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Patrick J. Leahy

War Victims Fund

portfolio
synopsis

spring 2000



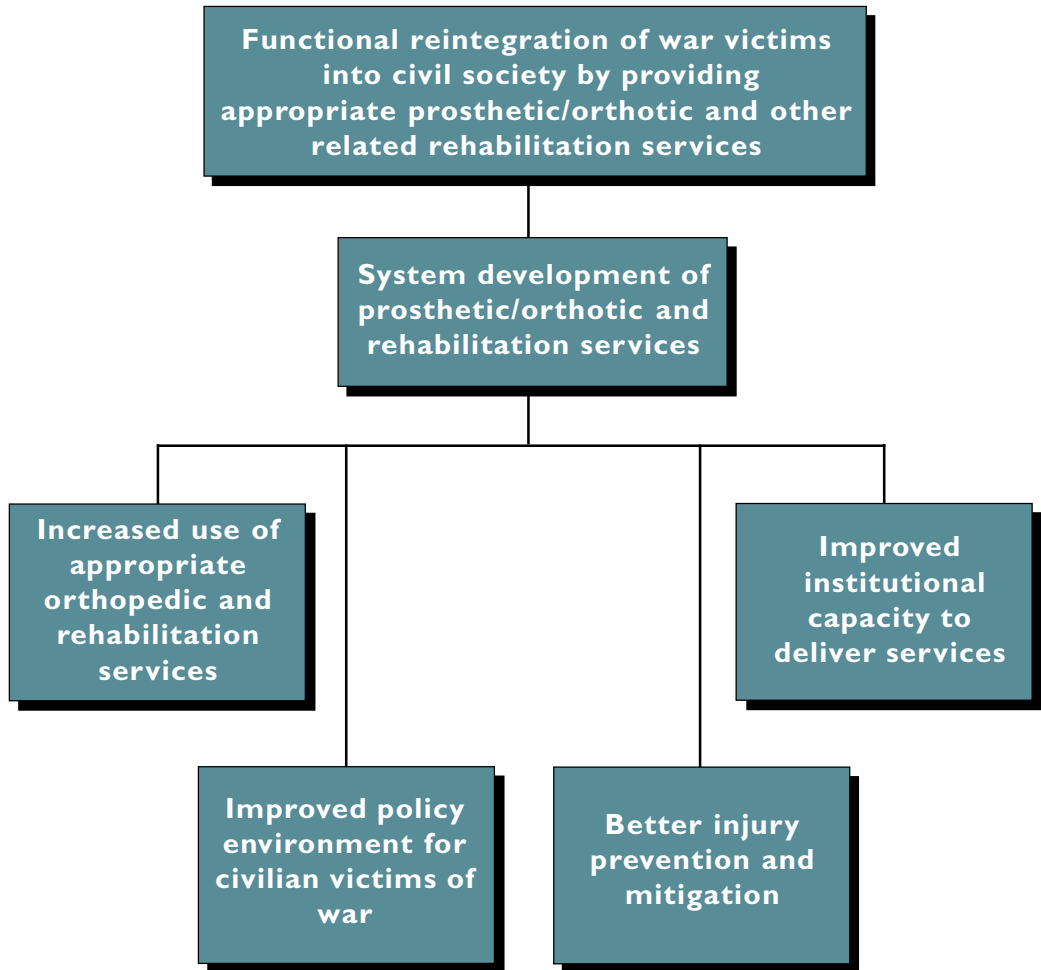
Cover photo courtesy of Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund (LVWF) contributes to improving the mobility, health, and socioeconomic integration of civilians who have sustained physical disabilities as a result of armed conflict. The fund supports both humanitarian and developmental efforts to ameliorate the impact of disabilities with a focus on strengthening sustainable service delivery systems.

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Strategic Framework



Introduction

Ten Years of Assistance Under USAID'S Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund

Since 1989, the U.S. Agency for International Development's Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund has worked in war-affected developing countries to provide a dedicated source of financial and technical assistance for civilian victims of war. The fund serves people who suffer from mobility-related injuries, including those with land-mine injuries, and those who suffer from polio as a result of interrupted immunization services.

In the last decade, the fund has supported programs that provide for the improved mobility of people with disabilities by providing accessible, appropriate prosthetic services. With a renewed focus on quality of service, the fund has added patient follow-up and monitoring as part of its projects.

Although much remains to be done to improve the quality, availability, accessibility, and sustainability of prosthetic services, the fund does not ignore other related services. For example, in Laos a special program that upgrades medical and surgical services for victims of accidental detonations of unexploded ordnance has been successful and is being replicated in other parts of the country.

War victims and other people living with disabilities face daunting obstacles in gaining access to education, training, and employment opportunities. Appropriate policies and construction codes for barrier-free accessibility for people living with disabilities can help overcome these obstacles. Toward this end, an innovative program of assistance in Vietnam that began with a focus on barrier-free accessibility has resulted in passage of a comprehensive national disabilities law. This legislation was drafted with the assistance of

Americans who participated in efforts to pass and implement the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Improved economic conditions and the ability to increase earned income are essential to the health and welfare of all individuals, including those living with disabilities. In Cambodia, the fund has supported a variety of innovative approaches to increase income-generating opportunities for war victims and their families. Lessons learned from these approaches can be used to develop similar programs in other countries.

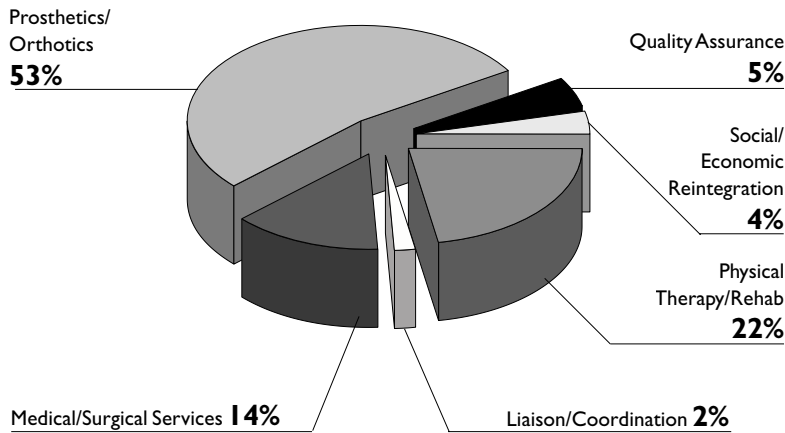
The Leahy War Victims Fund compliments another special USAID fund, the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), which provides for the protection; well-being; and development of war-affected children, unaccompanied minors, and orphans. Like the Leahy War Victims Fund, DCOF works through nongovernmental organizations to provide direct intervention and local capacity building.

The Leahy War Victims Fund has now provided over \$60 million in more than 16 countries. As the fund evolves, its agenda becomes more challenging. Its plans include inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and implementing programs; improved training; expanded community-based rehabilitation; development and production of appropriate wheelchairs; and increased coordination with other donors.

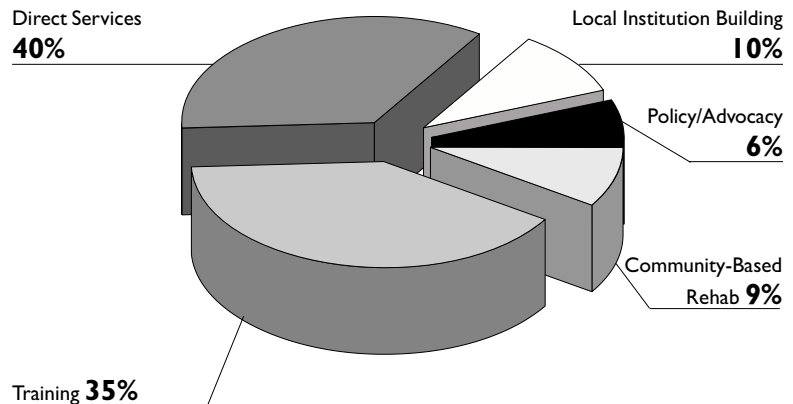
Each year, through the efforts of its collaborating partners and the dedicated and professional commitment of their local and international staff, the Leahy War Victims Fund is providing assistance to thousands of war victims, their families, and other people living with disabilities.

Projects & Activities

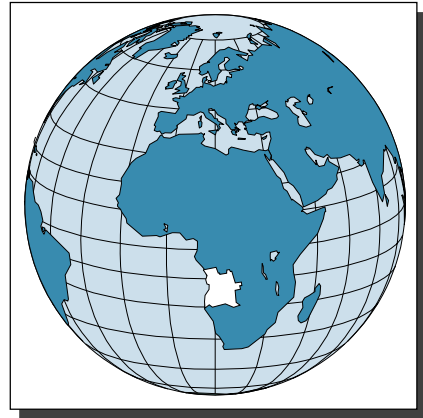
Types of Projects



Types of Activities



Country Overviews



Angola

After achieving independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola entered a prolonged civil war between government and rebel forces. Of the total 10.5 million population, more than 3 million people were either displaced or directly affected by the war. In the past year, tensions have risen and fighting has resumed.

Today, Angola has more than 6 million land mines and as many as 70,000 amputees, a number higher in both absolute and relative terms than that of any other country in Africa. This number is projected to grow as internally displaced people, demobilized soldiers, and refugees return home, and as others, particularly women and children, go farther into the countryside in search of food and available land. Additionally, the incidence of crippling diseases such as polio, which usually increases in war and post-war environments, further compounds the rehabilitation challenges facing the Angolan people.

USAID is making progress addressing the needs of amputees through its assistance to the Vietnam Veterans of American Foundation (VVAFA). VVAFA's goal is to establish a functioning rehabilitation center in eastern Angola that will meet the mobility needs of 3,600 people with disabilities.

Project: Angolan Regional Rehabilitation Project

Cooperating Agency: Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

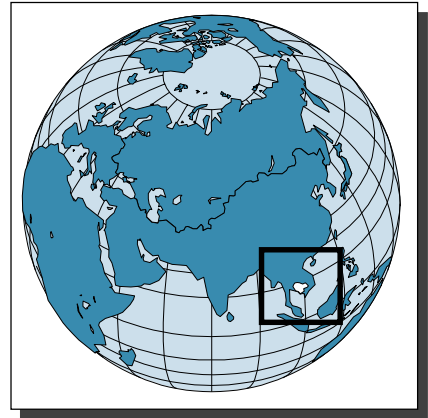
Assistance Begun: September 1996

Amount: \$3,033,000 (9/96–9/00)

Purpose: (1) Establish a regional rehabilitation center for southeastern Angola based in Luena City, Moxico Province, that provides orthopedic devices to disabled Angolans, many of whom have been injured by land mines; (2) construct and equip a workshop and clinic to produce and distribute 2,140 prosthetic limbs, primarily to land-mine victims; (3) produce and distribute 1,000 mobility aids (crutches and walkers) and 480 wheelchairs; and (4) train 17 Angolans as administrators and orthopedic technicians.

Accomplishments

- Workshop and clinic constructed and equipped.
- 7 local Angolans recruited and trained as orthopedic technicians.
- 3 local nationals trained as physiotherapists to work with amputees.
- 23 Angolans, 9 of whom are disabled, hired and trained as administrators, maintenance workers, drivers, guards, and cleaners.
- 360 Angolans fitted with prostheses and given gait training. The vast majority are land-mine victims; 20 percent are women.



Cambodia

During Cambodia's 25 years of war, mines were used extensively. To date, as many as 30,000 Cambodians have been maimed from land-mine-related accidents, and an estimated 4 to 6 million land mines remain scattered throughout the country. Although the rate of land-mine accidents has substantially declined in recent years, the 30,000 Cambodians already disabled, as well as those newly injured each year will need limb repairs or new limbs every one to two years for the rest of their lives.

During the war years, the country also suffered a severe deterioration of its physical infrastructure and virtually all public services came to a halt. The lack of a functional basic health care system and widespread poverty contribute to the fact that many people with disabilities in Cambodia were marginalized without access to appropriate physical, vocational, or economic rehabilitation.

Today, USAID works through the Disability Action Council and the Vietnam Veterans of American Foundation to assist war and mine victims by expanding rehabilitation and job training programs for people with disabilities and by working to strengthen the institutions and coordination mechanisms that Cambodian society needs to be able to sustain such programs over the long term.

Project: Disability Action Council (DAC)

Cooperating Agency: Handicap International (HI)

Assistance Begun: September 1998

Amount: \$500,000 (9/98–8/01)

Purpose: **(1)** Increase coordination among the government, NGOs, business and religious organizations, local communities, and people with disabilities to implement a five-year national plan on disability issues; **(2)** promote and encourage the development of national policy and legislation on disability and related issues; and **(3)** review and evaluate all existing policies, programs, and activities concerning people with disabilities.

Accomplishments

- DAC Secretariat established.
- Services to underserved people with disabilities promoted and coordinated.
- A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system developed for all services in the rehabilitation sector.
- A communication network developed and implemented between the DAC, the Secretariat, the technical and specialized committees, government agencies, international organizations, and NGOs.

Project: Cambodia Prosthetics and Rehabilitation Program

Cooperating Agency: Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

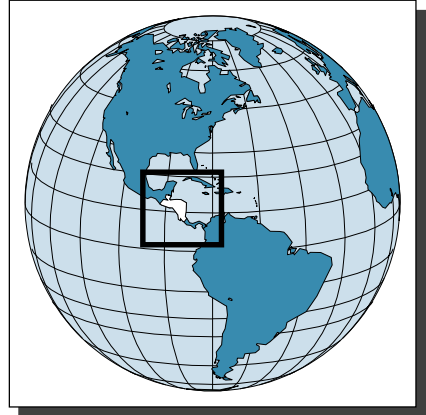
Assistance Begun: September 1992

Amount: \$7,778,355 (2/96–12/01)

Purpose: (1) Consolidate Kien Khleang's role as a National Rehabilitation Center offering a wide range of rehabilitative services to Cambodians with disabilities, extend services through the provincial centers, and set up satellite workshops; (2) develop the capacity to deliver services to the disabled in the provinces of Strung Treng, Kratie, and Ratanakiri; (3) produce and distribute an additional 2,400 prostheses, 2,400 prosthetic feet, 1,200 orthotic braces, and 600 wheelchairs; (4) provide simple prosthetics, wheelchairs, and socioeconomic assistance to war victims living in the remote province of Preah Vihear; and (5) continue to identify counterparts among Cambodian staff to assume technical and administrative responsibilities.

Accomplishments

- More than 8,000 patients treated.
- Cambodian counterparts identified and trained for supervisory positions.
- Training program for people with disabilities established in Preah Vihear.
- Additional infrastructure completed at the Prey Veng Regional Center in Preah Vihear and at Kien Khleang.
- Screening, Physiotherapy, and Community Follow-Up Unit reorganized and given upgrade training to improve follow-up services in the community.
- Initial planning and design completed for the satellite workshops to be located in eastern Cambodia.



Central American Initiative

(Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua)

Regional unrest through the 1980s has left Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala with a legacy of unexploded ordnance and land mines. Although Honduras and Costa Rica managed to avoid taking a military role in the violence that ravaged Central America during that decade, conflicts in neighboring countries left regional borders heavily mined.

In addition to the human casualties they cause, land mines pose a special problem in Central America, a region troubled by large populations and a scarce amount of available land. The proliferation of land mines has forced people into already overcrowded towns and cities, bringing with them increased crime rates and social unrest.

In January 1999, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) along with the governments of Canada and Mexico committed to a Tripartite Initiative to develop and provide comprehensive assistance and programming to rehabilitate land-mine survivors and other people with disabilities. USAID is finalizing a partnership with PAHO to assist and compliment activities fostered by the Tripartite Initiative, targeting the countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Project: Supporting the Central American Tripartite Land Mine Initiative

Cooperating Agency: Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

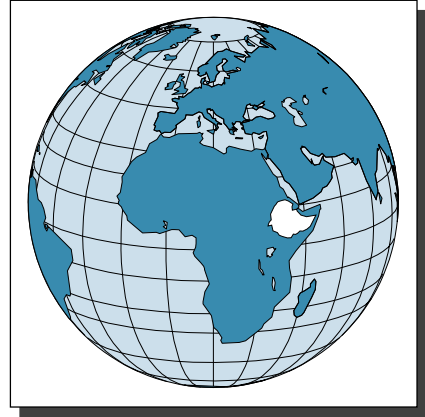
Assistance Begun: January 2000

Amount: \$500,000 (1/00–12/02)

Purpose: Improve the physical, social, and economic development of persons affected by land mine injuries and other disabilities.

Objectives

- Academic excellence promoted for training in physical medicine, orthopedic technology, and occupational therapy awarded annually through academic scholarships.
- Participation of Central American nationals increased in technical activities of the Tripartite Initiative.
- Access to savings and credit programs extended to those affected by land-mine injuries and other disabilities.
- Strategic network/clearinghouse developed and maintained.



Ethiopia

In 1998, between 18 and 30 million land mines lay scattered throughout 18 sub-Saharan countries, including Ethiopia. This region-wide proliferation of land mines continues to cause thousands of land-mine-related accidents each year. And as a result, thousands of people require prosthetic and orthotic devices to regain economic and psychological independence within their communities.

A major obstacle to providing prosthetic and orthotic services to amputees in these countries is the scarce availability of sustainable services—services that will exist long enough to fit amputees with the numerous prosthetic and orthotic devices they will need over the course of a lifetime. Another major obstacle to adequate service is the affordability of materials needed to make and refit prostheses.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has developed an efficient method of producing low-cost, high-quality polypropylene prostheses. Through USAID funding, the Prosthetic Orthotic Training Centre of Addis Ababa provides ready-made components for ICRC-assisted rehabilitation centers. It organizes training in the manufacture of polypropylene sockets for trainees working in these centers, which are mostly located in countries affected by war, and provides for technical follow-up to ensure quality control.

Project: ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled's Polypropylene Prosthetic Training Centre

Cooperating Agency: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Assistance Begun: September 1996

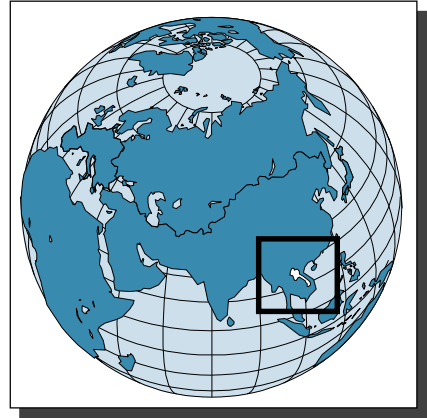
Amount: \$1,000,000 (7/98–7/00)

Purpose: Train African technicians in the production and use of thermo-plastic components for low-cost, high-quality prosthetics.

Accomplishments

Since the beginning of this activity in 1993, 108 orthopedic technicians from all continents received training and 28 countries received assistance.

- 31 technicians from 13 countries trained.
- Technical monitoring conducted of 22 orthopedic projects in 12 countries.
- Components made in Addis Ababa—knee joints, feet, alignment systems, etc.—delivered to 26 projects and made into 6,600 prostheses, 6,200 orthoses, and 6,200 pairs of crutches.



Laos

Laos suffered some of the heaviest aerial bombing in history. In addition to enduring a civil war, Laos became part of the Vietnam conflict as ordnance were dropped on northern provinces of Houapan and Xieng Khouang by planes returning to Thailand. And in the South, provinces that traversed the Ho Chi Minh Trail suffered heavy aerial bombing as attempts were made to cut North Vietnamese supply routes.

Unexploded ordnance (UXO) have caused thousands of deaths and injuries in Laos and continue to be a major hazard for farmers and children. Ordnance victims die or are permanently disabled because of low-quality emergency care.

USAID began providing assistance for the prosthetics and orthotics needs of the disabled in Laos in 1990. In 1995, the program shifted its emphasis toward strengthening activities to prevent UXO accidents as well as strengthening the medical and surgical treatment capabilities in Xieng Khouang. Today, the Consortium implements a two-pronged program to work with the Laos government in providing both educational and medical services.

Project: War Victims Assistance Project, Lao PDR

Cooperating Agency: The Consortium (World Education, World Learning, Save the Children/US)

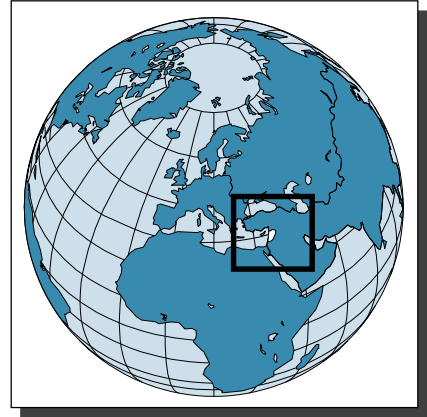
Assistance Begun: September 1995

Amount: \$2,118,279 (9/95–5/00)

Purpose: **(1)** Upgrade the medical, surgical, and emergency services of district and provincial Lao medical personnel and institutions in Xieng Khouang Province; **(2)** increase UXO awareness among primary school children in Xieng Khouang, Houaphan, Savannakhet, and Salavane Provinces; **(3)** improve the technical capacity of the medical and surgical staff at provincial and district hospitals; **(4)** upgrade the medical and surgical facilities in Xieng Khouang Province; and **(5)** strengthen the link between the Lao Ministry of Health and the Provincial Department of Health.

Accomplishments

- 25 provincial government-project committee members trained to manage all aspects of the project.
- 1 provincial and 5 district hospitals receiving medical equipment, supplies, and assistance in emergency ward rehabilitation/renovation.
- More than 300 medical staff trained in emergency rehabilitation or laboratory services.
- 79 UXO victims received free medical treatment from the War Victims Medical Assistance Fund set up under the project.
- 43,000 students currently studying the UXO curriculum.



Lebanon

Years of civil conflict and ongoing military activities have left Lebanon with land mines and unexploded ordnance. Residential neighborhoods, sizable portions of agricultural land, and recreational areas are plagued with antipersonnel land mines, unexploded cluster bombs, and other ordnance. Almost every week, the Lebanese media reports crippling injuries or deaths from land-mine-related accidents.

Lebanon's capacity to deal with this problem and its consequences is insufficient. Its mine-clearing capacity is limited and related information sources are lacking, with minimal public awareness or community involvement. Comprehensive rehabilitation is needed for affected individuals, families, and communities.

In Lebanon, USAID works with the World Rehabilitation Fund to implement programs aimed at preventing land-mine-related accidents and improving the physical, social, and economic conditions of people who suffer from land-mine-related injuries.

Project: Preventing Land Mine Injuries and Managing the Social Burden of Land Mines in Lebanon.

Cooperating Agency: The World Rehabilitation Fund

Assistance Begun: June 1998

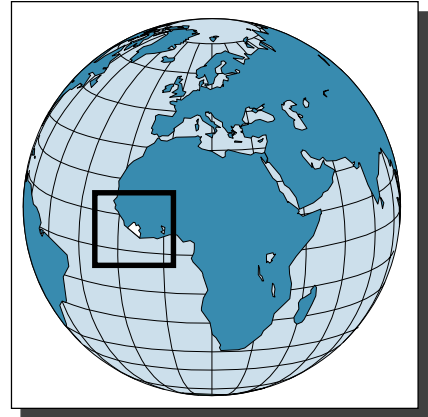
Amount: \$1,390,835 (6/98–12/00)

Purpose: (1) Prevent injuries from land mines and unexploded ordnance and upgrade Lebanese indigenous capabilities to deal with the economic and social burden of land mines; (2) improve understanding and awareness within communities and at the national level of land mine locations, the needs of survivors and families, and the magnitude of the problem and its consequences; (3) improve knowledge and practices essential to prevent land-mine-related injuries by strengthening the capacities of community-based and national organizations concerned with eliminating the threat of land mines; and (4) advocate and provide support to military demining activities.

Accomplishments

- Increased involvement from community-based and nongovernmental organizations in national and community-based efforts to understand and address the needs of people injured by land mines.
- Nationwide survey initiated to identify victims and map fields.
- Training, technical assistance, and necessary technology provided to concerned community-based organizations and NGOs.





Liberia

In 1996, Liberia's seven-year civil crisis came to an end, leaving behind a legacy of destruction, suffering, and uneasy peace. Out of the estimated pre-war population of 2.8 million, 480,000 Liberians were driven out of the country, up to 1 million were internally displaced, and an estimated 150,000 were killed. Exact data is scarce on the number of people who were disabled during the war, but it is suggested that there are some 4,500 people with disabilities in Monrovia alone and as many as 81,000 disabled children countrywide.

Another serious effect of the conflict has been the breakdown of immunization services against communicable childhood diseases. The lack of services has led to a drastic increase in the incidence of polio in Liberian children.

Almost two years after the establishment of a government in Liberia, most Liberians still do not have access to health facilities, and services for the physically disabled, which had been inadequate prior to the war, are nonexistent.

Since 1994, USAID has worked through a UNICEF-implemented physical rehabilitation program to help address the needs of disabled adults and children in Liberia.

Project: Physical Rehabilitation of War Victims Project

Cooperating Agency: UNICEF

Assistance Begun: September 1994

Amount: \$1,474,860 (9/94–2/00)

Purpose: (1) Provide prosthetics, orthotics, physical therapy, and surgical care for amputees and handicapped children and adults through an integrated referral and service system; and (2) build the technical capacity of prosthetists, orthotists, physical therapists, and community outreach workers.

Accomplishments

- Network of community-based rehabilitation outreach centers established in 5 counties.
- 30 community rehabilitation staff trained.
- Community-based rehabilitation workshop conducted for 25 participants from the community, NGOs, and institutions that are members of the Christian Health Association of Liberia (CHAL).
- More than 800 people with disabilities identified, assisted, or referred to the orthopedic workshop.
- Orthopedic workshop completed. Equipment and supplies to serve 1,500 clients installed.
- 6-week training course for orthopedic technicians conducted in collaboration with the Tanzania Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists. 20 participants trained.
- 75 prostheses produced manually in one year.



Mozambique

Mozambique's 25 years of war destroyed the country and took a significant toll on its people. More than 1 million of Mozambique's 16 million inhabitants were injured in the war, and as in other modern conflicts, civilians accounted for the majority of the casualties.

The current number of amputees in Mozambique is estimated at 9,000 and up to 20 new amputees, many victims of land-mine-related accidents, are reported each month.

USAID's Prosthetics Assistance Project, managed by Prosthetic and Orthotic Worldwide Education and Relief (POWER), strives to strengthen Mozambican management capabilities, improve outreach, and support private sector opportunities to assume production and distribution of prosthetic devices. In addition to assisting victims of war in Mozambique, the project also targets those suffering from other crippling mobility disorders including people suffering from congenital anomalies such as club foot, victims of polio and leprosy, persons with spinal cord injuries, and others in need of orthoprosthetic services.

Project: Prosthetics Assistance Project

Cooperative Agency: Prosthetic and Orthotic Worldwide Education and Relief (POWER)

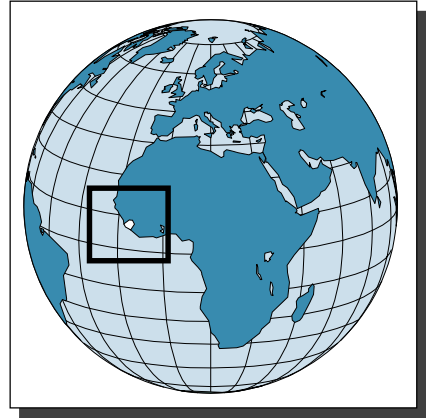
Assistance Begun: November 1995

Amount: \$2,755,300 (11/95–9/00)

Purpose: (1) Provide a comprehensive program of prosthetic and orthotic assistance to war victims to enhance their quality of life and assist them in leading an economically productive life; (2) expand the production of prosthetic and orthotic devices; (3) strengthen program management capabilities; (4) train local people in prosthetics and orthotics; and (5) establish an independent operating agency consisting of local NGOs and private sector donors to achieve eventual financial sustainability.

Accomplishments

- More than 2,100 prostheses, 800 orthoses, 200 orthopedic shoes, and 3,500 pairs of crutches produced.
- More than 900 new patients fit with prostheses, and 1,100 prostheses repaired.
- Production costs and quality control monitored within an organized management system.
- 5 short-term training courses taught on polypropylene technology.
- 3 orthopedic shoe departments established.



Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone's eight-year civil war between government and rebel forces has been marked by particularly brutal attacks on civilians by both sides. In a particularly horrific campaign of intimidation, rebel troops brutally cut off the arms of men, women, and children. On May 18, 1999, rebel and government forces signed a cease-fire agreement, which allowed negotiations to take place, and in July both sides signed the Lome agreement, which guarantees humanitarian aid organizations safe and unhindered access to all people in need. Madame Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, appealed for aid to Sierra Leone in August, making a special appeal for help for people who have lost limbs. She cited her visit to a rehabilitation center in Sierra Leone as "one of the most shocking experiences of my eight years as High Commissioner."

The French NGO, Handicap International (HI), now provides help, including occupational and psychosocial counseling, for nearly 200 amputees and other war-wounded in Freetown. On October 1, 1999, USAID began funding Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA) to second a prosthetist to HI. The prosthetist is assisting HI in fitting limbs for those on a waiting list, as well as establishing and overseeing a program to train four nationals as prosthetic technicians.

Project: Emergency Assistance for P&O in Sierra Leone: Training and Components Provision

Cooperative Agency: Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

Assistance Begun: October 1999

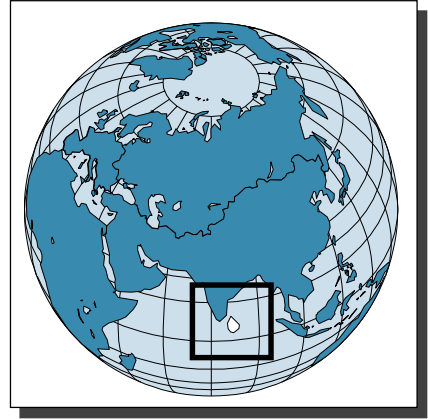
Amount: \$60,764* (10/99–3/00)

Purpose: Fund the technical specialist seconded to HI for two and one-half months and provide feet, tools, and components on a short-term emergency basis.

Objectives

- Short-term technical assistance provided to the Handicap International rehabilitation workshop to increase immediate provision of rehabilitation assistance to war-wounded living in and around Freetown.
- Training initiated for 4 nationals as prosthetic technicians.
- Prosthetic limbs produced for and fit on up to 100 amputees.
- Training program developed.
- Need for prosthetic assistance in other regions of Sierra Leone assessed.
- Project document drafted to address longer-term delivery of rehabilitative assistance in 2–3 locations outside of Freetown.

* Additional funding has been committed and will be programmed in FY 2000.



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has endured more than 15 years of brutal civil war between the government, backed by the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority, and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who seek a separate homeland for the Tamil minority in the North and East. Like other modern conflicts, the war in Sri Lanka has taken its toll on civilians and children. In the North, vast stretches of farm land and villages are littered with land mines, and land-mine-related accidents occur on a monthly basis. To date, Sri Lanka has an estimated 30,000 amputees, both as a direct result of the war and due to the increased incidence of crippling diseases such as polio that become more prevalent during times of war.

The USAID-funded Friend-in-Need Society (FINS) continues to meet the ongoing needs of the amputee population in Sri Lanka. FINS works to not only rehabilitate amputees, but also to integrated them into mainstream society. In addition, education grants are given to school children so that they are able to attend school.

Project: Citizens Participation Project (CPP)

Cooperative Agency: Friend-in-Need Society (FINS)

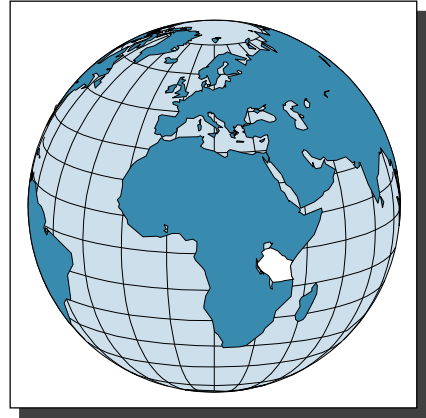
Assistance Begun: October 1991

Amount: \$1,175,000 (2/96–9/00)

Purpose: (1) Provide people with disabilities prosthetic and orthotic devices, wheelchairs, and crutches; (2) provide physiotherapy, gait training, and counseling; (3) provide services for repair and replacement of prosthetic and orthotic devices; (4) improve the workshop facilities of all FINS branches (Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, and Falle); (5) achieve the target of more than 800 limbs per year in the Colombo Branch and up to 700 limbs in other branches; and (6) concentrate on the total rehabilitation of the individual.

Accomplishments

- More than 1,200 limbs produced.
- 2 technicians from Jaffna and 1 from Galle trained.
- Coordination among branches improved.



Tanzania

The Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists (TATCOT) was founded in 1981. The center enrolls students from English-speaking African countries, as well as from other continents. It is the only African center recognized by the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO). Graduates of this program are employed in over 19 countries, many sponsored by their ministries of health.

Students who graduate from TATCOT find employment as prosthetic and orthotic technicians. Most already come with job offers from various ministries that help fund their training.

This activity will improve institutional capacity in many African countries to deliver orthopedic services. USAID support offers hope of reaching long-term sustainability through education and training in human capacity development.

With support to training centers in Ethiopia (through ICRC) and Central American (through PAHO), the fund continues to emphasize certified training as a long-term strategy.

Project: The Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopedic Technologists

Cooperating Agency: World Health Organization (WHO)

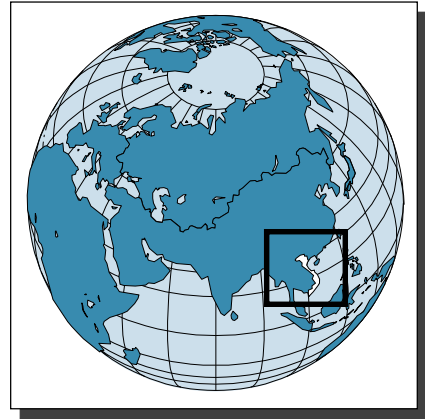
Assistance Begun: September 1998

Amount: \$300,000 (9/98–8/03)

Purpose: Training at TATCOT ranges from a one-year course in either prosthetics or orthotics to a more comprehensive three-year degree program. The one-year course is designed for candidates who are familiar with the subject matter. The three-year course is a diploma course in orthopedic technology.

TATCOT operates under the auspices of the Directorate of Training and Manpower Development of the Tanzanian Ministry of Health. TATCOT is also affiliated with the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, the teaching hospital for the northern zone of Tanzania.

The grant is implemented by WHO/Tanzania. Their financial and managerial oversight complements the technical expertise offered by the Leahy War Victims Fund. Although the purpose of the grant is to support prosthetics training for qualified African applicants, special priority will be given to applicants from programs supported by the Leahy War Victims Fund.



Vietnam

Vietnam suffered the effects of war for more than half a century and has been left with perhaps the world's highest proportion of amputees at 1 amputee per 250 people, including many children who suffer from a variety of disabling causes and diseases. The countryside is still littered with mines and other unexploded ordnance. Furthermore, an ensuing 20 years of international isolation has impoverished a high percentage of the Vietnamese people and left the country with critical gaps in its public health infrastructure.

The Leahy War Victims Fund has been supporting activities in Vietnam since 1991, and currently funds five private voluntary organizations (PVO). These PVOs provide rehabilitation services to children and adults, advance the standards of in-country prosthetics technology, and strengthen Vietnam's institutional capacity to provide assistance to its disabled population. Moreover, through its promotion of barrier-free access in Vietnam, LWVF's support was instrumental in the design and recent passage of a national disabilities law.

Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Cooperating Agency: Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)

Assistance Begun: September 1992

Amount: \$900,508 (4/99–9/00)

Purpose: (1) Strengthen the health care sector's capacity to provide rehabilitation services to adequately care for people with disabilities; (2) promote the professional development of rehabilitation health care providers, including facilitating the formation of national associations and expanding technical knowledge and skills; (3) disseminate educational innovations and technical concepts among Vietnamese institutions; and (4) promote increased visibility of local disabled groups and improved services through coordination and communication among NGOs, disabled people's organizations, professional associations, and government agencies.

Accomplishments

- New undergraduate-level physical therapy curriculum developed and produced. This curriculum has been accepted and integrated into the national physical therapy school.
- Numerous professional clinical rehabilitation workshops conducted through the use of volunteer U.S. medical professionals. Technical linkages and instructor exchange programs established between three U.S. university nursing programs and Vietnamese counterparts.
- National acceptance of the Vietnamese Nursing Association strengthened and facilitated. National coordination of the rehabilitation sector promoted.
- New forum formed for organizations working on issues relating to people with disabilities. The forum provides a venue for collaboration, cooperation, and discussion among nongovernmental, governmental, and indigenous groups.

Project: Outreach Prosthetic Services and Prosthetic Component Development Program

Cooperating Agency: Prosthetic Outreach Foundation (POF)

Assistance Begun: February 1998

Amount: \$100,000 (2/98–9/00)

Purpose: (1) Advance the standards of clinical care and prosthetic component technology, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA); (2) train local staff to design and produce prosthetic feet and components for adults and children with a minimum service life of three months; (3) design, produce, and test the durability of an affordable monolithic transtibial prosthesis made from locally available materials; (4) integrate and facilitate Automated Fabrication of Mobility Aids (AFMA) into the Vietnamese National School of Orthopedic Rehabilitation (VIETCOT); (5) provide mobile outreach prosthetic services to the northern rural provinces of Vietnam; and (6) coordinate health and rehabilitation ministry functions and encourage appropriate levels of government funding to serve the most needy levels of society.

Accomplishments

- Set of 14 adult and children's foot molds made locally in collaboration with the Ba Vi Orthopedic Technology Center.
- National manufacturing center for molding the vulcanized rubber EB1 foot opened.
- 85 percent acceptance rate established for POF's AFMA prosthesis patient fit and function indicator.
- More than 9,000 prosthesis delivered, mostly through the mobile outreach service.

Project: Can Tho and Thu Duc Prosthetic and Rehabilitation Project, Office of Disability Technical Assistance

Cooperating Agency: Viet-Nam Assistance for the Handicapped (VNAH)

Assistance Begun: September 1993

Amount: \$1, 435, 510 (9/98–12/00)

Purpose: (1) Strengthen the institutional and human resources capacity of the Thu Duc and Can Tho Centers to help meet the needs of people living with disabilities for prosthetic and orthotics devices and wheelchairs; and (2) work, in partnership with the U.S. President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, with officials from the National Assembly of the Government of Vietnam to advance employment and integration opportunities for people with disabilities.

Accomplishments

- 2,000 new prostheses provided.
- Barrier-free access initiative now providing direct technical assistance and guidance to ministry-level offices and officials. Under this initiative, the first of several planned practical workshops brought numerous U.S. barrier-free design experts to Vietnam to assess and then advise how open and equal access for persons with disabilities could be incorporated into traditional Vietnamese construction techniques and models.
- Construction plans for the new Hanoi international airport changed to incorporate barrier-free design standards for people with disabilities. The government of Vietnam mandated this change largely as a result of the barrier-free access initiative.

Project: Thermoplastic Orthotics Rehabilitation Program for Vietnam

Cooperating Agency: Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Assistance Begun: September 1994

Amount: \$1,000,000 (3/98–9/00)

Purpose: In close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the program aims to **(1)** continue production of thermoplastic orthoses at the National Institute of Pediatrics (NIP); **(2)** establish a second thermoplastic orthotics workshop and clinic at the Bach Mai Hospital; **(3)** extend rehabilitation services to the disabled, particularly children, living in rural areas around Hanoi through the creation of a Mobile Outreach Service in cooperation with the Ford Motor Company; **(4)** establish a monitoring and evaluation unit to track the program's successes and failures in delivering rehabilitation services to both urban and rural dwellers; and **(5)** continue to move both workshops toward sustainability.

Accomplishments

- More than 3,000 orthoses prescribed, fabricated, and fitted to provide opportunities for children to become mobile, return to school, and function more independently.
- Second new thermoplastic orthotics workshop and clinic at Bach Mai Hospital constructed and equipped.
- 3-person monitoring and evaluation unit recruited and trained, and a survey instrument field-tested to track the progress of those treated.
- First truck for the Mobile Outreach Program modified and equipped.
- Private sector involved in providing services to disabled children through the involvement of Ford Motor Company, Polaroid, World T.E.A.M. Sports, and Citibank.

Project: Prosthetics/Orthotics Rehabilitation Project

Cooperating Agency: World Vision (WV)

Assistance Begun: September 1991

Amount: \$801,744 (8/98–9/01)

Purpose: Upgrade the MOLISA health care delivery system by enhancing the centers, training personnel, and developing and supplementing outreach programs that can meet the ongoing needs of people whose prostheses and orthoses are inadequate due to disrepair or physical changes: **(1)** Enhance appropriate technology transfer enabling prosthetic and orthotic service providers to deliver quality devices and services to war victims, amputees, and other handicapped individuals; **(2)** deliver 6,700 devices with optimal function and fit to those who require mobility assistance; **(3)** meet production standards established by the quality control rehabilitation team; and **(4)** manufacture and deliver 4,020 devices to amputees who live in remote areas of the country.

Accomplishments

- Production rates and outreach services to beneficiaries increased.
- Operation of Thanh Hoa, Vinh, Da Nang, and Quy Nhon Rehabilitation Centers handed over to MOLISA with continued high-quality production and service delivery.

Funding Guidelines

The following information is provided for those interested in applying for funding from the Leahy War Victims Fund. It is intended to provide general guidance, not definitive criteria. For more information, please contact the USAID mission in the appropriate country or the Leahy War Victims Fund manager, Mr. Lloyd Feinberg, at the address noted on the back of this publication.

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

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

Proposals. Proposals for programs can be solicited or unsolicited. Solicited tenders include both Requests for Applications (RFA) and Requests for Proposals (RFP). Information on in-country solicitations can be obtained through the local USAID mission. Worldwide procurement announcements, solicitations, and resources can be obtained at USAID's World Wide Web site at http://www.info.usaid.gov/procurement_bus_opp/procurement/.

Unsolicited concept papers can be submitted to USAID missions or to the LWVF manager. Concept papers should be approximately five pages.

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

1. Focus on countries where need and potential for impact is the greatest,
2. Focus on cost-effectiveness and quality of service,
3. Emphasize orthopedic assistance within a framework of social and economic integration of the disabled,
4. Strengthen policies within country programs that include the disabled,
5. Develop local activities that can be used as models for replication, and
6. Support the development of state-of-the-art appropriate technologies and programmatic approaches.

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LWVF Funding 1989 – 2000

Countries	Fiscal Year Funding in 000's											Total
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	
Afghanistan		420										420
Angola			596					2,500	768	732		4,596
Armenia					318	830						1,148
Cambodia				830	202	575				750	1,500	3,857
El Salvador	900					1,000		500				2,400
Ethiopia			1,235	1,000	730							2,965
Laos		860		500			750		800	1,000	800	4,710
Lebanon	50		2,173							600	300	3,123
Liberia						1,115		225		500	1,000	2,840
Mali				120								120
Mozambique	2,530	1,000		1,000	1,000		1,900		633	1,000		9,063
Sierra Leone											500	500
Sri Lanka			420				100	200	200	200	300	1,420
Tanzania/TATCOT									300			300
Uganda	1,807	600	225	250	500		500					3,882
Vietnam			1,350	1,025	2,250	980	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	13,105
ISPO						200						200
ICRC		644					440		500		500	2,084
G/PHN							45	115		1,000		1,160
TechAsst/AFR									300			300
Technical Asst	85	250	150	275		300			125	200	600	1,985
New Regional Initiatives											3,000	3,000
TOTAL	5,372	3,774	6,149	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,235	5,040	5,126	7,482	10,000	60,178

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