on registration, management and circulation of roadway vehicles for People with disabilities	28/12/2007
80	26/2007/QĐ-BLĐTBXH	Decision No. 26/2007/QĐ-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on regulations on student affairs in formal vocational training institutions	24/12/2007
81	157/2007/TT-BTC	Circular No. 157/2007/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on guiding for the forceful execution of administrative tax decisions	24/12/2007
82	551/2007/NQ-UBTVQH12	Resolution No. 551/2007/NQ-UBTVQH12 by Standing Committee of The National Assembly on the implementation of Resolution No. 11/2007/QH12 dated 21/11/2007 by The National Assembly on the plan for Law and Ordinance drafting by The National Assembly Session XII (2007 - 2011) and the year 2008	22/12/2007
83	1992/TTg-CN	Official letter No. 1992/TTg-CN by Prime Minister on producing, assembling, importing and circulating motorbikes and motor tricycles for People with disabilities	21/12/2007
84	147/2007/TTLT-BTC-BYT	Cross-ministry Circular 147/2007/TTLT-BTC-BYT by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health on the management and utilization of funding for the Program of National Goals on prevention of social diseases, fatal infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS in the period 2006 - 2010	12/12/2007

85	02/2007/QH12	Law on Domestic Violence No. 02/2007/QH12 by The National Assembly	5/12/2007
86	04/2007/QH12	Law on Personal Income Tax No. 04/2007/QH12 by The National Assembly	5/12/2007
87	09/2007/TT-BNV	Circular No. 09/2007/TT-BNV by Ministry of Home Affairs on specialized warehouses	26/11/2007
88	134/2007/TT-BTC	Circular No. 134/2007/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on guidelines for the implementation of Decree No. 24/2007/NĐ-CP dated 14/02/2007 by Government on detailed execution of Law on Enterprise Income	23/11/2007
89	11/2007/NQ-QH12	Resolution No. 11/2007/NQ-QH12 by The National Assembly on the plan for Law and Ordinance drafting by The National Assembly Session XII (2007 - 2011) and the year 2008	21/11/2007
90	172/2007/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 172/2007/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister approving the National Strategy for natural disaster prevention, response and relief	16/11/2007
91	05/2007/QĐ-BTTTT	Decision No. 05/2007/QĐ-BTTTT by Ministry of Information and Communication on the approval of master plan for developing Vietnamese IT human resources until 2020	26/10/2007
92	82/2007/QĐ-BTC	Decision No. 82/2007/QĐ-BTC by Ministry of Finance on the list of legal documents issued by Ministry of Finance and jointly issued and dated to 31/12/2006 and are expired now	15/10/2007
93	154/2007/TT-BQP	Circular No. 154/2007/TT-BQP by Ministry of National Defense on guidelines for the implementation of obligatory insurance for dependants of in service military officers and professional soldiers	1/10/2007
94	55/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 55/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on on minimum quality of primary schools	28/09/2007
95	152/2007/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 152/2007/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on on scholarship policies for pupils and student learning at educational institutions in the national education system	14/09/2007
96	146/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 146/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on fines for administrative violations in roadway transportation	14/09/2007

97	144/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 144/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on fines for administrative violations in sending Vietnamese workers to work overseas	10/9/2007
98	135/2007/TTLT-BQP-BYT-BTC	Cross-ministry Circular No. 135/2007/TTLT-BQP-BYT-BTC by Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance on guidelines for the implementation of several articles in Decree 153/2006/NĐ-CP dated 22/12/2006 by Government on medical examinations, treatment and material conditions for people performing cipher and confidential jobs and on the execution of obligatory health insurance for dependants of people performing cipher and confidential jobs	5/9/2007
99	49/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 49/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on capacity building program for teachers and managers on educational integration of disabled students at junior secondary schools	29/08/2007
100	02/2007/QĐ-BCT	Decision No. 02/2007/QĐ-BCT by Ministry of Industry and Commerce on the approval of development master plan for Vietnam automobile industry in the period 2006 - 2015, with vision to 2020	29/08/2007
101	135/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 135/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on fines for administrative violations in social insurance	16/08/2007
102	42/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 42/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training regarding regulations on student affairs in formal colleges, universities and secondary professional education schools of full-time permanent training mode	13/08/2007
103	120/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 120/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on guiding for the implementation of some articles in the Youth Law	23/07/2007
104	108/2007/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 108/2007/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on the approval of the Program of National Goals on prevention of social diseases, fatal infectious diseases and HIV/AIDS in the period 2006 – 2010	17/07/2007

105	80/2007/TTLT-BTC-BNN	Cross-ministry Circular No. 80/2007/TTLT-BTC-BNN by Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on management and operation of state funding for the Program of National Goals on rural sanitary and clean water 2006 - 2010	11/7/2007
106	06/2007/TT-BCA-C11	Circular No. 06/2007/TT-BCA-C11 by Ministry of Police on việc guidelines for the implementation of several articles in Immigration Law and Decree No. 107/2007/NĐ-CP dated 25/6/2007 by Government on guiding for the implementation of some articles in Immigration Law	1/7/2007
107	68/2007/TTLT-BTC-LĐTBXH	Cross - ministry Circular No. 68/2007/TTLT-BTC-BLĐTBXH by Ministry of Finance and MOLISA on management and operation of state funding for the implementation of Decision No. 65/2005/QĐ-TTg dated 25/3/2005 by Prime Minister on the approval of Project “ providing care for orphans, abandoned children, disabled children, young victims of Agent Orange and children with HIV/AIDS”	20/06/2007
108	61/2007/TT-BTC	Circular No. 61/2007/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on guiding for the execution of punishment to violations to Ordinance of Tax	14/06/2007
109	62/2007/TT-BTC	Circular No. 62/2007/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on on guiding for the execution of Decree No. 97/2007/NĐ-CP dated 07/6/2007 by Government on fines to administrative violations and guiding for the forceful execution of administrative customs decisions	14/06/2007
110	97/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 97/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on fines to administrative violations and guiding for the forceful execution of administrative customs decisions	7/6/2007
111	98/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 98/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on guiding for the execution of punishment to violations to Ordinance of Tax and guiding for the forceful execution of administrative tax decisions	7/6/2007

112	05/2007/TT-BTNMT	Circular No. 05/2007/TT-BTNMT by Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on cases of preferential treatments in land use and land management for organization working in areas related to education -training, health, culture, physical training-sports, science-technology, environment, population, society, family, children care and protection	30/05/2007
113	46/2007/TTLT-BTC-BLĐTBXH	Cross-ministry Circular No. 46/2007/TTLT-BTC-BLĐTBXH by Ministry of Finance and MOLISA on guidelines for utilizing funding for the execution of Decision No. 239/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 24/10/2006 by Prime Minister approving Project of Support for People with disabilities in the period 2006-2010	11/5/2007
114	10/2007/QĐ-BVHTT	Decision No. 10/2007/QĐ-BVHTT by Ministry of Culture and Information on the approval of development master plan for Vietnam libraries till 2010 and directions towards 2020	4/5/2007
115	68/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 68/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on guiding and detailed regulations for the implementation of several articles in the Law on Social Insurance regarding obligatory social insurance for military officers, police officers and people doing cipher and confidential jobs who enjoy the same salary scheme as for military officers, police officers	19/04/2007
116	67/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 67/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on policies to support target groups of social assistance	13/04/2007
117	63/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 63/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on fines for violations in information technology	10/4/2007
118	11/2007/QĐ-BLĐTBXH	Decision No. 11/2007/QĐ-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on allowance for persons working in dangerous, poisonous places in bodies of labour, invalids and social affairs	10/4/2007
119	23/2007/QĐ-BTC	Decision No. 23/2007/QĐ-BTC by Ministry of Finance on obligatory insurance for civil liabilities by owners of motor vehicles	9/4/2007

120	32/2007/TT-BTC	Circular No. 32/2007/TT-BTC by Ministry of Finance on implementation guiding for Decree No. 158/2003/NĐ-CP dated 10/12/2003, Decree No. 148/2004/NĐ-CP dated 23/7/2004 and Decree No. 156/2005/NĐ-CP dated 15/12/2005 specifying details of the Law on Value Added Tax and Law on amendments and additions to several articles on Value Added Tax	9/4/2007
121	06/2007/TTLT-BGDĐT-BNV-BTC	Cross-ministry Circular No. 6/2007/TTLT-BGDĐT-BNV-BTC by Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Finance on implementation guiding for Decree No. 61/2006/NĐ-CP dated 20/6/2006 by Government on policies to teachers, educational managers working in specialized schools, areas of extremely difficult socio-economic conditions	27/03/2007
122	17/2007/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 17/2007/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on the issuing of " Regulations on passenger transport by taxis "	26/03/2007
123	08/2007/QĐ-LĐTBXH	Decision No. 08/2007/QĐ-LĐTBXH by MOLISA on regulations on vocational student recruitment	26/03/2007
124	16/2007/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 16/2007/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on issuing of " Regulaitons on passenger transport by automobiles on fixed routes, by transport contracts and transporting tourists by automobiles"	26/03/2007
125	39/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 39/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on business entrepreneurs who do not have to register	16/03/2007
126	29/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 29/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on urban architecture management	27/02/2007
127	24/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 24/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on detailed guiding for the execution of Law on Enterprise Income	14/02/2007
128	06/2007/QĐ-BGTVT	Decision No. 06/2007/QĐ-BGTVT by Ministry of Transportation on issuing security program for Vietnam civil aviation	5/2/2007

129	20/2007/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 20/2007/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on approving việc phê duyệt the Program of National Goals on poverty reduction in the period of 2006 - 2010	5/2/2007
130	02/2007/TT-BTM	Circular No. 02/2007/TT-BTM by Ministry of Trade on classifying production materials, spare parts that are subject to tariff exemption as regulated in articles 15 and 16 of Decree No. 149/2005/NĐ-CP dated 08/12/2005 by Government on details of Law on Import and Export Tariff	2/2/2007
131	03/2007/NQ-CP	Resolution No. 03/2007/NQ-CP by Government on on major solutions to direct and regulate the implementation of socio-economic development plan and state budget estimate for 2007	19/01/2007
132	07/2007/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 07/2007/NĐ-CP by Government on details and implementation guiding for several articles in the Law on Legal Assistance	12/1/2007
133	01/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 01/2007/QĐ-BGDĐT by Ministry of Education and Training on the regulations for the organization and operation of continuing education centers	2/1/2007
134	12/2006/QĐ-BLĐTBXH	Decision No. 12/2006/QĐ-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on statistics targets for labour, revolution contributors and social issues	25/12/2006
135	153/2006/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 153/2006/NĐ-CP by Government on medical examinations, treatment and material conditions for people performing cipher and confidential jobs and on the execution of obligatory health insurance for dependants of people performing cipher and confidential jobs	22/12/2006
136	11/2006/TT-BCN	Circular No. 11/2006/TT-BCN by Ministry of Industry on guiding for the implementation of electricity distribution prices	20/12/2006
137	281/2006/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 281/2006/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on approving Project of constructing national history museum	19/12/2006
138	11/2006/QĐ-BLĐTBXH	Decision No. 11/2006/QĐ-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on announcing the list of legal documents issued by MOLISA dated to 31/12/2005 and are expired now	12/12/2006

139	76/2006/QH11	Law on Vocational Training No. 76/2006/QH11 by The National Assembly	12/12/2006
140	81/2006/QH11	Law on Immigration No. 81/2006/QH11 by The National Assembly	12/12/2006
141	08/2006/TT-BTP	Circular No. 08/2006/TT-BTP by Ministry of Justice on guiding for the implementation of regulations on child adoption and child adoption with foreign factors	8/12/2006
142	09/2006/QĐ-BTP	Decision No. 09/2006/QĐ-BTP by Ministry of Justice on issuing regulations to manage foreign child adoption offices in Vietnam	30/11/2006
143	18/2006/TT-BLĐTBXH	Circular No. 18/2006/TT-BLĐTBXH by MOLISA on guiding the classification of several state administration bodies in labour, invalids and social affairs	28/11/2006
144	04/2006/TTLT-VKSNDTC-TANDTC-BCA-BTP-BQP-BTC	Cross - ministry Circular No. 04/2006/TTLT-VKSNDTC-TANDTC-BCA-BTP-BQP-BTC by People's Procuracy, the Court, Ministry of Police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of National Defense and Ministry of Finance on guiding for the implementation of some regulations in Resolution No. 388/NQ-UBTVQH11 dated 17/3/2003 by the Standing Committee of The National Assembly on compensation for wrongly sentenced by mistakes of authorities in criminal procuracy	22/11/2006
145	139/2006/NĐ-CP	Decree No. 139/2006/NĐ-CP by Government on details and implementation guiding for several articles in the Education Law and Law on Vocational Training	20/11/2006
146	239/2006/QĐ-TTg	Decision No. 239/2006/QĐ-TTg by Prime Minister on approving the project support for People with disabilities 2006 - 2010	24/10/2006
147	23/2006/QĐ-BGDĐT	Decision No. 23/2006/QĐ-BGDĐT dated 22/ 5/ 2006 by Minister of Education and Training on issuing regulations on integration education for people with disabilities	22/5/2006
148	39/2009/TT-BGDĐT	Circular No. 39/2009/TT-BGDĐT dated 29/12/ 2009 by Minister of Education and Training on issuing regulations on integration education for children of difficult conditions	29/12/2009

Appendix 2

Some statistics on disability of population from 5 by administrative localities from the 2009 Population and Housing Census

Code	Region and province	Percentage of People without Disabilities			Percentage of People who are not able to see, hear mobilize, or memorize		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
	WHOLE NATION	92,2	92,9	91,5	4,9	4,8	5,0
	Urban	93,6	94,1	93,2	4,4	4,4	4,4
	Rural	91,6	92,4	90,8	5,1	4,9	5,3
	Socio - Economic areas						
V1	Midland and northern mountainous	92,0	92,6	91,3	4,4	4,3	4,4
V2	Red River Delta	91,9	92,9	91,0	5,0	4,7	5,2
V3	North Central and Central coast	90,3	91,2	89,3	6,5	6,2	6,8
V4	Tay Nguyen	93,3	93,8	92,9	3,8	3,8	3,7
V5	South East	94,3	94,7	40,0	4,0	4,1	3,8
V6	Cuu Long River Delta	92,8	93,4	92,3	4,5	4,4	4,6
	Cities/Provinces						
01	Ha Noi	93,5	94,2	92,8	4,0	3,8	4,3
02	Ha Giang	93,7	94,0	93,4	4,2	4,0	4,3
03	Cao Bang	89,6	90,5	88,6	5,1	5,3	4,8
04	Bac Kan	91,1	91,8	90,5	5,1	5,0	5,2
05	Tuyen Quang	91,5	92,3	90,7	5,7	5,2	6,1
06	Lao Cai	92,6	93,1	92,1	3,5	3,4	3,6
07	Đien Bien	93,1	93,3	92,8	2,7	2,7	2,6
08	Lai Chau	94,0	94,7	93,3	2,9	2,9	2,9
09	Son La	93,2	93,5	93,0	3,3	3,3	3,3
10	Yen Bai	93,8	94,2	93,4	4,1	4,2	4,0
11	Hoa Binh	91,9	92,6	91,3	4,0	3,9	4,2
12	Thai Nguyen	90,6	91,3	89,9	4,5	4,7	4,2
13	Lang Son	90,3	90,9	89,7	4,8	5,1	4,4
14	Quang Ninh	92,4	93,1	91,7	3,7	3,7	3,6
15	Bac Giang	93,0	93,8	92,3	4,3	4,0	4,6
16	Phu Tho	90,2	91,2	89,2	5,5	5,4	5,6
17	Vinh Phuc	93,2	93,9	92,5	4,1	4,1	4,2
18	Bac Ninh	92,3	93,0	91,5	4,4	4,2	4,6
19	Hai Duong	92,2	93,1	91,2	5,3	5,0	5,7
20	Hai Phong	91,2	92,2	90,2	5,2	5,0	5,4
21	Hung Yen	91,1	92,1	90,1	5,3	4,9	5,7
22	Thai Binh	87,6	89,3	86,1	6,9	6,2	7,6
23	Ha Nam	90,5	91,7	89,4	6,1	6,5	5,8
24	Nam Dinh	91,2	92,3	90,1	6,2	6,0	6,5
25	Ninh Binh	91,3	92,4	90,2	6,1	5,7	6,5
26	Thanh Hoa	89,7	90,9	88,6	6,4	5,9	7,0
27	Nghe An	88,7	89,6	87,8	6,3	5,9	6,7
28	Ha Tinh	88,5	89,5	87,5	7,2	6,9	7,6
29	Quang Binh	91,1	91,9	90,4	5,2	5,0	5,5

Code	Region and province	Percentage of People without Disabilities			Percentage of People who are not able to see, hear mobilize, or memorize		
		Total	Male		Total	Male	Female
30	Quang Tri	90,1	90,9	89,3	6,8	7,0	6,6
31	Thua Thien Hue	91,7	92,5	90,8	6,3	6,1	6,6
32	Da Nang	90,9	91,9	89,9	6,5	5,9	7,1
33	Quang Nam	90,3	91,3	89,4	7,6	7,8	7,4
34	Quang Ngai	90,0	91,3	88,7	7,2	6,7	7,7
35	Binh Dinh	90,3	91,6	89,1	7,2	6,7	7,7
36	Phu Yen	91,6	92,7	90,5	5,7	5,3	6,0
37	Khanh Hoa	91,7	92,4	91,1	6,4	6,5	6,3
38	Ninh Thuan	93,0	93,6	92,3	5,3	5,0	5,6
39	Binh Thuan	91,6	92,3	91,0	6,2	6,3	6,2
40	Kon Tum	92,4	92,9	91,8	4,1	4,3	4,0
41	Gia Lai	94,6	95,0	94,1	3,5	3,4	3,5
42	Dak Lak	92,5	93,0	92,0	4,2	4,3	4,1
43	Dak Nong	93,7	93,9	93,4	2,8	2,9	2,6
44	Lam Dong	93,6	94,1	93,1	3,7	3,8	3,5
45	Binh Phuoc	94,5	94,6	94,3	3,7	4,1	3,2
46	Tay Ninh	94,0	94,3	93,7	4,2	4,5	4,0
47	Binh Duong	95,9	96,1	95,7	2,7	3,1	2,4
48	Dong Nai	91,8	92,4	91,2	4,8	4,9	4,7
49	Ba Ria - Vung Tau	93,8	94,2	93,3	4,2	4,3	4,1
50	Ho Chi Minh City	95,0	95,4	94,6	3,9	4,0	3,8
51	Long An	92,1	92,7	91,4	4,8	4,9	4,7
52	Tien Giang	93,5	94,0	93,0	5,0	4,7	5,4
53	Ben Tre	89,7	90,9	88,5	5,8	5,3	6,4
54	Tra Vinh	91,8	92,6	91,1	4,3	4,0	4,5
55	Vinh Long	93,3	93,6	82,9	5,1	5,1	5,2
56	Dong Thap	92,5	93,0	92,0	4,1	4,0	4,2
57	An Giang	94,1	94,5	93,7	4,4	4,3	4,5
58	Kien Giang	93,4	93,8	93,1	3,7	3,6	3,8
59	Can Tho	92,4	92,9	91,9	4,3	4,1	4,5
60	Hau Giang	91,9	92,6	91,2	3,8	4,0	3,6
61	Soc Trang	92,4	92,9	91,9	4,5	4,8	4,3
62	Bac Lieu	96,1	96,6	95,6	3,1	3,2	3,0
63	Ca Mau	92,9	93,0	92,8	4,5	4,4	4,6

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Fax: (04). 36246915

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HA TAT THANG

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THANH HOA

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TUAN ANH

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