



Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Improved quality of life of persons with disabilities in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange: Ca Mau, Quang Ngai

U.S. Embassy Hanoi / Bureau of East Asia Pacific Bureau (EAP)
Department of State

Opportunity number: **OFOP0003897**

Application deadline: **November 19, 2026, at 17:00 EST**

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U.S Department of State
Bureau of East Asia Pacific Bureau (EAP)/ U.S. Embassy Hanoi
Notice of Funding Opportunity

A. Basic Information

1. Overview

Funding Opportunity Title	Improved quality of life of persons with disabilities in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange: Ca Mau, Quang Ngai
Funding Opportunity Number	OFOP0003897
Announcement Type	Initial announcement
Deadline for Questions	October 19, 2026, at 17:00 EST via email
Deadline for Applications	November 19, 2026, at 17:00 EST via MyGrants
Assistance Listing Number	19.124
Length of performance period	05 years
Number of awards anticipated	01 award
Award amount	\$28,500,000
Total available funding	\$28,500,000 pending availability of funds
Type of Funding	FY 2025 Economic Support Funds (ESF) and FY 2026 National Security Investment Programs (NSIP) funds under the Foreign Assistance Act
Anticipated project start date	December 26, 2026

Funding Instrument Type: Cooperative agreement.

Project Performance Period: Proposed project(s) should be completed by December 31, 2031.

The Department of State will entertain applications for continuation grants funded under these awards beyond the initial budget period on a non-competitive basis subject to availability of funds, satisfactory progress of the program, and a determination that continued funding would be in the best interest of the U.S. Department of State.

This notice is subject to availability of funding.

2. Executive Summary

The United States and Vietnam share a deepening partnership rooted in a commitment to overcoming the consequences of war. The recent Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Departments of Defense and State and Vietnam's Ministry of National Defence (MND) for Strengthening Cooperation to Overcome the Consequences of War (signed Hanoi, October 31, 2025) formalizes this effort, which includes U.S. funded activities to support persons with disabilities, regardless of cause, in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange and other target provinces in Vietnam. Building on the decades of collaboration, in 2019 USAID and MND's National Action Center for Chemical and Environmental Treatment (NACCET) formalized the

joint collaboration through the project "Improved Quality of Life for Persons with Disabilities in Provinces Heavily Sprayed with Agent Orange." This partnership continues to stand as a powerful symbol of the U.S.-Vietnam relationship as the two countries move forward together in the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

This new program represents a comprehensive initiative designed to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in two Vietnamese provinces - Ca Mau and Quang Ngai. The program's overarching goal is to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in these regions. The initiative addresses critical gaps in health, rehabilitation, and social services while fostering greater social integration and reducing barriers to full participation in community life. Particularly, the program pursues four interconnected objectives: (1) expanding health and rehabilitation services; (2) enhancing social services and promoting social participation; (3) improving disability policy implementation and reducing barriers to participation; and (4) strengthening institutional capacity at all levels.

The primary beneficiaries are persons with severe physical mobility, cognitive, or developmental disabilities, regardless of cause. The program prioritizes two specific groups: persons with severe disabilities in areas heavily affected by Agent Orange/dioxin exposure including those whose disabilities resulted from unexploded ordnance accidents, and; children with identified disabilities. This focus reflects the program's commitment to addressing war legacies while ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive comprehensive support based on individualized case management assessments.

Beyond direct beneficiaries, the program provides training and support to a broader ecosystem of service providers. This includes frontline health workers, teachers, caregivers, family members, hospitals and health facilities, and organizations serving persons with disabilities. By building capacity among these stakeholders, the program creates sustainable systems that will continue supporting persons with disabilities long after the initiative concludes.

The program engages multiple participant groups across various intervention areas. In health and rehabilitation, frontline healthcare workers and rehabilitation service providers will receive professional capacity development to meet Ministry of Health requirements. Rehabilitation units will adopt multidisciplinary approaches, with service delivery models established in both provinces to ensure comprehensive care. In social services, social workers and managers from public and private providers will receive capacity development, while social protection centers, organizations, and associations will have their capabilities enhanced. Family members play a crucial role as participants, receiving appropriate training and assistance in providing care for persons with profound and severe disabilities. People with disabilities and their family members will participate in networking and social activities designed to improve public attitudes and promote social integration.

Geographic coverage focuses on Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces, with additional relevant provinces and cities having high commitment identified for capacity-building activities and transition plan implementation. Selected universities and national or regional hospitals will receive support to provide specialized training and services, ensuring long-term sustainability and promoting cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnamese governments in health system

strengthening. The program will conduct baseline surveys and needs assessments to ensure services are tailored to the specific requirements of each beneficiary through comprehensive case management approaches.

B. Eligibility

1. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

- *Non-governmental organization* means any organization that is not:
 - A foreign government or foreign governmental entity;
 - An entity owned (in whole or in part) or controlled by a foreign government; or
 - Any other entity consisting wholly or partially of one or more foreign governments or foreign governmental entities.
- *Non-profit organization* means any organization that:
 - Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;
 - Is not organized primarily for profit;
 - Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the organization's operations; and
 - Is not an institution of higher education.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Providing cost sharing, matching, or cost participation, while encouraged, is not an eligibility factor or requirement for this NOFO, and providing cost share will not result in a more favorable competitive ranking. Applicants must be able to ensure cost share is accounted for/tracked through accounting systems and/or supporting documentation (such as Personnel Activity Records, proof of voluntary hours, proof of any purchases for materials being included as cost share, etc.)

3. Other Eligibility Requirements

All organizations must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) issued via SAM.gov as well as a valid registration in SAM.gov. Please see Section E.3 for more information. All organizations must have a valid Vietnamese government tax registration and other organizational registrations necessary to reimburse any VAT payments made during performance of project activities.

Applicants are only allowed to submit one proposal per organization. If more than one proposal is submitted from an organization, all proposals from that institution will be considered ineligible for funding. There is no limitation on being included as a potential sub-recipient across multiple applications. The use of exclusive teaming arrangements is discouraged.

C. Program Description

The successful applicant must achieve the below Goal and Objectives. For illustrative outputs and activities, please refer to the Attachment 1 of this Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please

note that some specific activities (home modifications) or procurements shall be reviewed on a case-by case basis during the implementation.

1. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal

Improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.

Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Expand medical support and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- **Objective 2:** Expand social services and social participation support for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- **Objective 3:** Improve policy implementation, public attitudes, and remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities.
- **Objective 4:** Strengthen capacity at all levels for training, management, and implementation of activities to support persons with disabilities.

2. TARGET GROUPS

Primary beneficiaries of the project are persons with severe physical, mobility, cognitive, or developmental disabilities with a priority for: 1) persons with severe/very severe disabilities, regardless of cause, in areas heavily sprayed by Agent Orange/dioxin, or persons with severe/very severe disabilities as a result of unexploded ordnance accidents; 2) children with an identified disability;

Secondary beneficiaries of the project are frontline health workers, teachers, caregivers, family members, other service providers, hospitals/health facilities, organizations/associations of and for people with disabilities.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Goal

- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive direct support through a comprehensive range of services based on individual needs assessment. (One person may receive more than one service under Objective 1 and Objective 2, with a minimum of 18,000 services provided.)
- Of these, 75% persons with disabilities show improvement in quality-of-life indicators.

Objective 1: Expand medical support and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces;

- Baseline surveys of the primary and secondary beneficiaries' needs are conducted: healthcare and rehabilitation support needs in both provinces; the actual provincial capacity to deliver rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, as well as the capacity-building needs of relevant organizations and individuals serving persons with disabilities in

both provinces.

- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive comprehensive need assessment to develop customized services of health care and rehabilitation services, including specialized rehabilitation service (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, assistive devices), nursing/home care, etc., based on comprehensive case management needs assessments.
- Of these, 75% of beneficiaries are expected to achieve the intervention objectives
- Nine rehabilitation units apply a multidisciplinary approach through: adoption of a multidisciplinary rehabilitation orientation, multidisciplinary rehabilitation workforce training, and investment in, installation, and use of rehabilitation equipment. Roadmap/action plans are developed for rehabilitation services supported by the project to be covered by the health insurance. Of these nine rehabilitation units, two are supported as service delivery models applying a multidisciplinary rehabilitation approach in the two provinces (prioritizing facilities with training functions and provincial hospitals).
- 600 frontline healthcare workers, rehabilitation service providers and managers have their professional capacity improved and meet the requirements of service provision.
- Provincial strategies for rehabilitation development and annual implementation plans are proposed in the two provinces (for example: training, infrastructure upgrades, service provision, budgeting).

Objective 2: Expand social services and social participation support for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces

- Baseline needs surveys of the primary and secondary beneficiaries are conducted: non-health support needs, the current state of social service delivery and participation support for persons with disabilities, as well as the capacity-building needs of relevant organizations and individuals serving persons with disabilities in both provinces.
- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive comprehensive need assessment to develop customized services of social services including access to housing, learning and working environments, economic development, independent living, social participation support, home modification, etc. based on comprehensive case management needs assessments.
- 75% of beneficiaries meet the intervention objectives.
- Family members receive appropriate assistance in providing care/support for persons with profound and severe disabilities
- 30 social protection centers, organizations, associations, groups, and clubs of and for persons with disabilities have their capacity improved.
- 600 social workers and managers, teachers and other individuals involved in both public and private social service provision are provided with capacity development through training.

Objective 3: Improve disability-related policy implementation, public attitudes, and the removal of barriers facing by persons with disabilities

- Review existing policies and the state of their implementation at the central and local levels regarding support for persons with disabilities, including analysis of gaps. This will help guide project support for the implementation of policies directly relevant to activities under Objective 1 and Objective 2.
- 15,000 persons with disabilities and family members participate in activities of persons

with disabilities networks.

- Propose and support the implementation of policies, action programs, and persons with disabilities support plans at the central and local levels.

Objective 4: Improve capacity in management, training, implementation, and activities support to persons with disabilities at all levels

- Transition plans in the relevant provincial project sites of the current U.S. funded disabilities project (for example: former Quang Nam, Hue, Quang Tri, former Kon Tum, former Binh Dinh, former Dong Nai, former Binh Phuoc) are developed and implemented. Transition plans are drafted for Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- 90% of supported organizations and systems providing or managing programs/projects for persons with disabilities have their capacity strengthened and their operational effectiveness improved.
- 100% of persons with disabilities supported by the project have their information updated in local disability management information systems.
- The capacity of six selected universities and national/regional hospitals is improved, and they are selected to provide trainings, services for persons with disabilities and for persons with disabilities/their family members who are affected by of Agent Orange and unexploded ordinance (UXO).
- The quality of disability information system in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces is improved.
- Cooperation between the U.S Government and the Government of Vietnam in training, health system strengthening, and health services for persons with disabilities is improved.
- Program management support, monitoring/evaluation and training/capacity building support are provided to related project stakeholders.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Two provinces - Quang Ngai, Ca Mau, and other relevant provinces and cities will be proposed by Applicants under the Objective 4

5. PARTNERSHIP WITH HOST GOVERNMENT

The U.S Embassy in Vietnam is the funding Agency and the Vietnam Ministry of National Defence/ National Action Center for Chemical and Environment Treatment (NACCET) is the host government counterpart.

6. SUBSTANTIAL INVOLVEMENT

This award will be structured as a cooperative agreement. Department of State will maintain substantial involvement in this program through the potential following mechanisms. The specific terms will be negotiated and finalized before the period of performance begins between the selected implementing organization, Grants Officer, Grants Officer's Representative, U.S. Embassy Hanoi, and any other relevant entity as identified by Department of State.

Substantial involvement includes, but is not limited to:

- Approval of Monitoring and Evaluation plans
- Approval of the recipient's annual workplan and budget
- Involvement in the selection and approval of project sites
- Specific programmatic oversight in the award, beyond normal monitoring.
- Review and approval of small-scale home modifications under this award to support persons with disabilities to perform their daily life activities and their independent living in home setting will be on case-by-case basis.

D. Application Contents and Format

Please follow all instructions below carefully. Proposals that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or fail to comply with the stated requirements will be ineligible.

Content of Application

Please ensure:

- The proposal clearly addresses the goals and objectives of this funding opportunity
- All documents are in English
- All budgets are in U.S. dollars
- All pages are numbered
- All documents are formatted to fit 8 ½ x 11 paper, and
- All Microsoft Word documents are single-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, with a minimum of 1-inch margins.

The following documents are **required**:

1. Mandatory application forms

- SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance – organizations) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-mandatory-family>
- SF-424A (Budget Information for Non-Construction programs) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-mandatory-family>
- SF-424B (Assurances for Non-Construction programs) at <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/sf-424-mandatory-family> (note: the SF-424B is only required for individuals, organizations exempt from registration, and for organizations not required to fully register in SAM.gov)
- SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) at https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SFLLL_2_0-V2.0.pdf (note: the SF-LLL is only required for entities that engage in lobbying activities)

2. Cover Page

Cover sheet stating the applicant's name and organization, Unique Entity ID (SAM), identification and signature of the primary contact person, proposal date, program title, program period proposed start and end date, and brief purpose of the program.

3. Technical Proposal (25 pages maximum, excluding the cover page, table of contents,

attachments as specified in Section D.5)

The proposal should contain sufficient information that anyone not familiar with it would understand exactly what the applicant wants to do and why the applicant does it. The proposal should include the sections and content below and should be directed at the program as described in Section C. Program Description.

- **Proposal Summary:** Short narrative that outlines the proposed project description, including project objectives and anticipated impact.
- **Organization's capability and experience:** Applicants must describe the organization's current operational capacity. Outline a financial management system with the existence of a dedicated bank account, explaining how the organization's internal controls ensure the responsible stewardship of federal funds. Describe the organization's ability to mobilize quickly in the targeted provinces and areas, referencing any logistical infrastructure, local networks, or operational systems that enable rapid deployment. If the proposed program includes sub-awards, describe the organization's current capacity and experience to manage subaward relationships, including oversight mechanisms and compliance procedures. Describe the organization's capacity and provide specific examples of the organization's experience engaging and coordinating with central and local government authorities to facilitate project approvals and support smooth implementation across all targeted sites. Highlight the organization's track record and experience in successfully carrying out work of a similar nature and explain what sets the organization apart from others working in this field to ensure the project success. Applicants must provide in an attachment a list of previous grants, which are relevant to the proposed project funded by the Department of State and/or other U.S. Government agencies as a prime or sub-recipient in the last 5 years, if any, briefly describing the scope of work, target population or geography, and notable outcomes for each.
- **Project Methods and Design:** Applicants must provide a comprehensive description of how the organization will achieve the project's goal, objectives, and targeted results. Clear rationale for the organization's chosen approaches, particularly in the context of Vietnam's recent transition to a 2-tier provincial administration structure, and explicit reference to the relevant legal framework, laws, action plans, and national target programs. Draw on lessons learned from previous projects that organization has implemented to demonstrate how past experience will contribute to achieving expected outcomes. Include a logic model where appropriate. This section must include the following:
 - **Project Activities:** For each objective, applicants must describe the specific activities proposed and explain how those activities are interlinked to collectively drive progress toward the project's goals and objectives, how objectives are interlinked and contributing to other objectives. Applicants must also detail the technical approaches or protocols for each intervention, including how primary and secondary beneficiaries will be identified; how primary beneficiaries will be prioritized when resources are limited; and how interventions and support will be delivered in a manner that is responsive to the specific provincial and national context in Vietnam. Applicants are encouraged to propose sub-awards to local and/or international entities, in this case, clearly describe the organization's

leading role in providing technical oversight and management coordination across all sub-awardees.

Proposed Project Schedule and Timeline: Applicants must provide a realistic timeline covering all phases of program implementation, including project approval processes where required, project setup, staff recruitment, and program implementation. Applicants must also demonstrate feasibility by identifying the human, financial, and logistical resources available to support the proposed schedule and ensure activities are completed on time.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan: Applicants must describe how project activities will be monitored throughout the grant period to ensure outcomes and targets are achieved on time and to a high standard of quality. Applicants must explain how the program will be evaluated to assess whether it is meeting its stated goals and objectives. Applicants must describe what and how contextual factors, underlying assumptions, and emerging risks will be tracked and incorporated into adaptive management decisions as the project evolves.

Future Funding or Sustainability: Applicants must describe how the project's impact will be sustained after the grant period concludes. This includes identifying any additional funding sources or resources the applicant has secured or is pursuing, as well as concrete plans to continue key activities beyond the life of the grant. Applicants must propose how sustainable models of service and support to the primary beneficiaries are developed and piloted in different settings (home-based, hospital-based, etc.), where applicable. A strong sustainability plan demonstrates that the program's benefits will endure and that the applicant has thought strategically about long-term impact.

Project Partners: Applicants must list the names and types of involvement of all key partner organizations and describe how program implementation and management will be coordinated with these partners and other relevant stakeholders. Applicants must also explain how and why engagement with these stakeholders will contribute to program success, including a description of each partner's specific role, any formal agreements in place, and how responsibilities will be shared across the partnership to ensure accountability and effective collaboration.

- **Management Plan:** Applicants must submit a comprehensive management plan that demonstrates their capacity to deliver a high-quality program. The plan must address the following core areas: human resource management, financial resource management, technical oversight, risk management and mitigation, and where applicable the coordination and management of sub-awards.

Human Resource Management and Staffing Plan: The management plan must include a comprehensive staffing plan covering all program personnel, including full-time and part-time staff at both the home office and any field-based offices. Applicants must propose at least three (3) key personnel positions whose expertise, leadership, and time commitment are critical to achieving program results. For each key personnel position proposed by the applicants, applicants must clearly describe their responsibilities, level of effort (LOE), and required qualifications and experience. Applicants may name the individuals proposed for

key personnel positions if they are known when the application is submitted. However, the names of individuals proposed for key personnel positions will not be evaluated.

Organizational Structure and Operations: The management plan must present clear reporting lines across the project team, whether through an organizational chart or a descriptive narrative. Applicants must specify their planned office location(s) and rationale for these locations, and the total number of proposed sub-awards, if any.

Sub-Awards: If sub-awards are proposed, applicants must provide the following information for each sub-recipient: the sub-recipient's designated role within the project, the specific activities they will carry out. Applicants must also describe how they will provide management oversight and coordination support to sub-recipients to ensure accountability, quality, and alignment with overall program goals throughout the period of implementation.

- **Proposed Subawards:** The applicant must submit information for all subawards that it wishes to have approved at the time of award. For each proposed subaward the applicant must provide the following:
 - Name of organization
 - Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) if available at the time of proposal submission. If the UEI is not available the information shall be provided before the award is made.
 - Confirmation that the subrecipient does not appear on the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) list
 - Confirmation that the subrecipient does not have active exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM)
 - Confirmation that the subrecipient is not listed in the United Nations Security designation list
 - Confirmation that the subrecipient is not suspended or debarred
 - Confirmation that the applicant has completed a risk assessment of the subrecipient, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.332(b)
 - Any negative findings as a result of the risk assessment and the applicant's plan for mitigation.

4. Budget

Applicants must submit SF-424A – “Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs” along with a comprehensive budget for the entire program. In addition to the SF-424A, the Budget must include the following worksheets or tabs, and contents, at a minimum (***all formulas must be displayed, and the budget must not be locked***). See section I. *Other Information: Guidelines for Budget Submissions* below for further information.

- **Summary and Detailed Budgets**

A proposal budget must be submitted in spreadsheet format (e.g., Microsoft Excel).

- One tab of the spreadsheet shall contain the Summary Budget, which lists the OMB-approved budget categories and total estimated cost per category (federal and non-federal), broken out by major budget category and by year for activities implemented by

the Applicant and any potential sub-applicants for the entire period of the project

- One tab of the spreadsheet shall contain the Detailed Budget, which breaks down the OMB-approved budget categories into individual line items and provides detailed cost estimates per line item. The Detailed Budget must include a breakdown by unit cost, by month and by year, sufficient to allow the Grants Officer to determine that the costs represent a realistic and efficient use of funding to implement the applicant's proposed activities and are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.
- Detailed Budgets for each sub-recipient, for all federal funding and cost share, broken out by budget category and by year, for the entire implementation period of the project.
- If applicable, federal costs and recipient cost share must be reported in separate columns.

- **Budget Narrative**

The Budget Narrative is a companion document to the summary and detailed budgets and must be submitted in word document format. (e.g. Microsoft Word)

- The Budget Narrative should communicate any budgetary information that is not readily apparent in the detailed budget. Rather than simply repeating with words what is stated numerically in the budget, the Budget Narrative should explain the logic behind the amount budgeted for each line item.
- If applicable, proposed recipient cost share must be included in the Budget Narrative, including reference to the source of the cost share word document format. (e.g. Microsoft Word)

5. Attachments

- Documentation sufficient to demonstrate the applicant's eligibility, as specified in Section B.
- One-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) or resume of proposed key personnel, if known when the application is submitted.
- Letters of support from proposed sub-recipients and other relevant stakeholders.
- If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, include your latest NICRA as a PDF file.
- Official organization's operating license if available and if required for program activities.
- List of previous awards from USG agencies as required in Section D.3.

E. Submission Requirements and Deadlines

1. Address to Request Application Package

Application forms required above are available at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

2. Department of State Contacts

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact: Marialice Ariens, Senior Foreign Assistance Officer, U.S. Embassy Hanoi at AriensM@state.gov with a copy to Le Nguyen, Program Management Specialist, U.S. Embassy Hanoi at NguyenLT7@state.gov and

Huyen Dang, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, U.S. Embassy Hanoi at DangHT@state.gov.

Responses to questions received prior to the deadline will be furnished to all potential applicants through an amendment to this notice posted on www.grants.gov.

3. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Required Registrations

All organizations, whether based in the United States or in another country, must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and an active registration in SAM.gov. A UEI is one of the data elements mandated by Public Law 109-282, the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), for all Federal awards. An applicant must maintain an active registration while it has a proposal under review by the Department and must continue to keep the registration active for the entire duration of the period of performance of any Federal award that results from this NOFO.

The 2 CFR 200 requires subrecipients to obtain a UEI. Please note the UEI for subrecipients is not required at the time of application but will be required before an award is processed and/or directed to a subrecipient.

Note: The process of obtaining or renewing a SAM.gov registration may take anywhere from 4-8 weeks. Please begin your registration as early as possible.

- Organizations **based in the United States** or that pay employees within the United States will need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- Organizations **based outside of the United States** and that do not pay employees within the United States do not need an EIN from the IRS but do need a UEI prior to registering in SAM.gov.
- **Organizations based outside of the United States that do not intend to apply for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) awards are no longer required to have a NATO Commercial and Government Entity (NCAGE) code to apply for non-DoD foreign assistance funding opportunities.** If an applicant organization is mid-registration and wishes to remove an NCAGE code from their SAM.gov registration, the applicant should submit a help desk ticket (“incident”) with the Federal Service Desk (FSD) online at www.fsd.gov using the following language: “I do not intend to seek financial assistance from the Department of Defense. I do not wish to obtain an NCAGE code. I understand that I will need to submit my registration after this incident is resolved in order to have my registration activated.”

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO NOT plan to do business with the DoD should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Proceed to SAM.gov to obtain a UEI and complete the SAM.gov registration

process. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually.

Organizations based outside of the United States and that DO plan to do business with the DoD in addition to Department of State should follow the below instructions:

Step 1: Apply for an NCAGE code by following the instructions on the NSPA NATO website linked below:

NCAGE Homepage:

<https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx>

NCAGE Code Request Tool (NCRT):

[NCAGE Code Request Tool \(nato.int\)](https://eportal.nspa.nato.int/AC135Public/sc/CageList.aspx)

Exemptions

An exemption from the UEI and sam.gov registration requirements may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. See [2 CFR 25.110](#) for a full list of exemptions.

Organizations requesting exemption from UEI or SAM.gov requirements must email the point of contact listed in the NOFO at least two weeks prior to the deadline in the NOFO providing a justification of their request. Approval for a SAM.gov exemption must come from the warranted Grants Officer before the application can be deemed eligible for review.

4. Required Registration with MyGrants.

All award recipient organizations and recipient contacts and signatories must be registered with the U.S. Department of State's MyGrants system by accessing <https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com> and clicking the "create an account" link.

MyGrants is the U.S. Department of State's grants management system and is supported by the Department's Integrated Logistics Management System (ILMS). Recipient organizations and recipient contacts and signatories that have previously used MyGrants as a U.S. Department of State award recipient do not need to register again. If the organization is not able to access the system, please contact the ILMS Help Desk for help in gaining access. Support for Recipient Organizations and recipient contacts and signatories is available 24 hours, 7 days a week (except federal holidays), and can be reached at 1-888-313-ILMS (4567) or through the ILMS Self Service Portal at <https://afsitsm.servicenowservices.com/ilms/>.

5. Submission Dates and Times

Applications are due no later than *the date and time specified in the cover page*. This deadline is firm and is not a rolling deadline. If organizations fail to meet the deadline noted above their application will be considered ineligible and will not be considered for funding. For the purposes of determining if an award is submitted on time, see section 7 below.

6. Funding Restrictions

- i. Funding Restrictions for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

None of the funds awarded resulting from this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be made available for subawards, direct financial support, or otherwise used to provide any payment or transfer to United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

ii. Certification Regarding Compliance with applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws

If the place of performance or delivery of any award made under this NOFO will be within the United States, applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award:

- 1) Its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code and;
- 2) It does not operate any programs promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws. A program promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion means a program whose purpose is to promote preferences based on race, color religion, sex, or national origins, such as in training or hiring.

iii. Certification Regarding Compliance with 20 U.S.C. 1011f and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements.

Applicants are advised that IHEs must certify the following at the time of award, and that this certification requirement must be included in any subaward agreements to IHEs:

- 1) Its compliance in all respects with section 1011f of title 20, United States Code, and any other applicable foreign funding disclosure requirements is material for purposes of section 3729 of title 31, United States Code, and for receipt of appropriate Federal grant funds.

iv. Certification of Trafficking in Persons Compliance and Compliance Plan

Applicants are advised that they will be required to certify the following at the time of award for awards where the estimated value of services to be performed outside the United States exceeds \$500,000:

- 1) To the best of the Recipient's knowledge, neither the Recipient, nor any subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor of the Recipient or any agent of the recipient or of such a subrecipient, contractor, or subcontractor, is engaged in any of the activities described in [2 CFR 175.105\(a\)](#);

The recipient has implemented a Trafficking in Persons compliance plan to prevent activities described in [2 CFR 175\(a\)](#) and is compliant with this plan; and the compliance plan must follow the minimum requirements described in 2 CFR 175(b)(5).

- 2) That the Recipient has and will implement procedures to prevent activities described in [2 CFR 175.105\(a\)](#) and to monitor, detect, and terminate any subrecipient, contractor, subcontractor, or employee of the recipient engaging in these activities.

Recipients do not need to submit a copy of the plan. However, they must provide it to the Grants Officer upon request, and as appropriate, must post the useful and relevant contents of the plan or related materials on their website and at the workplace. Recipients must re-certify on an annual basis for the entire award period of performance.

- v. Prohibition on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). If your project involves the purchase or use of a UAS, see this link for requirements and information you must include in your application.
- vi. Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)

Applicants for foreign assistance awards should be aware of requirements in 2 CFR Part 602, 603, and 604. These policies are referred to collectively as the Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA) Policy.

[602](#): The award term imposes certain abortion-related requirements on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, public international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

[603](#): The award term imposes certain requirements relating to gender ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

[604](#): The award term imposes certain requirements relating to discriminatory equity ideology on foreign nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), United States NGOs, international organizations, foreign governments, and parastatals.

The Department recognizes there are costs associated with these policies. Potential one-time and recurring costs the Department identifies for recipients and grantees are for familiarization with the policy, development and delivery of organizational training and implementation guidance, routine compliance monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.

7. Other Submission Requirements

All application materials must be submitted electronically through MyGrants (<https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com>).

F. Application Review Information

1. Merit Review Criteria

Timely and completed applications from eligible applicants will be evaluated and rated based on the evaluation criteria outlined below. The criteria are of equal importance and will be assigned equal weight in the selection process.

Organizational Capacity and Experience: To what extent does the Applicant's organizational capability and experience demonstrate the capacity and likelihood of successfully achieving the project's goal, objectives, and intended outcomes?

Project Methods and Design: To what extent does the Applicant's proposed Project Activities, Project Schedule and Timeline, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Future Funding and Sustainability Plan, and Project Partnerships collectively demonstrate a credible, coherent, and feasible approach to achieving the project's goal, objectives, and intended outcomes while ensuring that no proposed activities are contrary to any standing Executive Orders? For a full list of Executive Orders, see <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

Management Plan: To what extent does the Applicant's proposed Management Plan demonstrate the organizational capacity and operational readiness to successfully achieve the project's goal, objectives, and intended outcomes across the following core areas: human resource management, financial resource management, technical oversight, risk management and mitigation, and where applicable the coordination and management of sub-awards?

The Review Committee will use an adjectival approach when evaluating the received applications. The chart below details the rating scheme and the definitions that apply to the technical factors.

Adjective	Character Definition
Exceptional	An Exceptional rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● A comprehensive and thorough application of exceptional merit. ● Application meets and fully exceeds the Government expectations or exceeds the program description requirements and presents very low risk or no overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Strengths significantly outweigh any weaknesses that may exist.
Very Good	A Very Good rating under this a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application demonstrating a strong grasp of the requirements. ● Application meets program description requirements and presents a low overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Strengths significantly outweigh any weaknesses that exist.
Satisfactory	A Satisfactory rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application demonstrating a reasonably sound response and a good grasp of the requirements. ● Application meets solicitation requirements and presents a moderate overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. Strengths outweigh weaknesses.
Marginal	A Marginal rating under a review factor has the following characteristics:

	● Application shows a limited understanding of the requirements. ● Application meets some or most of the program description requirements but presents a significant overall degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Weaknesses equal or outweigh any strengths that exist.
Unsatisfactory	An Unsatisfactory rating under a review factor has the following characteristics: ● Application does not meet the program description requirements or requires a major rewrite of the application. ● Presents an unacceptable degree of risk of unsuccessful performance. ● Deficiencies and significant weaknesses demonstrate a lack of understanding of the Government's needs. ● Weaknesses and or deficiencies significantly outweigh any strengths that exist.

2. Cost Review

Department of State will evaluate the cost application of the applicant(s) under consideration for an award as a result of the merit criteria review to determine whether the costs are allowable in accordance with the cost principles found in 2 CFR 200 Subpart E.

Department of State will also consider (1) the extent of the applicant's understanding of the financial aspects of the project and the applicant's ability to perform the activities within the amount requested; (2) whether the applicant's plans will achieve the program objectives with reasonable economy and efficiency; and (3) whether any special conditions relating to costs should be included in the award.

3. Indirect Costs

If two or more applications receive equivalent ranking based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this NOFO, preference will be given to the applicant with the lower indirect cost, as consistent with Executive Order 14332, Section 4(b)(iii). This preference will only be applied as a tie-breaking mechanism and does not supersede the primary evaluation criteria.

4. Review and Selection Process

A review committee will conduct a merit review of all eligible applications as outlined in this NOFO. Applications will be reviewed by an independent review panel consisting of qualified subject matter experts from Department of State bureaus and offices, U.S. Embassies, and/or other U.S. Government agencies. The Selection Process may include a presentation and Q&A session with applicants whose applications receive equivalent evaluation ranking based on the evaluation criteria outlined in this NOFO. Format of the session will be determined by the Department of State and informed to the applicants as appropriate. The presentation results will be reflected in the final evaluation memo, and this result will determine if the Indirect Costs condition in F.3 should be applied.

As a result of this process, The Department of State intends to select the apparently successful recipient. Once the selection is made, the Government may address any concerns to the selected

recipient for resolution. However, the Department of State reserves the right to negotiate with all applicants prior to selection of the successful recipient if in the best interest of the Government. If Department of State and the apparently successful applicant cannot come to a mutual understanding during the course of discussions, or if the apparently successful applicant is unable to provide satisfactory Technical and Cost Applications, or does not meet deadlines for submissions, or presents an unacceptable risk as a result of the risk review, then the Grants Officer may designate the next highest-evaluated applicant as the apparently successful Applicant. This decision is at the sole discretion of the Grants Officer. The Grants Officer's decision regarding funding of an award is final and not subject to review.

5. Risk Review

i. Risk factors

Under the merit review as required by 2 CFR 200.206, prior to making a Federal Award the Department will review and consider the following risk factors. Applicants may be required to submit additional documentation deemed necessary for the Grants Officer to assess the applicant's risk:

- a. Financial stability
- b. Management systems and standards
- c. History of performance
- d. Audit reports and findings
- e. Ability to effectively implement requirements

ii. Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov

The Federal awarding agency, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the U.S. government designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313)

An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov.

Before making decisions in the risk review required by 2 CFR 200.206, the Department will consider any comments by the applicant, along with information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov.

G. Award Notices

The award or cooperative agreement will be written, signed, awarded, and administered by the Grants Officer. The award agreement is the authorizing document, and it will be provided to the recipient for review and countersignature. The recipient may only start incurring project expenses beginning on the start date shown on the award document signed by the Grants Officer.

If a proposal is selected for funding, the Department of State has no obligation to provide any additional future funding. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of State.

Issuance of this NOFO does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. government, nor does it commit the U.S. government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, the U.S. government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Unsuccessful applicants: Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by December 31, 2026, via email.

Payment Method:

Payments under this award will be made through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Payment Management System (PMS).

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each PMS payment request, a detailed explanation justifying the request.

Or

Recipients will be required to request payments by completing form SF-270—Request for Advance or Reimbursement and submitting the form to the Grants Officer.

Recipients may not draw down funds without the affirmative authorization of the Department of State. In addition, recipients must submit, with each SF-270 payment request, a detailed explanation justifying the request.

H. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

1. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Before submitting an application, applicants should review all the terms and conditions and required certifications which will apply to this award, to ensure that they will be able to comply. These include:

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Department of State will review and consider applications for funding, as applicable to specific programs, pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the following:

- [Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 89 FR 30046 on April 22, 2024, particularly on:
 - Selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an impartial process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205),
 - Promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with *Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty* (E.O. 13798) and *Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities* (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341),
 - Providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and
 - Terminating agreements pursuant to the U.S. Department of State Standard Terms

and Conditions, including, to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340). For the avoidance of doubt, the Department has sole discretion over the determination that an award no longer effectuates program goals or agency priorities, and this provision permits awards to be terminated at the Department's convenience, including when it determines that the award no longer advances the national interest.

- [2 CFR 25 - UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT](#)
- [2 CFR 170 - REPORTING SUBAWARD AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION INFORMATION](#)
- [2 CFR 175 - AWARD TERM FOR TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS](#)
- [2 CFR 182 - GOVERNMENTWIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE \(FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE\)](#)
- [2 CFR 183 - NEVER CONTRACT WITH THE ENEMY](#)
- [2 CFR 600 – DEPARTMENT OF STATE REQUIREMENTS](#)
- [U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)
- Recipients must comply with all applicable Executive Orders A searchable list can be found in the Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>

2. Reporting

Reporting Requirements: Recipients will be required to submit financial reports and program reports. The award document will specify what reports are required and how often these reports must be submitted.

Annual Work Plan - The annual work plan details how the Recipient will use the work plan year effectively to achieve the activity objectives and strategic approaches. The work plan serves as a guide to program implementation and once approved, represents an agreement as to the objectives and timing of specific tasks and interventions. The first work plan must be submitted 120 calendar days after the award. Subsequent annual work plans are due September 1 of each subsequent Agreement year.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEL) - The MEL plan must be reviewed and updated annually and must be submitted together with the Annual Work Plan.

Performance Progress Reports (PPRs) shall be required at a minimum annually and no more frequently than quarterly. Annual reports shall be due 90 days after the reporting period; quarterly or semi-annual reports shall be due 30 days after the reporting period. All reports and supporting documentation must be uploaded by the recipient as a Post Award Activity under the corresponding record for this award in MyGrants.

The Federal Financial Reports (FFR SF-425/SF-425a) must be submitted through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Payment Management System (PMS). The electronic version of the FFR can be accessed at: <https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms->

repository/post-award-reporting-forms. Once a financial report has been approved by the Department, the recipient must upload the approved report to MyGrants, in the same manner specified for the programmatic reports. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may jeopardize the recipient's eligibility for future awards.

A final program and financial report no more than 120 days after the period of performance of the award ends or termination of the award.

Foreign Assistance Data Review: As required by Congress, the Department of State must make progress in its efforts to improve tracking and reporting of foreign assistance data through the Foreign Assistance Data Review (FADR). The FADR requires tracking of foreign assistance activity data from budgeting, planning, and allocation through obligation and disbursement. Successful applicants will be required to report and draw down federal funding based on the appropriate FADR Data Elements, indicated within their award documentation. In cases of more than one FADR Data Element, typically program or sector and/or regions or country, the successful applicant will be required to maintain separate accounting records.

Applicants should be aware of the post award reporting requirements reflected in [2 CFR 200 Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters](#).

3. *Branding and Marking*

The Department of State, its programs, and U.S. Government funding and assistance should be easily identifiable to the Department's global audiences.

Recipients of federal assistance awards must follow the branding guidance published at [Guidance for Contracts and Grants - U.S. Department of State Brand System](#). Branding policy exceptions are outlined in the U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Manual [10 FAM 416, Policy Exceptions](#). For more information, visit: <https://brand.america.gov/>

I. Other Information

Guidelines for Budget Justification

Personnel and Fringe Benefits: Describe the wages, salaries, and benefits of temporary or permanent staff who will be working directly for the applicant on the program, and the percentage of their time that will be spent on the program.

Travel: Estimate the costs of travel and per diem for this program, for program staff, consultants or speakers, and participants/beneficiaries. If the program involves international travel, include a brief statement of justification for that travel.

Equipment: Describe any machinery, furniture, or other personal property that is required for the program, which has a useful life of more than one year (or a life longer than the duration of the program), and costs at least \$10,000 per unit.

Supplies: List and describe all the items and materials, including any computer devices, that are needed for the program. If an item costs more than \$10,000 per unit, then put it in the budget under Equipment.

Contractual: Describe goods and services that the applicant plans to acquire through a contract with a vendor. Also describe any sub-awards to non-profit partners that will help carry out the program activities.

Other Direct Costs: Describe other costs directly associated with the program, which do not fit in the other categories. For example, shipping costs for materials and equipment or applicable taxes. All “Other” or “Miscellaneous” expenses must be itemized and explained.

Indirect Costs: These are costs that cannot be linked directly to the program activities, such as overhead costs needed to help keep the organization operating. If your organization has a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate (NICRA) and includes NICRA charges in the budget, attach a copy of your latest NICRA. Organizations that have never had a NICRA may request indirect costs of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.

“Cost Sharing” refers to contributions from the organization or other entities other than the U.S. Embassy. It also includes in-kind contributions such as volunteers’ time and donated venues.
Alcoholic Beverages: Please note that award funds cannot be used for alcoholic beverages.

GVN Taxation: All assistance provided under this Notice of Funding Opportunity is intended to be exempt from Vietnamese taxation in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements. Award recipients are responsible for making good faith efforts to secure VAT exemptions for all project-related purchases and activities and must immediately notify the Grants Officer Representative (GOR) and U.S. Embassy Hanoi if VAT or other taxes are assessed on project activities.

Attachment 1

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Improved quality of life of persons with disabilities in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange: Ca Mau, Quang Ngai

“3.2. Project Goal, Objectives and Beneficiaries

a. Goal:

Improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.

b. Objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Expand medical support and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- **Objective 2:** Expand social services and social participation support for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- **Objective 3:** Improve policy implementation, public attitudes, and remove barriers faced by persons with disabilities.
- **Objective 4:** Strengthen capacity at all levels for training, management, and implementation of activities to support persons with disabilities.

c. Project Beneficiaries:

Primary beneficiaries of the project are persons with severe physical, mobility, cognitive, or developmental disabilities with a priority for: 1) persons with severe/very severe disabilities, regardless of cause, in areas heavily sprayed by Agent Orange/dioxin, or persons with severe/very severe disabilities as a result of unexploded ordnance accidents; 2) children with an identified disability;

Secondary beneficiaries of the project are frontline health workers, teachers, caregivers, family members, other service providers, hospitals/health facilities, organizations/associations of and for people with disabilities.

3.3. Expected Outputs and Key Interventions for Each Objective

The expected results of the overall goal and specific objectives are developed based on data provided by Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces, cross-referenced with the results achieved by projects funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (formerly), now the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Health, together with partners, in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange, as well as the initial results and lessons learned from the USG funded disability Project in six provinces: Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Nam, Kon Tum, Binh Dinh, and Dong Nai (pre-merger names). The targets and budget allocations for each expected

output reflect the project's intention to provide multi-sectoral support to persons with disabilities, with flexible support at both the individual and organizational levels through a multidisciplinary approach.

Objective 1 and Objective 2 are closely linked, ensuring consistency in developing a comprehensive service provision covering both health and social services for persons with disabilities, with appropriate quality and standards.

Objective 3 and Objective 4 work together to ensure harmonious development of fundamental elements of the living environment, including the legal and psychosocial environment, accessibility for persons with disabilities, equal participation of service providers, and improved quality of project management system from the central to the local levels, thereby creating favorable conditions for partners to implement activities quickly, smoothly, and effectively.

a. Key targets to be achieved under the Goal:

- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive direct support through a comprehensive range of services based on individual needs assessment. (One person may receive more than one service under Objective 1 and Objective 2, with a minimum of 18,000 services provided.)
- Of these, 75% persons with disabilities show improvement in quality-of-life indicators.

These targets are proposed based on available project resources. It is expected that at least 50% of project resources will be dedicated to direct support for persons with disabilities and their families. In line with the project's approach, persons with disabilities need comprehensive care and services, encompassing both physical and mental health support, as well as an enabling environment for social participation. The project will promote a case-management approach to fit the diverse needs, strengths, and aspirations of persons with disabilities throughout both the rehabilitation process and their participation in economic and social life. This approach is also consistent with broader support for the involvement of families and caregivers, disability clubs and support networks, the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin (VAVA) chapters at the provincial level, and to improve the ecosystem of accessibility, employment, and livelihoods for persons with disabilities. This approach requires an appropriate and well-targeted integration of available services for each beneficiary, with the involvement of family members as well as local social and health networks.

Given the limited capacity of local services, the project will mobilize relevant services from various providers, either domestic or from other provinces and cities, to provide direct support to persons with disabilities when needed.

Direct support includes, but is not limited to: multidisciplinary rehabilitation services; home nursing and care; assistive devices; psychological support and intervention; social services; modifications to homes, learning spaces, and workplaces; financial support to improve livelihoods; vocational training; appropriate job placement; participation in disability associations, groups, and clubs; training for family members; psychological support and intervention for family members; and coaching for individuals, volunteers, or neighbors who are caring for or directly supporting persons with disabilities, etc. In other words, direct support encompasses all factors that directly impact the lives of persons with disabilities.

At the same time, the project will support the development and implementation of a long-term strategy to build service delivery capacity, focusing on both organizational capacity and policy improvement for service delivery, by applying a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach, strengthening inter-sectoral cooperation, and promoting the participation of the non-public sector.

To achieve the goal, the project will implement the objectives and anticipated work items for each objective as outlined below:

b. Expected Outputs, Activities, and Solutions for Objective 1

b.1. Expected Outputs for Objective 1:

Objective 1: Expand medical support and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.

- Baseline surveys of the primary and secondary beneficiaries' needs are conducted: healthcare and rehabilitation support needs in both provinces; the actual provincial capacity to deliver rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, as well as the capacity-building needs of relevant organizations and individuals serving persons with disabilities in both provinces.
- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive comprehensive need assessment to develop customized services of health care and rehabilitation services, including specialized rehabilitation service (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, assistive devices), nursing/home care, etc., based on comprehensive case management needs assessments.
- Of these, 75% of beneficiaries are expected to achieve the intervention objectives.
- Nine rehabilitation units apply a multidisciplinary approach through: adoption of a multidisciplinary rehabilitation orientation, multidisciplinary rehabilitation workforce training, and investment in, installation, and use of rehabilitation equipment. Roadmap/action plans are developed for rehabilitation services supported by the project to be covered by the health insurance. Of these nine rehabilitation units, two are supported as service delivery models applying a multidisciplinary rehabilitation approach in the two provinces (prioritizing facilities with training functions and provincial hospitals).
- 600 frontline healthcare workers, rehabilitation service providers and managers have their professional capacity improved and meet the requirements of service provision.
- Provincial strategies for rehabilitation development and annual implementation plans are proposed in the two provinces (for example: training, infrastructure upgrades, service provision, budgeting).

The indicators for Objective 1 are developed based on: 1) The estimated number of persons with severe and very severe disabilities with healthcare and rehabilitation needs; 2) Local capacity to deliver rehabilitation services and assistive devices to persons with disabilities; 3) The state of rehabilitation governance capacity in the provinces, primarily in the areas of quality management, service effectiveness improvement, and persons with disabilities management information systems; and 4) Technical resources that can be mobilized from within or outside the

provinces for the project.

Table 4: Indicators and Targets for Objective 1 by Province

No.	Indicator/Target	Ca Mau	Quang Ngai	Total (Both Provinces)
1	Percentage of Persons with disabilities receiving healthcare and rehabilitation services who achieve their intervention goals (out of the 10,000 project beneficiaries with disabilities having needs assessment)	75%	75%	75%
2	Number of rehabilitation facilities with strengthened capacity	6	3	9
3	Number of model rehabilitation service delivery facilities applying a multidisciplinary rehabilitation approach	1	1	2
4	Number of healthcare, nursing, and rehabilitation service providers for vulnerable groups who receive professional capacity-building training	400	200	600

b.2. Main Solution and Activities for Objective 1:

Providing rehabilitation services and assistive devices to persons with disabilities is the core activity of the project, directly impacting the health status and functional abilities of persons with disabilities in both provinces. Healthcare and rehabilitation services are considered direct support and include: 1) specialized rehabilitation services such as physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech and language therapies (SALT); 2) Assistive devices; 3) Home nursing/medical care; 4) Psychological support and intervention, etc. These services are provided based on comprehensive case management needs assessments and include all associated costs necessary for service delivery.

The average cost per target beneficiary is not a cost ceiling applicable to any specific case.

The identification of services and the estimation and calculation of actual costs for a specific case may be lower or higher than the average cost and must be based on a specific needs assessment that includes both rehabilitation and social services.

To ensure long-term service delivery capacity even after project completion, the project will support human resources development, organizational and management capacity for both provinces, as well as professional guidelines and policies to support service delivery at the provincial level.

The main solutions and activity groups under Objective 1 will focus on the following areas:

b.2.1. Improving the Provision and Quality of Healthcare and Rehabilitation Services for Persons with Disabilities

Improving the delivery of quality rehabilitation services:

Delivering "quality" rehabilitation services in the modern context cannot be separated from the application of advanced equipment. The following specific activities will be implemented:

- From the outset of the project, existing rehabilitation facilities in both provinces will be supported to deliver quality rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. Specific supported services may include:
 - i) Organizing disability screening and early detection (in the community or at healthcare/rehabilitation facilities), prioritizing children, and individuals related to Agent Orange/dioxin victims;
 - ii) Referring persons with disabilities in need to service delivery points established or upgraded with project support;
 - iii) Ensuring persons with disabilities receive timely rehabilitation services and interventions at service delivery points within the network;
 - iv) Monitoring and evaluating the rehabilitation progress of persons with disabilities. Supporting and ensuring persons with disabilities adhere to their intervention plans and effectively use assistive devices (at home or at rehabilitation facilities);
 - v) Supplementing rehabilitation costs for persons with disabilities in addition to existing provincial resources (such as health insurance funds, government budget for disability support, and other sources). In addition, the project will cover other costs to ensure persons with disabilities can access high-quality rehabilitation services when needed.
- Rehabilitation devices for persons with disabilities will, to the greatest extent possible, be provided in accordance with a multidisciplinary, persons with disabilities- and family-centered approach, ensuring that support is tailored to the needs of each individual. Persons with disabilities will receive interventions following examination and prescription, including physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, assistive devices, and nursing/care during the rehabilitation process.
- In the first year of project implementation, when provinces lack sufficient trained human resources and a broad rehabilitation network, particularly at the grassroots level, the project will adopt appropriate measures to facilitate the delivery of rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, such as: establishing mobile service delivery teams from provincial-level facilities to serve the grassroots level; mobilizing private rehabilitation facilities; or rotating and seconding qualified staff to provide support.

Improving the quality of home nursing and medical care for persons with disabilities:

- Training caregivers to use assistive devices and connecting them with healthcare workers to support persons with disabilities at home.
- Providing mobility assistive devices and positioning assistive devices to reduce the risk of injury for both persons with disabilities and caregivers.

- Researching and piloting telehealth applications for remote monitoring and consultation for caregivers.
- Training caregivers of persons with disabilities, particularly family members of those with severe/very severe disabilities who are entirely dependent on caregivers, will help address the knowledge and skills gaps in disability care identified in Section 3.1. The project will prioritize developing a well-trained workforce to care for persons with disabilities, including family members, service providers, and healthcare workers. Training courses will be tailored to suit the characteristics and skill levels of each caregiver group (family members, healthcare workers, or service providers) and to match the physical condition and disability level of the persons with disabilities.
- Supporting caregivers through training: With financial and technical support from the project, family members and professional caregivers will provide home healthcare and facility-based healthcare services throughout the project. To ensure service quality, a team of specialists for assessing, planning, and supporting persons with disabilities caregivers will be established to provide guidance, supervision, and training of home care services. Standard care protocols will also be developed for monitoring, evaluation, and technical support.
- To sustain healthcare service provision, the project will actively seek and support the participation of all economic sectors and diversify forms of healthcare service delivery for persons with disabilities and other community groups, including private sector participation in service provision.

Providing assistive devices to persons with disabilities:

- Ensuring that assistive devices are part of rehabilitation service packages for persons with disabilities, helping them improve autonomy in daily activities and social participation. Supporting effective delivery of assistive devices to persons with disabilities will directly contribute to Objective 1 and is also an important factor in enhancing independent living and social participation for persons with disabilities under Objective 2. This support goes beyond providing wheelchairs and crutches, and may include high-tech assistive devices, depending on the results of needs assessments and the feasibility of intervention methods in the context of the persons with disabilities' families and local capacity, for example, 3D printing technology, daily living assistive devices, etc.
- Given the current limitations in capacity and services for assistive device provision, in the initial phase, the project will provide funding, purchase, and distribute assistive devices to meet the immediate needs of eligible persons with disabilities. Alongside direct procurement and distribution support, the project will develop a plan to gradually build a local distribution system for assistive devices in later phases of the project, focusing on strengthening the professional capacity of rehabilitation staff in assessing and prescribing assistive devices, as well as enhancing the management and policy implementation capacity of relevant agencies in the assistive device field. Additionally, depending on local conditions, the project will provide supplementary support to promote design and manufacturing initiatives for assistive devices for persons with disabilities and patients; mobilize the participation of various economic sectors; or connect with companies and enterprises which produce and distribute assistive devices.

Psychological support and interventions for persons with disabilities and family members:

- For persons with disabilities and their family members, psychological support will help improve their mental and physical health, enhance their capacity for social integration, and reduce self-stigma. However, psychological support and intervention in general and for persons with disabilities in particular remains an underdeveloped field in Vietnam and does not yet meet current social needs. Therefore, the project's support will also be implemented in a manner that aligns with local capacity, with the aim of building appropriate service delivery models or modalities for effective psychological support and intervention for persons with disabilities and their families.
- Depending on the actual conditions in each province, the project plans to implement the following activities: Conducting assessments of the availability and feasibility of psychological intervention and/or mental health support services in the community for persons with disabilities and family members. These assessments will inform the design of pilot models and the site selection for psychological support interventions, as well as the development of evaluation criteria and methods during implementation; Developing and implementing mental health care and psychological support models for persons with disabilities and caregivers of those who are entirely dependent on caregivers. Mobilizing the participation and resources of economic actors, particularly the private sector, in providing psychological intervention and mental health support services in the provinces; Evaluating, reviewing, and scaling up effective models.

b.2.2. Improving and Expanding the Network to Ensure Rehabilitation Service Delivery for Persons with disabilities

- Supporting system capacity strengthening for both public and private rehabilitation units, which may include: 1) Organizational strategies and implementation plans; 2) Equipment and tools; 3) Systems for assessment, prescription, and delivery assistive devices; 4) Community awareness communication on healthcare and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, etc.
- To meet the requirements for delivering quality rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, the project will support provinces in rapidly expanding and improving the quality of rehabilitation service networks from the outset of implementation, ensuring maximum participation of both public and non-public healthcare facilities at the provincial, grassroots, and community levels. This will include close coordination between service providers and families. In addition to contributing to Objective 1 outputs, local rehabilitation service delivery networks will help diversify service delivery modalities for other population groups and patients with rehabilitation needs.
- To improve the quality and effectiveness of services and the capacity of the rehabilitation system, the project will coordinate with and support provinces in developing nine multidisciplinary rehabilitation units (three in Quang Ngai, six in Ca Mau), tailored to the actual needs of persons with disabilities and local socioeconomic conditions, based on criteria including geographic distance, availability, professional capacity, and the ability to

integrate and optimize ongoing support programs for persons with disabilities in both provinces.

- Developing model rehabilitation service delivery facilities for persons with disabilities at provincial or regional hospitals or equivalent institutions, through organizational capacity assessments and rehabilitation capacity development strategies, focusing on human resource development, services (rehabilitation, nursing, assistive devices, etc.), system governance capacity, technical guidance, and medical equipment. Each unit will receive a "core equipment package" appropriate to its professional and technical functions and role.

b.2.3. Developing a High-Quality Rehabilitation Workforce

This activity focuses on system capacity strengthening support for both public and private rehabilitation units and may include both long-term and short-term training for healthcare workers, rehabilitation service providers, and managers.

The rehabilitation workforce is one of the priority areas requiring support to meet service delivery objectives and strengthen the rehabilitation system capacity in both provinces. It is estimated that project investments will support the training of 600 individuals to meet established training and professional practice standards.

- The project will work with provincial Departments of Health to develop training plans, covering both long-term and short-term training. For long-term training, factors to be determined include selection criteria and conditions for staff to participating in long-term training, number of trainees by specialty and training duration, training institutions, and post-training staff deployment planning. Short-term training courses will be identified based on annual or phase-specific needs.
- In addition, the project will collaborate with domestic institutions (such as universities and rehabilitation hospitals) to develop specialized training courses for local healthcare workers, including long-term, continuous medical education (CME), continuous professional development, clinical supervision, enhancing the capacity and quality of clinical practice among rehabilitation service providers. These courses may include rehabilitation services for children with disabilities, an unmet need currently being proposed by the provinces.

The project will also make appropriate investments in establishing a provincial-level technical support center to regularly guide and supervise rehabilitation practitioners and improve service quality. This center may be the health facility supported to become the model rehabilitation service delivery unit, as described above. Technical support may be provided in person or online using information technology applications (e.g., telehealth). Training for a high-quality rehabilitation workforce in the technology era will be encouraged to integrate teaching and practice using modern equipment systems.

b.2.4. Improving Rehabilitation System Governance Capacity

- Strengthening management capacity for hospitals includes capacity for human resource

training planning, service development, investment, operation, management, and equipment maintenance. Project support will be discussed annually with implementers and incorporated into specific plans.

- Developing a rehabilitation development plan for the 2026–2030 period for each province, covering human resource development, services, equipment, etc., with a clear and appropriate roadmap.
- The health information system in the field of rehabilitation should be designed to monitor, manage, and evaluate usage effectiveness, in line with the health sector's orientation for developing and using the information system on rehabilitation and persons with disabilities, from the central to local levels.
- Strengthening management and planning capacity and improving service quality:
 - These activities will directly contribute to Objective 1 by ensuring the sustainability of long-term service provision for persons with disabilities and by enabling management agencies and the service delivery system to effectively utilize investments in rehabilitation services for the community, including persons with disabilities.
 - Activities may include: a) Strengthening the capacity of healthcare management staff within the rehabilitation system (at Departments of Health, provincial hospitals, and health centers at the provincial and grassroots levels within the health sector, and other agencies) through training courses, domestic and international study visits, participation in specialized workshops and conferences, and other activities; b) Supporting a number of provincial hospitals in strengthening rehabilitation service delivery capacity, focusing on hospital management, financial mechanisms (for rehabilitation services), human resource management, and service quality management.
- Finalizing and implementing the rehabilitation development plan:
 - The project will coordinate with relevant authorities to support the development and/or implementation of the rehabilitation development plan for 2026–2030 in both provinces.
 - With project support, the provincial five-year rehabilitation development plan is expected to meet the following criteria: a) Identify objectives aligned with national strategies in relevant areas (for example, the Persons with Disabilities Support Program 2021–2030, the Rehabilitation System Development Program 2023–2030 with a vision to 2050, etc.) and local priorities; b) Develop a comprehensive and detailed master plan for the rehabilitation service delivery network, including public and non-public healthcare facilities; c) Identify investment needs and specific funding sources for rehabilitation specialty development in the province.
 - Given the critical role of the five-year rehabilitation development plan in identifying priority areas and necessary resources for the entire provincial rehabilitation system in general, and for project activities in particular, the project will support both provinces in completing this activity within the first year after

the project is approved by competent authorities.

- Improving the health information system in the rehabilitation field in both provinces:
 - The information system is an essential foundation for planning, management, administration, budgeting, and performance evaluation. Therefore, the quality of the information system is directly linked to the governance capacity of each sector, locality, and unit. The project will pilot the application of information technology in managing and providing rehabilitation data for persons with disabilities, for example, developing electronic record systems, online databases, or remote technical support.

c. Expected Outputs, Activities, and Solutions for Objective 2

Objective 2: Expand social services and social participation support for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.

c.1. Expected Outputs for Objective 2:

- Baseline needs surveys of the primary and secondary beneficiaries are conducted: non-health support needs, the current state of social service delivery and participation support for Persons with disabilities, as well as the capacity-building needs of relevant organizations and individuals serving Persons with disabilities in both provinces.
- 10,000 persons with disabilities receive comprehensive need assessment to develop customized services of social services including access to housing, learning and working environments, economic development, independent living, social participation support, home modification, etc. based on comprehensive case management needs assessments.
- 75% of beneficiaries meet the intervention objectives.
- Family members receive appropriate assistance in providing care/support for persons with profound and severe disabilities
- 30 social protection centers, organizations, associations, groups, and clubs of and for persons with disabilities have their capacity improved.
- 600 social workers and managers, teachers and other individuals involved in both public and private social service provision are provided with capacity development through training.

The expected results for Objective 2 are developed based on: 1) The estimated number of persons with disabilities with social service needs in both provinces; 2) Persons with disabilities' needs for participation in activities and social participation; 3) The current lack of facilities or formally trained professional staff exist in the provinces for delivering psychological and social services to persons with disabilities.

Table 5: Indicators and Targets for Objective 2

No.	Indicator/Target	Ca Mau	Quang Ngai	Total (Both Provinces)
1	Percentage of Persons with disabilities receiving social services who achieve	75%	75%	75%

	intervention outcomes (out of the 10,000 project beneficiaries with disabilities who have needs assessment)			
2	Number of organizations or service delivery systems for vulnerable groups whose capacity are strengthened with project support	20	10	30
3	Number of service providers for vulnerable groups who receive training	400	200	600

c.2. Main Solution and Activities for Objective 2:

Apart from the health and rehabilitation services described under Objective 1, the project will deliver social support services and strengthen social connectivity to help persons with disabilities improve their capacity for independent living and social participation, both essential elements for improving their quality of life.

Social service delivery constitutes direct support and may include: 1) physical accessibility at home, in learning, and working environments; 2) Independent living skills, including livelihood improvement; 3) Social participation; 4) Legal assistance, etc. Priority will be given to livelihood improvement and independent living skills. The identification of services, planning, and calculation of actual support costs for each specific case will be based on the results of individual needs assessments covering both rehabilitation and social service needs.

The project will also support capacity building and networking for centers, provincial Association of Victims of Agent Orange (PAVA), persons with disabilities associations, groups, and clubs, while developing the human resources of social service providers.

The main interventions to achieve the targets set for Objective 2 include:

c.2.1. Providing Social Services

Improving physical accessibility at home, in learning, and working environments:

- Persons with disabilities, as well as their families and communities, need small-scale infrastructure (such as adapted toilets, indoor or garden pathways, learning spaces, etc.) for daily living at home. The project will focus on areas such as home modifications, learning and working environment adaptations, independent living skills, and livelihood support.
- The project will engage local engineers to design solutions in collaboration with persons with disabilities and their families.
- The project will also directly involve families and/or guardians in the design, modification, and assistive device production process to ensure these products meet the actual needs of persons with disabilities.

Improving independent living skills (including livelihoods) and social participation opportunities for persons with disabilities:

Independent living skills are one of the key factors in improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities and reducing the caregiving burden, thereby enhancing social participation for both persons with disabilities and their families. Therefore, in addition to providing care services, the project will also provide support in this area, focusing on the following two main interventions:

- **Developing effective, needs-based social service systems to improve independent living skills and livelihoods for persons with disabilities:**

The project will coordinate with local social protection systems to design and pilot a number of models for enhancing independent living skills and improving livelihoods for persons with disabilities. These models will be reviewed and evaluated for suitability and scaled up where appropriate.

Independent living models will be designed and implemented based on international criteria for and on the actual capacity and experience of Vietnam in general and of previously supported provinces.

The project will also research, reference, and apply livelihood and inclusive employment support methods that have been successfully implemented by disability support organizations or by persons with disabilities themselves. Persons with disabilities will receive support based on a comprehensive assessment of its suitability and each individual's ability to engage in livelihood activities. The project will also explore the applicability of occupational therapy (OT) techniques (related to rehabilitation services under Objective 1) to help increase access to livelihoods and employment for persons with disabilities.

The project will coordinate with local authorities to support the issuance of health insurance cards to those who need coverage but do not yet have cards, based on individual needs assessments.

The project will also coordinate with local authorities to support persons with disabilities eligible for legal aid and provide free legal services upon request.

- **Supporting social participation for persons with disabilities:**

The project will provide necessary support to help persons with disabilities who wish to participate in social, community, and cultural and sports activities and events for persons with disabilities at various levels. This support will be implemented through networks of persons with disabilities associations and networks, or mass organizations, and local authorities.

c.2.2. Developing and Connecting Persons with Disabilities Associations, Groups, and Clubs

To strengthen persons with disabilities' capacity to participate in social activities, the project will provide appropriate support for access to networks and social organizations - particularly local organizations for persons with disabilities - through the following approaches: a) Assessing the

capacity of associations, groups, and clubs to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, and persons with disabilities' support needs for participating in social activities; b) Supporting the capacity strengthening or expansion of associations, groups, and clubs for persons with disabilities ; c) Supporting connections between associations, groups, and clubs and project activities or other persons with disabilities support programs; d) Conducting mass communication to provide information about activities, how to participate, and the benefits of joining associations and groups for persons with disabilities.

Support activities will also include social participation, strengthening the capacity of associations, groups, and clubs for persons with disabilities, and developing human resources for social service providers, and training and supporting family members of persons with profound disabilities in accessing associations and groups.

c.2.3. Developing Human Resources for Social Service Providers

This is a form of system capacity strengthening support, aimed at developing the capacity of social workers and managers as individuals or as staff of public and private social service providers. Support may include both long-term and short-term training, as well as advisory support. Planning and calculation of actual support costs for individual capacity development must be based on a specific individual development plan.

Human resources for social services are one of the top priority areas to meet service delivery objectives and strengthen the social service delivery system capacity in both provinces. It is estimated that project investment will support the training of 600 individuals. The project will train staff of organizations that mobilize resources to build and repair homes for persons with disabilities and Agent Orange victims, for example, provincial Agent Orange victim associations. The project will collaborate with Departments of Home Affairs, VAVA, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, preschools, social protection centers, persons with disabilities associations and clubs, and provincial and national business networks, etc., to develop training plans covering long-term and short-term training, regular guidance, and provincial and grassroots-level supervision of social service providers to improve service quality. Technical support may be provided in person or online using information technology applications.

c.2.4. Improve Opportunities and Prevent Violence Against Persons with Disabilities

Analysis of data on persons with disabilities shows persistent barriers to educational attainment, income, and employment. Therefore, promoting opportunities and preventing violence against persons with disabilities is an important component across all areas of project-supported activities, including: a) Training staff on the disability laws and on providing legal aid to persons with disabilities; b) Conducting community awareness-raising and communication on violence against persons with disabilities; c) Strengthening the capacity of associations, groups, and clubs for persons with disabilities, and agencies and organizations working with persons with disabilities; d) Training persons with disabilities, family members, and grassroots staff on eliminating violence against persons with disabilities; e) Increasing household-wide caregiving for persons with disabilities; f) Supporting temporary shelter facilities and/or group activities for referral and support of persons with disabilities who are victims of violence, shelters supported

by the project will follow sex-based policies for accommodation; (g) Supporting intake and information on legal aid in cases where victims of violence who request legal assistance.

d. Expected Outputs, Activities, and Solutions for Objective 3

Objective 3: Improve policy, public attitudes, and accessibility for persons with disabilities.

d.1. Expected Outputs for Objective 3:

- Review existing policies and the state of their implementation at the central and local levels regarding support for persons with disabilities, including analysis of gaps. This will help guide project support for the implementation of policies directly relevant to activities under Objective 1 and Objective 2.
- 15,000 persons with disabilities and family members participate in activities of persons with disabilities networks.
- Propose and support the implementation of policies, action programs, and persons with disabilities support plans at the central and local levels.

The expected results of Objective 3 are developed based on: 1) Priority support for implementing policies for persons with disabilities at the Ministry of Health and in both provinces; 2) Project resources expected to be allocated to activities under this Objective; and 3) The potential contribution to achieving the objectives of the National Support Program for Persons with Disabilities for 2026–2030.

Table 6: Indicators and Targets for Objective 3

No.	Indicator/Target	Ministry of Health	Ca Mau	Quang Ngai	Total
1	Number of policies, action programs, and persons with disabilities support plans at the central and local levels proposed, adopted, or implemented with project support	4	2	2	8
2	Number of persons with disabilities and family members participating in activities of persons with disabilities networks	—	10,000	5,000	15,000

d.2. Main Solution and Activities for Objective 3:

The primary aim of interventions under Objective 3 is to create a better living environment for persons with disabilities, encompassing both the policy environment and social environment, while also facilitating the successful implementation of project support. Project support for Objective 3 will focus on strengthening the effective implementation of disability laws and policies, raising community awareness, eliminating or reducing barriers and limitations that prevent Persons with disabilities and their families from benefiting from policies, and improving their social participation through the following main approaches:

d.2.1. Promoting Effective Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Support Policies

Activities in this solution group aim to improve the policy environment, remove or minimize barriers to accessing support from persons with disabilities policies, through the following support and activities:

- **Assessing and reviewing the implementation of social support policies for persons with disabilities:** This activity will be conducted at the start of project implementation in the provinces to identify issues, priorities, and effective support modalities for advancing the implementation of persons with disabilities policies at the local level. This group of activities includes comprehensive surveys on the state of the implementation of persons with disabilities policy, conferences and workshops to present and discuss assessment results, and review conferences in the provinces.
- **Strengthening the knowledge and capacity of government officials and social organizations on persons with disabilities support policies:** To ensure that Government and international regulations on persons with disabilities are implemented promptly and effectively, the project will support capacity building for policy implementation among staff in the State system and social organizations and mass organizations. Support will focus primarily on strengthening knowledge and skills in researching, implementing, and applying existing policies and regulations (both domestic and international), as well as the ability to receive and communicate feedback from practice to improve implementation effectiveness and refine policies and regulations to better reflect changing social realities and the needs of persons with disabilities.
- **Supporting the promotion of persons with disabilities policy implementation:** Based on the results and recommendations of the policy review and assessment, the project will support the Ministry of Health and the provinces in carrying out activities to promote the implementation of persons with disabilities policies at all levels, particularly those that have direct impact on the quality of life of persons with disabilities and align with the project's objectives such as: (i) policies on access to public facilities, public transportation services, and information services for persons with disabilities; (ii) policies on providing free legal services to persons with disabilities eligible for legal aid; (iii) policies encouraging the development of diverse services for persons with disabilities, such as supporting persons with disabilities and their families in participating in economic activities, inclusive employment models, livelihood models, preferential credit loans, participation in social activities, etc.; and (iv) health insurance payment policies for rehabilitation services to enhance the expansion of and accessibility of rehabilitation services and social services for persons with disabilities.

Support for this group of activities may include organizing workshops and policy dissemination sessions for various sectors and levels, thematic meetings on resolving obstacles in policy implementation; support for pilot policy implementation; support for issuing guidance documents; and support for specialized and inter-sectoral inspection and monitoring.

The project will need to invest resources to support both central and provincial levels, not

only in the two provinces but also in all six provinces currently implementing the USG-funded disability Project to continue training, supporting multidisciplinary rehabilitation-oriented facilities, promote the implementation and communication of persons with disabilities support policies, and provide other practical assistance to create an enabling environment for social participation and improved quality of life for persons with disabilities in general, and for effective project interventions in particular. In addition, the project will support the implementation of policies related to insurance coverage levels and related issues so that persons with disabilities can access the broadest possible range of health insurance services in the future.

The project will also collaborate with departments/bureaus of the Ministry of Health to assess the processes of identifying persons with disabilities, evaluating, verifying, and confirming disability status, and proposing support options, in order to develop implementation guidance documents and contribute updated information to local and national databases on persons with disabilities.

d.2.2. Raising Community Awareness and Attitudes on Issues Related to Persons with Disabilities

- This activity aims to improve community attitudes and behaviors, creating a favorable social environment for persons with disabilities and for policy implementation. Behavioral and social change communication will be applied through mass media campaigns to reach large audiences while sharing evidence, best practices, and lessons learned from the implementation of the current USG-funded disability Project across all provinces.
- Behavioral and social change communication campaigns will be implemented using provincial media channels such as radio, television, social media, and community events to raise awareness about persons with disabilities, reduce stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities and their families, promote the rights of persons with disabilities, enhance gender equality, and improve policies related to persons with disabilities. Beyond raising awareness, reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting gender equality and the prevention of gender-based violence at the community level, these events and communication campaigns will also target persons with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities and family members to help them develop a more positive self-image, raise awareness of individual rights, thereby reduce self-stigma and encourage more positive living.
- To design effective communication campaigns and programs, survey data on stigma and discrimination, gender inequality and domestic violence, or information related to community awareness and attitudes - collected from baseline surveys and existing studies - will be analyzed and used. Communication experts will work with disability specialists, representatives of persons with disabilities, and other stakeholders to develop communication strategies and campaign plans to ensure that communication approaches and messages are effectively conveyed to target audiences and generate changes in social behavior.

d.2.3. Progressively Eliminating Physical and Social Barriers for Persons with disabilities

In addition to promoting the implementation of persons with disabilities policies, the project will support a number of complementary activities to make a more practical contribution to the social participation of persons with disabilities, including: a) Advocating for improved accessibility for persons with disabilities at healthcare facilities in the project implementation areas; b) Improving persons with disabilities' access to public transportation; c) Enhancing access to information through sign language, captioning functions on mass media channels, and, in coordination with Objective 1, providing assistive devices for information access such as Braille books, audiobooks, hearing aids, etc.; d) Organizing cultural and sports activities for persons with disabilities.

e. Expected Outputs, Activities, and Solutions for Objective 4

Objective 4: Strengthen training, management, and implementation capacity for support activities for persons with disabilities at all levels.

e.1. Expected Outputs for Objective 4:

- Transition plans in the relevant provincial project sites of the current U.S. funded disabilities project (for example: former Quang Nam, Hue, Quang Tri, former Kon Tum, former Binh Dinh, former Dong Nai, former Binh Phuoc) are developed and implemented. Transition plans are drafted for Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces.
- 90% of supported organizations and systems providing or managing programs/projects for persons with disabilities have their capacity strengthened and their operational effectiveness improved.
- 100% of persons with disabilities supported by the project have their information updated in local disability management information systems.
- The capacity of six selected universities and national/regional hospitals is improved, and they are selected to provide trainings, services for persons with disabilities and for persons with disabilities/their family members who are affected by of Agent Orange and unexploded ordinance (UXO).
- The quality of disability information system in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces is improved.
- Cooperation between the U.S Government and the Government of Vietnam in training, health system strengthening, and health services for persons with disabilities.
- Program management support, monitoring/evaluation and training/capacity building support are provided to related project stakeholders.

Table 7: Indicators and Targets for Objective 4

No.	Indicator/Target	Ca Mau	Quang Ngai	Central and Local Organizations
1	Percentage of organizations and/or service delivery systems supporting vulnerable persons whose capacity are strengthened (estimated: 10 organizations/service delivery	90%	90%	90%

	systems)			
2	Percentage of Agent Orange victims supported by the project whose information is updated in local persons with disabilities management information systems	100%	100%	—

The expected results of Objective 4 are developed based on reports submitted by both provinces to NACCET and the results of stakeholder consultations in both provinces in August and September 2023, as well as input on the needs, capacity, and plans of associations, clubs, groups, and networks for persons with disabilities and Agent Orange/dioxin victims in the coming years.

e.2. Main Solution and Activities for Objective 4:

Project activities under this Objective aim to support the effective leadership, management, and administration of support activities for persons with disabilities in provinces heavily sprayed with Agent Orange and at the central level, including the Steering Committee, Project Management Board, local project activity management offices, the governing agency, implementing partners, and relevant central and local agencies. The project will place special emphasis on supporting capacity building for the system of the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, the Vietnam Federation on Disability, and the Vietnam Red Cross Society in the two project provinces.

e.2.1. Strengthening Project Management and Coordination Capacity at Central and Local Levels

This group of activities helps ensure that project activities are implemented effectively, on schedule, and achieve both annual and overall project objectives, including: a) Supporting the provision of basic physical infrastructure conditions for the operations of the Project Management Board and local activity management offices (including the purchase of one 7-seat vehicle for Project Management Board activities); b) Carrying out general project management tasks (including organizing the project launch ceremony, program review, and planning conferences); c) Organizing overall monitoring activities for the entire project; organizing workshops and training sessions on project management, and domestic and international study visits, etc.; d) Communicating about project activities, results, and effectiveness; e) Developing and implementing a data system and reporting capacity to support project management.

e.2.2. Strengthening the Management, Coordination, and Operational Capacity of Social Protection Organizations within the Central Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, Local Member Associations, and Local Persons with Disabilities Support Organizations

The project will provide support to improve management and coordination effectiveness for local persons with disabilities support organizations, specifically through a) Developing and managing networks; b) Developing joint activities and mobilizing resources for these activities; c) Strengthening communication capacity and improving persons with disabilities' access to information through central and local information channels and media publications targeting

persons with disabilities.

For the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin system, the project will provide specialized capacity-building support based on the actual conditions of the Central Association and the project provinces.

Key support activities for the Association may include: a) Strengthening capacity through training and specialized technical and professional support across multiple areas for the Central Association and member associations as needed; b) In addition to basic training and capacity-building courses, the project will invest in comprehensive capacity building for the Central Association and the Associations of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin in a number of provinces, based on the results of organizational capacity assessments conducted for each association; c) Progressively consolidating and improving Agent Orange victim data management in the two project provinces. Initially, the project will support the Central Association in consolidating existing information and data systems, and on that basis, summarizing lessons learned, and developing a plan to expand Agent Orange victim data management; d) Promoting the role of the Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin in planning, implementing, and coordinating support activities for persons with disabilities and Agent Orange victims within the project framework.

e.2.3. Collaboration with Universities and Central Hospitals

Based on the project objectives, actual project needs, as well as the capacity assessments and long-term organizational development plans of universities and hospitals, the project will support these training institutions (for example, Hue University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Can Tho University, Da Nang University, Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bach Mai Hospital, etc.) by providing a number of advanced rehabilitation equipment for teaching purposes. This will ensure that graduates have early exposure to technology, shortening retraining time when they return to their localities. Investing in modern rehabilitation equipment is an urgent requirement to realize the major orientations and policies of the Party and State. Specifically, Prime Minister's Decision No. 569/QĐ-TTg dated May 24, 2023, approving the "Rehabilitation System Development Program for 2023–2030," set out the objectives of "applying modern science, technology, and techniques in rehabilitation" and "developing the rehabilitation system in a modern and synchronized direction." At the same time, this investment also aligns with the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendations on strengthening access to assistive technology and high-quality rehabilitation services, contributing to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to which Vietnam is a signatory.

e.2.4. Transition Plans after Project Completion

The project will continue to implement activity transition plans not only in the two provinces of Ca Mau and Quảng Ngai, but also in the provinces currently covered by the USG-funded disability Project, contributing to the training and capacity building of rehabilitation staff at both grassroots and provincial levels, as well as proposing policies to help persons with disabilities access rehabilitation services even after the project ends, such as: supporting the development

and proposal of health insurance policies for rehabilitation services; developing provincial rehabilitation plans (with corresponding budget allocation plans); training human resources (in accordance with professional practice regulations); and providing equipment and supplies.

Table 9: Projected Fund Allocation by Objective

(The actual budget will be developed, allocated, and implemented by the Awardee(s) based on the results of initial needs and capacity assessments of the primary and secondary beneficiaries/ beneficiaries at the time of project implementation.)

Objectives	Percentage of Total Funds
Goal: Improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities	
Objective 1: Expand medical support and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces	46%
Objective 2: Expand social services and support social participation for persons with disabilities in Ca Mau and Quang Ngai provinces	30%
Objective 3: Improve policies, public attitudes, and eliminate barriers for persons with disabilities	6%
Objective 4: Strengthen management capacity and implementation of support activities for persons with disabilities at all levels”	18%