



photo: CBM Australia

We Open Eyes

Exploring the Roadmap to
CBM Success in Vietnam



Since 1982, CBM has been actively involved in projects in Vietnam, and in 2008, we established an office there. Throughout the past four decades, CBM has worked closely with the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to provide valuable services to thousands of individuals with disabilities. In 2020, CBM made the decision to gradually withdraw from Vietnam, confident that we have played a significant role in establishing sustainable systems and that our partners will continue our mission in Vietnam.

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Dedicated partners and staff who contribute for the case stories and best practices

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Foreword

In 1908, CBM was established with its headquarters based in Germany. As an international development organization, CBM is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals with disabilities in the world's most poorest communities.

Since 1982, CBM has been actively involved in implementing projects in Vietnam. Collaborating with various organisations, CBM has made significant contributions to the country. In 2008, CBM established a representative office in Hanoi, enabling direct implementation and monitoring of projects by local staff. Over the course of four decades, CBM, together with its partners, has successfully provided services to thousands of persons with disabilities.

We are delighted to share with you this booklet, which serves as a comprehensive overview of CBM's 40-year journey in Vietnam. Within its pages, you will find a collection of stories that highlight the challenges we have overcome, the achievements we have celebrated, and the tremendous efforts made by our partners, CBM's dedicated local staff in Vietnam, CBM advisors, as well as our regional and international offices. Together, we have worked tirelessly to create a more inclusive society and improve the lives of those living with disabilities and their communities.

Vu Thi Tuyet Mai



1982-1991

- **First projects started in Vietnam**
- **Program Area:** Eye care and Education
- **Project location:** Hanoi

1992-2011

- Ten years of foundation and expansion**
- Program Area:** Eye care and Education
- Project location:** Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh city, Hai Phong and the provinces of Thua Thien Hue and Thai Nguyen
- Significant Milestone:**
- **2008:** Medal of Friendship by the President of Vietnam
 - **2011:** Certificate of Merit on Achievement in funding mobilization for Blindness Prevention in Vietnam by Vietnam Association on Ophthalmology

2012-2014

- Projects running across the country**
- Program Area:** Eye care, Education and Community Based Rehabilitation
- Project locations:** Provinces of Son La, Ninh Binh, Hanoi, Thai Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Thua Thien Hue , Soc Trang , Quang Binh and Ho Chi Minh city
- Significant Milestone:**
- **2012:** Certificate of Merit for excellent achievement in Blindness prevention and Eye care in Nghe An by the People's committee of Nghe An province

2015-2017

Leading organization in Disability Inclusive Development

Program Area: Inclusive Eye Care, Inclusive Education, CBR and DIDRR

Project location: Provinces of Lai Chau, Dien Bien province, Hanoi, Ninh Binh province, Thanh Hoa province, Thua Thien Hue province, Quang Ngai province, Da Nang province, Ho Chi Minh city, Kontum province

Significant Milestone:

- **2015:** Certificate of Merit on Significant contribution to Blindness Prevention in Dien Bien by the People's Committee of Dien Bien province
- **2016:** Certificate of Merit on Achievement in sponsor and investment in programmes in Thanh Hoa province by the People's Committee of Thanh Hoa province
- **2017:** Certificate of Merit on Achievement on the Development of Persons with Disability in Vietnam by Vietnam Federation on Disability
- **2017:** Certificate of Merit for Significant Contribution to the Blindness Prevention in Vietnam by Vietnam Association on Ophthalmology
- **2017:** Certificate of Merit on Significant Achievement on Blindness Prevention in Dien Bien province by the People's Committee of Dien Bien



2018-2022

Disability Inclusive Development and expansion to Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

Program Area: Inclusive Eye Care, Inclusive Education, CBR and DIDRR

Project location: Provinces of Lai Chau , Dien Bien, Thai Binh, Hoa Binh, Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Ngai , Kontrum and Ho Chi Minh city.

Significant Milestone:

- **2018:** Certificate of Merit for contribution to humanitarian program in Ho Chi Minh city for many years by the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh city
- **2019:** Certificate of Merit for Contribution to the Blindness Prevention in Vietnam by Vietnam Association on Ophthalmology
- **2020:** Certificate of recognition for the signification contributions to the sustainable development of Vietnam in 2020 by Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization
- **2022:** Zero project award on Innovative Practices in Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction
- **2022:** Merit certificate for Contribution to improvement of life of persons with disabilities in Thua Thien Hue province by the People's Committee of Thua Thien Hue province

Documenting CBM's Staff in Vietnam: An Overview

The organization's journey in Vietnam has been remarkable and has resulted in significant achievements. Over the years, CBM staff in Vietnam have collaborated with local partners, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and communities, to implement programs that promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities. These programs have focused on areas such as inclusive education, livelihoods, health, and emergency response.

The dedication and commitment of the CBM staff towards promoting disability inclusive development have been instrumental in achieving the organization's goals in the country. The staff in Vietnam included a diverse and talented team of professionals with expertise in various areas such as disability policy, advocacy, fundraising, logistics, and program management.

Liz Cross

Based in Hue province (Peace Village Rehabilitation Centre Vietnam)
Duration: 2006-2010
Position: CBM Co-worker/CBR Advisor CBM

Nathalie Maggay

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2008 - 2011
Position: Country Representative

Truong Duc Tung

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2011 - 2016
Position: Country Representative

Glenn Gibney

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2016 - 2018
Position: Country Representative

Vu Thi Tuyet Mai

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2012-2023
Position: Project Officer and Country Representative

Ngo Thi Hao

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2008 - 2011
Position: Admin Assistant

Nguyen Thi Tuyet Mai

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2009 - 2013
Position: Finance Officer

Nguyen Thi Hong Nga

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2009 - 2018
Position: Project Officer

Nguyen Ngoc Anh

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2010 - 2022
Position: Project Officer

Bui Thanh Le

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2010 - 2022
Position: Admin Officer

Ha Thanh Phuong

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2010 - 2011
Position: Project Officer

Nguyen Thu Ngan

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2011 - 2015
Position: Admin Assistant

Hoang Tu Anh

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2013 - 2014
Position: Finance Officer

Vu Thi Minh Lan

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2014 - 2023
Position: Finance Officer

Nguyen Thi An

Based in Hanoi office
Duration: 2017 - 2018
Position: Deputy Country Representative



M is an international development organisation, committed
improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in
the poorest countries of the world. ”



photo: CBM

CBM Vietnam Recognized for Contributions to Sustainable Development

CBM Vietnam Country Coordination Office was recognized by the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organization (VUFO) for its significant contributions to sustainable development in Vietnam. The award was received on December 16, 2020, during a challenging year marked by COVID-19 and severe storms in the central provinces.

The VUFO is a socio-political organization that plays a key role in people-to-people diplomacy and foreign non-governmental organization affairs under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. CBM Vietnam was honored for its support of persons with disabilities and disadvantaged communities, especially during times of social isolation and natural disasters.

According to the VUFO, CBM Vietnam's efforts aimed at reducing threats and diseases that can lead to disabilities, promoting equal opportunities for livelihood, and comprehensive inclusion of persons with disabilities have made significant contributions towards sustainable development in Vietnam. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CBM Vietnam implemented a range of activities in disease prevention, communication, and providing basic necessities to the vulnerable population.

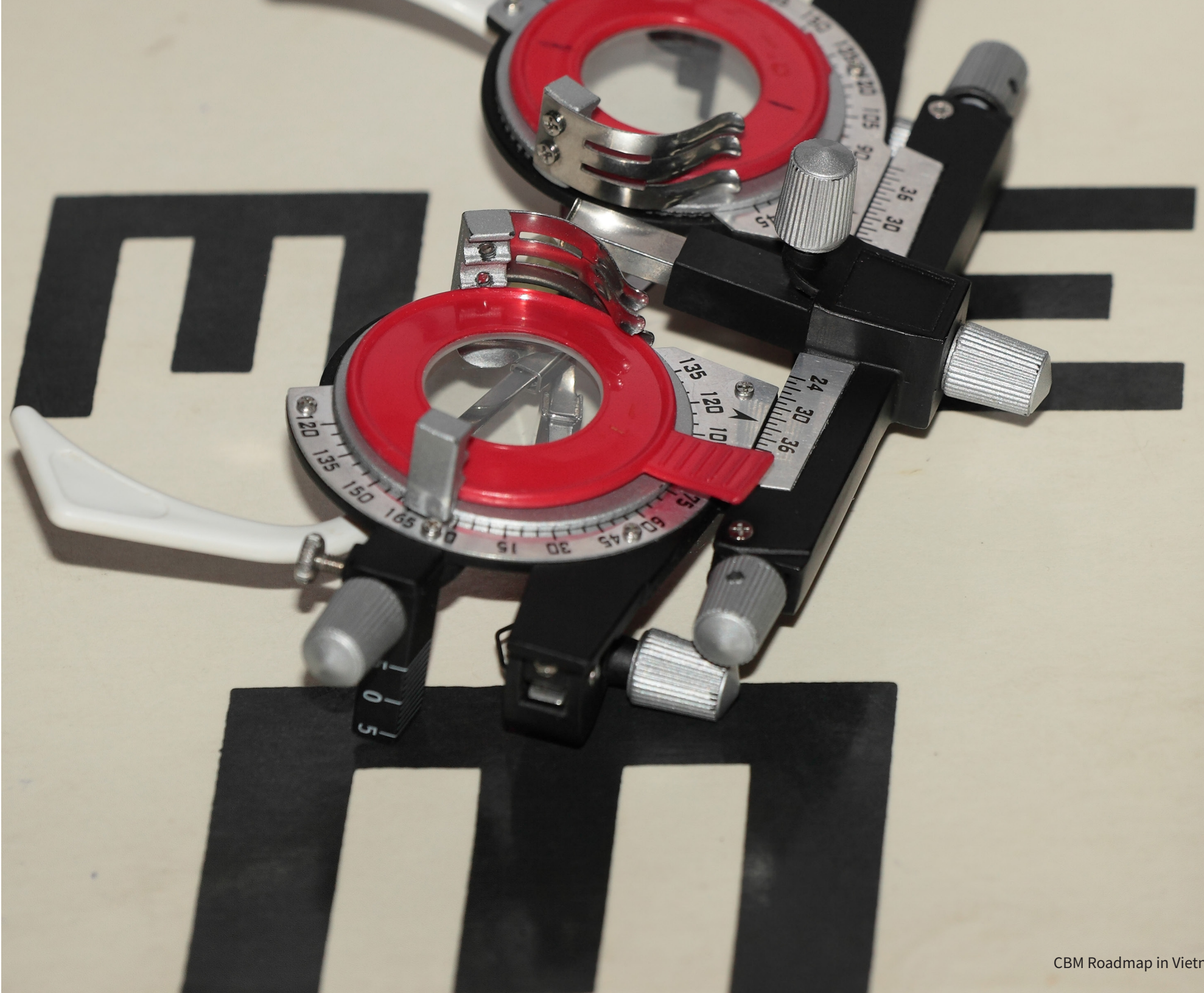
Every year, CBM Vietnam supports over 55,000 beneficiaries in inclusive eye care, disaster risk reduction, education, physical rehabilitation, livelihood, and advocacy for the CRPD. CBM Vietnam is a leading inclusive development organization and an appointed technical group member to support the Vietnam National Committee on Disability under the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.



photo: CBM

CBM Staff
Recognized with
Prestigious Award





Improving Inclusive Eye Care in Vietnam: CBM and Its Impact

Having access to eye care services is crucial for maintaining a high quality of life, yet unfortunately, not everyone has this privilege. In Vietnam, this issue is especially prominent among individuals residing in rural areas, ethnic minorities, and low-income families. However, there have been positive improvements thanks to the collaborative efforts of CBM, its partners, and the government.

In order to promote inclusive eye care in Vietnam, several projects and initiatives have been launched in the area of blindness prevention and eye care service provision. Through these efforts, hundreds of healthcare professionals have been trained, and thousands of consultations and treatments have been provided to previously underserved communities. In collaboration with its partner organizations, CBM has implemented community awareness campaigns, facilitated the provision of eye care equipment and supported the enhancement of disability accessibility measures in hospitals and health centers. Notably, CBM worked closely with VNIO to establish a Low Vision Rehabilitation project in Vietnam. Through their collaborative efforts, a dedicated low vision center was created, serving as a training hub and providing essential equipment and devices for individuals with visual impairments. The center also took the lead in community awareness-raising initiatives and other related activities to support those in need.

Project locations: Lai Chau, Dien Bien, Son La, Hai Phong, Hanoi, Thai Binh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Ngai, Quang Binh, Soc Trang





Nhung

“Before the treatment, I can see very little things. I feel the uncomfortable. Ok, so when I was at the class and the teacher asked me to read the book, to read the text in the textbook, I can see clearly in another eye but when I cover this eye I cannot see clearly.”

“I am really proud of it and I am really thankful for their support so I can get my vision back and I can enjoy the happiness with my grandchildren and my children.”



Khut Lo



Nhang Thi

“I don’t know how to say, since I was a little until now, when I am over 60 years old, I can have my sight back. I would like to say thank you very much for your support. Thank you!”



photo: CBM

A Helping Hand for Students with Low Vision: CBM and VNIO Collaborate

The Low Vision Rehabilitation Unit (LVRU) was established at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology (VNIO) in March 2013. In its first three years, the unit provided services and follow-up for 1,153 people with low vision – with numbers increasing every year. Many of its clients are students with low vision from Nguyen Dinh Chieu Secondary School, Hanoi. With support from CBM through the East Asia Vision Program (EAVP), effective eye examinations, follow-up, and treatment has been provided.

The establishment of the Low Vision Rehabilitation Unit (LVRU) was the result of a long-standing collaboration between CBM and VNIO, driven by the dedication of VNIO leaders to providing quality eye care for individuals living with disabilities.

For many years, children and adults with low vision in Vietnam were often treated as if they were completely blind, disregarding their potential to read regular print and utilize their vision. Recognizing this issue, CBM and VNIO had been working together since 1999 to address the gaps in rehabilitation services for low vision patients.

The then VNIO Deputy Director, Dr Do Nhu Hon, realized that in Vietnam, rehabilitation for persons with low vision wasn't good enough despite support and collaboration from CBM. "My awareness of eye care for people living with a disability had started to change, but I had not been able to do enough about it."

Dr Hon recalled, "The idea of establishing a rehabilitation unit had been conceived many years before, however supporting equipment for low vision provided by CBM was often stored away... I felt guilty. It wasn't until I became Director of VNIO that I found the resources to establish a rehabilitation unit."

The rehabilitation unit was established on the VNIO campus – on one of Hanoi's major roads, ensuring maximum accessibility for

clients. The decision to locate the team in such a prime position reflected the commitment of the VNIO and the impact of the EAVP.

CBM and VNIO also signed a long-term contract with an equipment provider for the provision of affordable low-vision devices. CBM's expert on low vision also provided short training courses for two eye doctors and four ophthalmic nurses of VNIO.

To address the challenge of limited income for those involved in low vision, VNIO implemented an innovative approach where staff members alternated between working in the LVRU and other departments, allowing them to earn a sufficient income. Additionally, VNIO supported Dr. Nguyen Thu Hien in pursuing her PhD research on low vision, which ultimately led to her becoming the head of the LVRU.

Even though Dr. Hon is now retired, his unwavering commitment to the continuous development of the rehabilitation unit as a leading center for staff training persists. The skills acquired through CBM's training continue to be utilized at VNIO, ensuring the provision of quality services.

*"whether or not the LVRU is there, I will still use my expertise in this field. I will do it whatever possible."
-Dr. Nguyen Thu Hien*

Overcoming Obstacles to Eye Health in Son La Province

Providing eye health services to Son La, a mountainous province situated 320 kilometers northwest of Hanoi, has proven to be a daunting task. With over 17,000 individuals above the age of fifty experiencing blindness in this region, and a population mainly consisting of ethnic minorities, of which 64 percent live below the poverty line, addressing their eye health needs demands dedicated efforts and resources.

When Dr Vu Tien Quyen became Director of Son La Social Diseases Control Center (SDC) in 2013, he recognized that while the SDC was able to provide eye screening and outreach services to remote communities, it had difficulty providing integrated and sustainable eye care services in the province. That was mainly due to its capacity and functional limitations, including the lack of in-patient beds, adequate staffing and even its name “makes people think of contagious diseases rather than a place they can go for an eye treatment“, said Dr Quyen.

Therefore, a provincial eye hospital was critically needed – to integrate all the eye care services and activities throughout the province and to enhance the province’s capacity to actively and proactively meet the provincial eye care demand.

CBM has worked in Son La with SDC since 1997 through the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology, organizing community outreach and other eye health activities. This collaboration was continued with the launch of CBM’s Avoidable Blindness Initiative program in 2010 and the East Asia Vision Program in 2013. Over six years since 2010, CBM helped build the capacity of SDC – enabling it to improve eye service delivery through training, equipment provision, eye health education and refraction service development. As a result, between 2013 and 2015, 31,626 people were screened, and 1,525 received cataract surgery.

With CBM’s support, Dr Quyen was able to develop a proposal for the establishment of a provincial eye hospital. CBM facilitated his visits to programs in other provinces, including Ha Giang, Nghe An, and Vung Tau, to learn about the experiences of sustainable eye care delivery. “After seeing what they could do, I was determined to establish an eye hospital for Son La”, he said.

A proposal was developed and submitted to the Son La Department of Health and the provincial government. In late 2015, Dr Quyen received the news that the Director of the Provincial Health Department and the Provincial People’s Committee consented to establish a 30 to the 40-bed provincial eye hospital for Son La.

This means that the development of a new eye hospital is almost sure to proceed – attracting new young doctors to the province, delivering better eye care services and helping strengthen local eye health.

Since 2015, CBM has funded further ophthalmology training for Dr Quyen at Hanoi Medical School to support and prepare for this process. His improved expertise and a new provincial eye hospital will allow more people to see again in one of the most remote and challenging areas of Vietnam.





CBM Empowers Health Providers for Disability-Inclusive Practices

Building the capacity of government health service providers to implement disability-inclusive practices was an essential part of CBM's work within the Avoidable Blindness Initiative and East Asia Vision Program.

Often persons with disabilities miss out on vital eye services for many reasons, including that health providers fail to consider disability needs when designing facilities, and health workers sometimes lack awareness of and skills for working with a person with a disability. This is the case throughout the world, including Vietnam, where persons with disabilities, including people with eye conditions, face multiple barriers to a healthy life.

Nghe An is the largest and one of the poorest provinces in Vietnam. Eighty percent of the population lives in rural, remote and mountainous communities. A Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) carried out in 2012 in the province found that of the population over fifty years, over **22,500** people were blind. And according to the United Nations Population Fund, the province has one of the highest rates of disability (11.24 percent) in Vietnam.

CBM had included disability as a part of its eye care program under the 2010-2012 Avoidable Blindness Initiative and the 2013-2016 East Asia Vision Program in Nghe An Province.

In 2012 and 2014, CBM worked with the Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities to conduct two accessibility assessments in Nghe An Eye hospital and eight district hospitals and health centres in Nghe An province. These assessments demonstrated the need for renovations such as ramps, handrails, enlarged doors, and a dedicated space in reception for persons with disabilities. As a result of CBM's advocacy, Dr Nguyen Huu Le, Director of Nghe An Eye Hospital, has incorporated disability inclusion into his planning. For instance, ramps, handrails and disability aids have been

installed in the current temporary eye hospital, and he wants to see them in the new eye hospital. Dr Le says these small changes have helped awaken his thinking on disability inclusion – seeing first-hand what a dramatic difference they can make in access to services. “As eye patients are often old, those facilities help people with not only disabilities but also the elderly in general,” he says.

Today, Dr. Le serves as a crucial advocate for promoting disability inclusion in various district hospitals. Thanks to the support provided by CBM, access for individuals with disabilities has been established at four district eye units located in Yen Thanh, Thanh Chuong, Quy Chau, and Dien Chau. Moreover, CBM has played a pivotal role in integrating disability awareness into the training programs for Village Health Workers. As part of this initiative, a one-day workshop conducted by the Hanoi Association for People with Disabilities has been incorporated into the training curriculum. Through these efforts, CBM actively contributed to creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals with visual impairments and disabilities.

Sight Restored: The Transformative Journey of Mrs. Nguyen

Mrs. Nguyen had always been a fiercely independent woman. A single mother of two, she had managed to make her way in life without relying on others. Until the day she lost her sight.

Blind for six years, Mrs. Nguyen felt as though she had lost everything. She felt alone, cut off from the world and dependent on the care of others. Her days passed by in a blur of darkness and sadness.

But then, one day in 2012, everything changed. Dr. Nguyen Thi Hai Van, head of Thanh Chuong district Hospital's Eye Department, performed two cataract operations on Mrs. Huong. And suddenly, everything was different.

After the bandage was removed from her eye following the first operation, Mrs. Nguyen cried out with joy, "I can see the doctor wearing blue!" She was beaming from ear to ear, and her life had been transformed.

Dr. Van remembers that moment vividly. She had always felt a calling to work in the medical profession, but becoming an ophthalmologist had been a bit of an unexpected journey. Originally trained as an obstetrician and pediatrician, Dr. Van found that working with children gave her a lot of joy. But when she started working as a basic eye doctor, she discovered that helping people see again was the most beautiful experience imaginable.

In 2010, CBM supported Dr. Van with a three-month training program to learn the skills of a refractionist. And in 2012, she underwent further training in Extra-Capsular Cataract Extraction

(ECCE) technique, under the Avoidable Blindness Initiative (ABI) program. Mrs. Nguyen was one of the first patients Dr. Van operated on using this technique. With the formation of a separate eye department in 2013, Dr. Van set off on a three-year journey to become a PHACO surgeon at the Vietnam National Institute of Ophthalmology. Throughout it all, she never lost sight of the people she was helping, like Mrs. Nguyen.

Today, Mrs. Nguyen can go anywhere, collect firewood on the hills, and play with her beloved dog. She's regained her independence, and her life is no longer shrouded in darkness. And she'll never forget the doctor who changed her life forever. "How can I ever forget the doctor? I am so happy now," she says. And Dr. Van feels the same.

"It's moments like this that make all the hardships I've faced in becoming an ophthalmologist worthwhile"





Lo Van Sam sees his wife for the first time in six years

Eighty five year old Lo Van Sam, a veteran of the Vietnam War, was blind due to cataract until an outreach project funded by CBM helped restore his sight and allowed him to see his wife and grandchildren again for the first time in six years.

Sam lives in remote mountainous Chieng Xom Village of Son La province, about 302 kilometers north west of Hanoi. He is a member of the Thai ethnic minority – one of 53 ethnic minorities of Vietnam. For many years he accepted to live in the darkness for fear of surgery.

Dependent on his seventy year old wife Lu for care, he was unable to walk without assistance and couldn't enjoy playing with his six grandchildren or visit his brother who lived in the next village. He felt sad and powerless.

But when Sam's wife Yen began losing her sight to cataract, she sought eye treatment through the Son La Social Disease Control Center (SDC), a partner of CBM. Free cataract surgery enabled her to see again in 2014.

Prompted by his wife's decision to have sight-restoring surgery, in 2015 Sam assisted by his brother, made the long journey to Son La SDC. Operated on by Dr. Hoang Thi Kim, herself a member of the Thai ethnic minority, Sam's sight was restored after six years of blindness.

"We share our meals together, our life together.. knowing she could see again made me long to see again too, so tha I would no longer be a burden on her", Sam said.

Dr. Kim says many poor communities fear eye surgery but just

one patient having sight restored can change the awareness and acceptance of treatment in an entire community. "Such a practical demonstration of the benefits of treatment is the best form of health education". Therefore, in the areas in which they work, CBM and its partners made health education a priority.

Between 2013 and 2015, **1,525** people like Sam and his wife Yen received sight-restoring surgery through the work of Son La SDC and CBM. Through this program lives have been transformed.

"Now I could see the moon, my village and my family... I can live independently and enjoy life with my wife,"

Sam now rides his bicycle, seeing his friends and his brother. "I hope many blind people can see like I do. I am so happy".

Overcoming Healthcare Barriers: Thanh Hoa Eye Hospital's Vision for Accessibility

Thanh Hoa Eye Hospital in Vietnam has been working tirelessly to improve access to healthcare services, particularly for those residing in highland districts where terrain and other factors make it challenging to receive treatment. Women, children and persons with disabilities are often the most affected, as they face greater difficulties accessing healthcare services. In the past, patients in these areas had to travel all the way to the city for eye health treatment, and delays in accessing this service made the situation worse.

The Vietnam Australia Vision Support Program (VAVSP), funded by AusAID and managed by CBM, supported the Thanh Hoa Eye Hospital to deliver comprehensive eye care services to the local population. The aim of the program was to demonstrate that access to eye care services can be improved for people living in remote areas.

As part of the program, staff have been trained in disability rights and creating an inclusive environment for patients with disabilities. The hospital has made significant improvements to its physical infrastructure, ensuring it is accessible to people with different abilities and languages. Staff also have access to information resources that enable them to better communicate with patients with disabilities.

The VAVSP program has also established links with other services such as education and employment, so that patients can be referred to relevant services. This not only reduces the burden on the hospital, but it also ensures that patients receive care that addresses their wider needs, such as access to education and employment services.

Do Giang Nam, a refractionist and spectacle technician from a district eye unit, was among the staff who received training under this program. He said, "After training, I am aware that persons with disabilities need better care from society, from inclusive infrastructure to policies for vulnerable groups. In my thinking, a developed society is the one with a positive, comprehensive and

inclusive healthcare system."

Giang Nam has shared his learnings with colleagues and advocated for improvements to make the hospital building more accessible. Patients with disabilities are now examined at home if they are unable to reach the clinic, and Giang Nam has proposed the development of a trust fund for persons with disabilities in the district, although this has not yet been approved.

There are several key learnings from this program. First, persons with disabilities have the same rights as anyone else, but may require additional accommodations to access these rights. Second, changes to policy and infrastructure require leadership commitment. Finally, hospitals and health workers must be aware of additional services available in the region for persons with disabilities and make appropriate referrals.

Overall, the Vietnam Australia Vision Support Program, particularly their partnership with Thanh Hoa Eye Hospital in Vietnam, has made significant strides in reducing avoidable blindness and making eye care services more accessible for everyone. The program serves as a reminder that healthcare is a basic human right and that improvements to healthcare infrastructure must be prioritized to ensure that everyone receives the care they need.



Thuy Nga at the age of 5, before she underwent a successful operation on her right eye to address congenital sublocation cataracts that affected both of her eyes.





Advancing Inclusion through Community Based Inclusive Development in Vietnam

Community based inclusive development, or CBID, is a way of working that ensures persons with disabilities are respected and included in their communities on an equal basis, in all areas of life. In Vietnam, CBID has gained traction in recent years as a means to address the exclusion and marginalization of persons with disabilities.

CBM has been involved in several initiatives focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of individuals with disabilities in Vietnam. One such project, in partnership with Peace Village in Hue, involves a network of social workers and village health workers who provide care services for persons with disabilities across six districts. Ongoing projects in Thua Thien Hue province are still underway, thanks to a partnership between CBM and Hue Rehabilitation Hospital. In terms of education, CBM has made significant strides towards promoting inclusive education for children with visual impairments. Collaborating with Nguyen Dinh Chieu Hanoi, Nguyen Dinh Chieu HCM schools, and the Nhat Hong Centre for Children with Visual Impairment, the organization has provided teaching and learning devices, printed textbooks in Braille, and provided training for staff, parents, and teachers on working with children with disabilities. Additionally, projects have provided support to students and teachers at inclusive schools, with a particular emphasis on gradually working towards inclusive education for all children with disabilities. CBM has also partnered with the Ministry of Education and Training, the Vietnam National Institute of Education Studies, and the University of Teacher Training to develop resource centers and promote inclusive education.

CBM strives for disability advocacy and CRPD monitoring, with persons with disabilities and their Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) serving as key contributors to all CBM project implementation. Since the CRPD ratification by the Vietnam government, CBM has worked closely with the Vietnam Federation on Disability and Action for Community Development Center to connect all OPDs in Vietnam to monitor the promotion of inclusiveness and accessibility of state policies on persons with disabilities. Over 500 policy documents have been reviewed and commented upon, and a strong network of OPDs has been developed to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in Vietnam.

In disaster risk reduction, CBM has collaborated with OPDs in high-risk areas to support persons with disabilities and their communities, particularly poor ethnic minority women and children, to enhance resilience and sustainable livelihoods. The Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIRR) framework is now recognized and replicated by governments and civil society at the commune and district level.

Project location: Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Thua Thien Hue, Da Nang, Quang Ngai, Kontum, Ho Chi Minh city





Dinh Phuong

“I love going to school. I am always sociable and friendly with my classmates. Although sometimes I fall asleep in class or when my friends make fun of me, I also want to cry, but it's okay. I still enjoy going to school and I feel strong. Besides, I am stronger because I have many friends, especially a close friend who sits at the same table and always supports and helps me. Since going to school, I feel myself like a completely different girl as I can communicate with friends and learn many things. I also learn to decide my own study path. In the 2021-2022 school year, I will finish lower secondary school. My parents wants me to continue studying in a high school as many others, but I convince them of allowing me to attend a vocational school because I have found it suitable for my abilities and interests.”

“As I learned more about the work of a teacher teaching children with visual impairment, I found myself more confident, did my work much better, saw more smiles of children and their parents, which made me happy. I was no longer shy but much proud to talk about this school, about the work we were doing here. And even I am retired now, I still love teaching, counseling and supporting parents and children with visual impairment. I also keep in touch with the group of parents to discuss on and help them taking care of their children. What I received from this school, from the support of CBM for my work has changed my life: growing up, being confident, enjoying work and loving my students. I feel so proud and happy to be a part of this school. Thank you for all!”



Mrs. Pham Thi Anh Nga





CBM Paves the Way for Nhat Hong Resource Center to Flourish

The Nhat Hong Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired was established in 1995 by the Sisters of the Thu Duc Congregation of Lovers of the Holy Cross. Initially serving as a shelter for children with blindness and youth in need, the center gradually expanded its services to include education and training programs.

Named “Nhat Hong,” meaning “Happy Sun,” the center’s mission is to provide appropriate education and care for visually impaired children and youth, enabling them to lead happy and independent lives according to their individual abilities. Initially limited by space, the center supported 40 children with blindness until 2005. However, their dream was to extend their services to more children and youth in rural areas and blind orphans.

Expansion and Collaboration with CBM

In their quest to expand and reach more children in need, the Sisters of the Thu Duc Congregation of Lovers of the Holy Cross, who founded the Nhat Hong Center, found support in Mr. Kirk Horton, the Educational Advisor of the CBM Central East Asia Regional Office. Impressed by the center’s educational programs, Mr. Horton encouraged them to submit a project proposal and budget plan to CBM. Following discussions and site visits, CBM approved the budget for the construction of a new center, which opened on September 29, 2007, in Thu Duc District, Ho Chi Minh City.

Since then, CBM had been a reliable partner, providing continuous financial support for the development of the Nhat Hong Center. This support encompassed various aspects, including the construction of the building, procurement of necessary facilities and equipment, and provision of functional

assets specifically designed for children with visual impairments. CBM also assisted in the production of Braille books, educational materials, special teaching aids, and other learning and living devices, contributing significantly to the center’s ability to cater to the unique needs of visually impaired children.

Building Capacity and Training Programs

One of the key components of CBM’s support was building staff capacity. Through partnerships with universities and training institutions, the Nhat Hong Center sent its staff members for further education and training in special education for the blind. Sisters from Nhat Hong received training at renowned institutions such as Flinders University in Australia, Western Michigan University, and Perkins School for the Blind. This investment in professional development enabled the center to offer comprehensive training courses for its teachers, inclusive educators, and parents on a wide range of subjects related to teaching children with visual impairments.

As a practical center for teacher students, the Nhat Hong Center became a valuable learning environment, allowing aspiring educators to gain firsthand experience and complete their internship programs. Additionally, the center developed an outstanding library that housed numerous resources on special education for the blind. These resources were accessible to

educators, student teachers, administrators, parents, caregivers, and blind individuals throughout Vietnam.

Innovative Programs and Social Engagement

Nhat Hong Center's commitment to innovation was evident in its diverse range of programs. The center offered early intervention programs, inclusive education, higher education opportunities, career training, and employment programs. To enhance the learning experience for visually impaired individuals, the center developed software and applications such as Joyful Learning, Joyful Typing and Spelling, Joyful History Learning, Joyful Maths, Braille Maths Typing, and Happy Teaching and Learning.

The center not only focused on education but also actively promoted social awareness and inclusion. It welcomed study tours from government officials, agencies, and schools, both domestically and internationally. Integrated activities were organized to facilitate interaction and collaboration between children and youth with and without visual impairments, fostering understanding and empathy among all participants. Moreover, Nhat Hong engaged in community activities, such as White Cane Days and music performances, to raise awareness and funds for their cause.

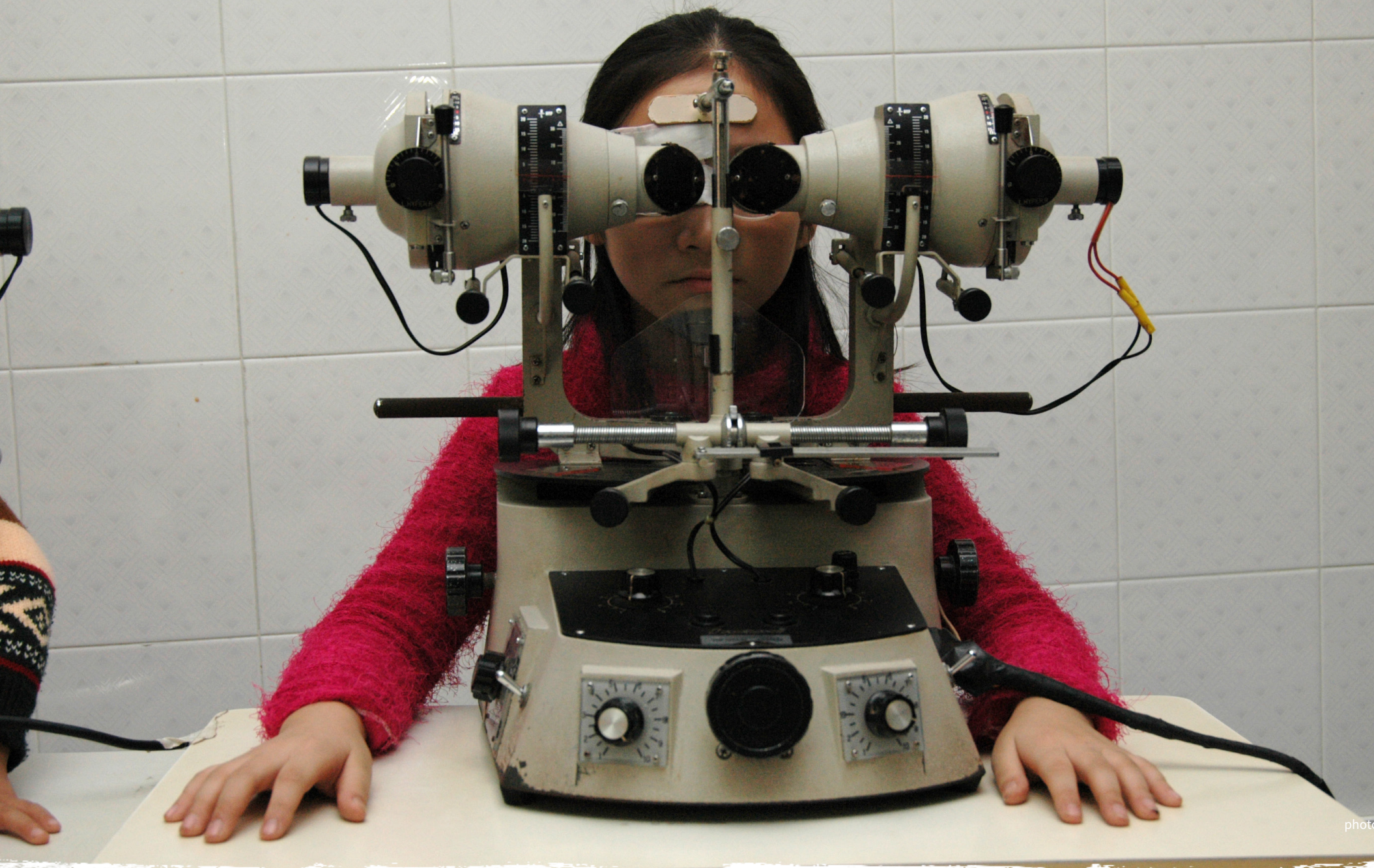
The success of the Nhat Hong Center and its impact on the lives of visually impaired children gained recognition both within Vietnam and internationally. The center became a beacon of hope, providing educational services to over 700 children and youth with visual impairments. It also trained numerous teachers, students, and parents, indirectly benefiting approximately 1,000 other children and youth with visual impairments in Vietnam.



“We would like to send special thanks to CBM Switzerland and CBM National Office in Vietnam for their helpful continuous support. CBM has laid a foundation for Nhat Hong to become and continue to be an effective resource center for children and youth with visual impairment in Vietnam and in the region. Without all of the financial supports from CBM in the last 17 years, Nhat Hong center could not develop and function with a significant success as in education for children with visual impairment. In the future, with certain own resources and donations from people, the center will try its best to manage itself to maintain the achievements and continue benefits for our children in need. “







Mai, at the age of 11, fearlessly confronted the challenges posed by strabismus. She dedicated herself to attending training sessions in the Low Vision Department at the hospital, spending 1.5 hours there twice a day.

From Limitations to Opportunities: The Impact of Inclusive Education on the life of the First Blind Student at a Remote Local School

Have you ever faced challenges while trying to pursue your dreams? Imagine being born blind in a rural area where access to education is limited. Meet Nguyen Viet Ngan, the first blind student to study at a remote local school in Go Quao Town in Vietnam.

Nguyen Viet Ngan's parents were determined to ensure that their daughter would have the opportunity to go to school like her peers. They had to move from their home in Kien Giang province to Can Tho city, 40km away, where she could learn Braille. After completing primary education, the family moved to Ho Chi Minh City for her secondary education. Unfortunately, due to late registration, Viet Ngan's profile was not transferred.

However, this turned out to be a blessing in disguise. She stayed at Nguyen Dinh Chieu (NDC) School, where she was taught subjects in Informatics, Foreign Languages, Orientation, Living Skills, Food Processing etc., and prepared for integration school. She dreamed of becoming a teacher so that she could later teach students with similar circumstances as her in the Can Tho special school.

The NDC team collaborated with the Go Quao Town Secondary School, 250km away from NDC School, and 3km from her home. This new challenge was set for Go Quao Town Secondary School to enroll her into class. It was a completely new experience for the teachers at Go Quao School because they had never taught students with visual impairments before. Enthusiastically, the NDC support (itinerant) teachers trained and shared their experience with all the Go Quao teachers.

Viet Ngan was determined to make the best of her opportunity. In class, she listened carefully to the teachers. If there were any areas that she did not

understand thoroughly, she would read more, ask her parents for support or call the NDC itinerant teacher for help. Gradually she overcame the initial difficulties and excelled in her studies, surpassing her classmates to get high ranks.

Two years later, Viet Ngan started the 8th-grade program at Go Quao School and continued to excel in her studies. The latest models of laboratory equipment, teaching aids and information technology applications were provided to the school. The teachers at the school also sat down with the NDC team to share their experiences and learn the most effective teaching methods. Viet Ngan's parents expressed their gratitude for the efforts of the NDC teachers and students who had to work far away, and the teachers from Go Quao who had to take a day off to join the training course to learn how to continue supporting Viet Ngan.

NDC's efforts to enable students with visual impairments from rural areas to have access to inclusive education would light the fire so that after Viet Ngan, there will be more visually impaired students provided with educational opportunities

We believe that bringing students with blindness to inclusive schools will maximize their abilities, and society will start seeing their contributions.

Transforming Cultural Houses into Inclusive Shelters: Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam

In Vietnam's Ninh Binh province, persons with disabilities are among the most affected people during natural disasters due to a lack of access to early warning information, evacuation efforts, and shelters. To address this challenge, CBM had funded the project "Promotion of Disability – Inclusive and Disaster Prepared Communities in Nho Quan district, Ninh Binh province" since 2019. One of the project's most striking initiatives is the transformation of village cultural houses into disability-inclusive natural disaster shelters, which has already benefited three project communes.

The project's implementation partner, the Aid for Social Protection Program Foundation in Vietnam (AFV), collaborated with the Nho Quan district to construct several disaster risk reduction shelters. However, the disability-inclusive shelter stood out for its inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability. Local authorities co-funded this shelter, which is now managed and maintained by local authorities as a culture house during village events and a safe place during natural disasters.

The shelters are fully equipped with basic equipment for disaster preparedness such as loudspeakers, flashlights, generators, petrol saws, life jackets, signal lights, and raincoats. Moreover, ramps, navigation signs, exit signs, signal lights, sirens, instructions and regulations are all located in areas accessible by persons with disabilities. The Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) in Nho Quan district, as technical advisors to the Management Board and local authorities, ensured the accessibility of the shelters before handover.

The project's impact, supported by local authorities and


community members, improved the safety and well-being of local persons with disabilities. They were guided on how to use disaster risk reduction tools at home, how to signal, warn, escape, and call for support when necessary. This valuable knowledge enables them to access safe shelters and actively protect themselves in case of storms, floods, or other disasters. The project's comprehensive approach contributes to minimizing economic and social damage to the localities.

Ms. Dinh Thi Huong - a member of OPD Nho Quan - shared that the project has continually trained them, particularly on monitoring and evaluating disability-inclusive construction and creating a to-do list for persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction. The inclusive shelter model has shown remarkable success and serves as a highlight for replication in the future. Overall, the project's initiative paved the way toward inclusive and accessible disaster preparedness.







 At a special lighted table, a low vision pupil immerses themselves in the world of learning.

Model of an inclusive education network for children with disabilities in Vietnam

In Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam, many individuals with disabilities face significant challenges. Recognizing the importance of providing accessible education for children with disabilities, the Department of Education and Training (DoET) took action. A report in 2016 revealed that only 21.4% of these children had inclusive education opportunities, highlighting the urgent need for improvement.

To address this issue, CBM partnered with the Special Education Faculty of Hanoi National University of Education (HNUE) and the DoET from 2017 to 2021. Following a Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) approach, this project empowers individuals with disabilities and their communities. It includes self-help groups for caregivers and promotes the active participation of persons with disabilities in decision-making processes.

Supported by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET), this project involves collaboration among various stakeholders, including MoET, the Special Education Faculty, DoET, resource centers, District Bureau of Education and Training (BoET), and inclusive schools. This collaborative network ensures the effective development and implementation of inclusive education policies at the provincial and local levels.

The MoET provides legal guidance and support for education, encouraging the piloting of new models to inform policy development. The Special Education Faculty offers technical support and advises MoET on meeting its obligations. The DoET monitors collaboration and service provision, while the BoET coordinates mainstream schools within the district.

As part of the project model, an Inclusive Education Resource Center (IERC) was established in Binh Sơn District and Quang Ngai City. This center plays a crucial role in supporting inclusive education by building teachers' capacity, offering ongoing support, and providing early intervention services. It also delivers vocational training and adaptive teaching materials tailored to the individual needs of children with disabilities.

To ensure multi-sectoral support, community-based inclusive resource provision was introduced in mainstream community schools. Collaborating with the BoET, DoET, and community representatives, schools established resource classrooms. These classrooms provide intervention and support, storage for materials, and spaces for community meetings and activities.

Over the course of five years, the project successfully supported over 100 children annually through early intervention programs and conducted 50 training workshops for 250 core mainstreaming teachers. The program's success led to its expansion in 13 additional districts. One Inclusive Education Resource Center (IERC) and five school-based resource classrooms were established to facilitate effective inclusion. In 2020, a total of 1,094 students with disabilities attended inclusive schools, while 235 students with disabilities were enrolled in specialized schools in the province.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, services persisted through online learning support, the provision of laptops, and learning tools/toys. In 2021, the IERC supported 385 students with disabilities in inclusive schools and specialized centers. Additionally, 40 students received weekly e-learning support, 60 parents received training at home, and 370 participants engaged in arts, sports, and cultural programs facilitated by the support network. Thanks to these efforts, children with disabilities in Quang Ngai Province now have increased opportunities to access education. The establishment of an active inclusive support network has created a successful platform for community development and ensures the fulfillment of the right to education for learners with disabilities in the province.



BẢNG THỬ THỊ LỰC CÁCH 5M

Đặc điểm

- đều là chữ C
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Khác nhau:

- biến đổi các

Cấu dựng

- Cấu dựng





Improving Education for Children with Visual Impairments in Vietnam Since 1988

From a small school in an old quarter of Hanoi, to a spacious and functional facility today, the Nguyen Dinh Chieu School in Hanoi has been supported by CBM for 40 years. Today, thanks to CBM's decades of dedication and support, Nguyen Dinh Chieu School provides opportunities for children with visual impairments to receive education and build brighter futures.

In its pursuit of inclusive education, the Nguyen Dinh Chieu School in Vietnam has been at the forefront of providing quality education to children with visual impairments since 1988.

Recognizing the significance of equal access to quality learning for all children, the school has been dedicated to creating an inclusive educational environment.

During the late 1980s, six teachers were sponsored to attend four intensive training courses in India. These courses focused on equipping educators with effective methods and techniques for teaching children with visual impairments within an inclusive environment. The participating teachers later formed a core group of educators who made notable contributions to teaching methods and provided valuable guidance to the school in educating students with visual challenges. Furthermore, they became core trainers themselves, imparting their knowledge to hundreds of teachers and parents.

To enhance their expertise, the teachers also attended workshops in different cities, which facilitated the exchange of experiences and the acquisition of essential knowledge and skills for working with children with visual impairments. Additionally, the school organized annual training courses and workshops for teachers and parents, offering instruction in teaching methods and caregiving skills. These initiatives aimed to integrated children

with visual impairments into the community while raising parental awareness about visual impairments and effective care practices.

The dedication of the school's teachers and administrators extended beyond their local sphere. They actively participated in international and regional conferences, where they shared experiences and presented their work. Events such as the Conferences of the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, the 10th International Conference on Low Vision - KL Vision 2011, and CBM's Partner Conferences provided opportunities for learning, collaboration, and contributing to the global discourse on inclusive education.

Furthermore, the school established partnerships with schools and education centers for children with visual impairments in over ten provinces and cities in the North and Central regions of Vietnam. These collaborations strengthened networks within the country and contributed to improving the quality of education provided .

Nguyen Dinh Chieu School has made remarkable strides in creating an inclusive educational environment. Through the training of educators and the implementation of robust educational programs, the school has laid a foundation for students with visual impairments to receive quality education and

actively participate in society. Their unwavering dedication and commitment demonstrate the possibility of achieving inclusive education and serve as an inspiration for fostering bright futures for every child.



The Nguyen Dinh Chieu School Staff

Special Programs for Children with Visual Impairment: A Comprehensive Approach to Inclusive Education

For children with a visual impairment, education and skill development are essential for their personal and professional growth. While mainstream schools might not cater to their specific needs, there are special programs designed to provide comprehensive education and support tailored to their vision condition. These programs are developed to create inclusive classrooms and to promote confidence and independence among visually impaired children.

The implementation of special programs for children with visual impairments by schools, with the support of CBM, has offered immense development opportunities for children and happiness for parents. Vision detection and identification, screening, assessment, and clinical advice form the first steps to accurately diagnose the visual needs of the child. Every year, eye health assessments are carried out to provide clinical interventions, counseling, and visual aids (if required), including braille, print, spectacles, and low vision devices.

After initial assessment, the school's low vision group of teachers plan and implement specific intervention activities for children in need. These activities include counseling and

guidance on the type of learning medium, spectacles, necessary skills for daily living, abacus, O&M skills, and more. Instructional classes and practical sessions are organized based on individual learning needs, and vocational training for computer skills, music, fine arts, and massage techniques is also provided for students over the age of 13. Eliminating barriers to education, the programs of early intervention for children between 1 to 6 years old, inclusive education, and low vision are carried out with the guidance of foreign experts of CBM. This has helped the schools to develop a sound process of implementation and management and to personalize programs to children with visual impairment.

These special programs not only provide learning and personal life skills but also promote integration into inclusive classrooms and at home. Regular parent and teacher counseling activities are organized, creating an open and flexible space for children to learn, adapt, and gain self-confidence. These programs are the key to providing comprehensive and inclusive education for children with visual impairment.



Development of emergency shelter strengthens voices of persons with disabilities

Nghia Hanh district (Quang Ngai Province) in Vietnam is regularly affected by storms, flash floods and riverbank erosion, which cause great damage: in 2020, 320,900 local people found their houses affected by flooding and 450 schools were severely damaged after a series of cyclones. Persons with disabilities are among the people worst affected by these hazards because they often lack access to early warning information, evacuation efforts, and the supply of shelter and food.

In April 2022, the community came together to celebrate the opening of a new cultural centre and emergency shelter, as part of a project from CBM and Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC) that began in late 2020 and aims to ensure that persons with disabilities are included in efforts to build disaster risk reduction in local communities.

The shelter serves a double purpose, firstly as a regular meeting venue for all residents, including persons with disabilities, and secondly as a safe, inclusive shelter during natural disasters. It was developed with extensive involvement from Quang Ngai's Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD), who attended the opening ceremony alongside local government officials and a local television network.

The natural disaster shelter in Ky Tho Bac village has become a model for ensuring disability inclusion in Quang Ngai in general, particularly in Nghia Hanh district. The shelter is designed to be accessible for everyone (including the elderly, persons with disabilities, children) with ramps, road markings, anti-slip bricks, handrails, alarm lights and accessible toilets.

Active participation of the local OPD

The project team called for the participation of Quang Ngai OPD from the beginning and they were involved in all the steps of the project cycle from surveying, developing concept notes, designing and monitoring. The OPD was

both the consulting agency for the project to ensure the needs of persons with disabilities are met, and the implementing partner.

The OPD contacted the local authorities to discuss the building plan, select the target areas and ensure that the shelter aligned with the authority's own development objectives. This coordination with the local OPD has built trust among the local authorities at the provincial, district, and commune levels.

Thanks to this positive and active collaboration, the shelter is highly valued by the local community and authorities for meeting the following criteria:

Accessibility for persons with disabilities and all local residents: Quang Ngai's OPD actively contributed during the construction process, giving comments and timely adjustments to ensure the accessibility of the model for persons with disabilities. Before handing over the shelter to the local authority, the OPD conducted the final inspection using Vietnam local standards and CBM guidelines.

Transparency: Quang Ngai's OPD actively contributed to developing the project budget and the technical-economic reports on construction activities. The organisation also helped the project evaluate the effectiveness of the construction agency, which contributes to ensuring the project's quality. This has helped the project to gain solid trust from local authorities as they know

that the project's budget is transparent and open to the beneficiaries. This has actively contributed to encouraging the local authority to allocate budget for this activity.

“When participating in the supervision of the construction, I see that the locality and persons with disabilities benefit greatly, because the construction budget is carefully reviewed with the direct participation of the Quang Ngai's OPD during the budgeting and evaluation process. The project also ensures accessibility for everyone, not only persons with disabilities” – Mr. Huy, independent contractor supervising local construction

Local advocacy: Quang Ngai's OPD helped the project better connect and build trust with the commune authorities. Due to the lengthy process of getting the construction permit, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic affected the estimated budget for construction. The OPD consulted and lobbied the local government to contribute to the budget. As a result, the local government committed to fund 25% of the total cost of the shelter, in addition to contributing more than 200m² of land in the commune.

Voices and social participation of persons with disabilities: The voices, influence, and social position of the local OPD have been strengthened and recognised by the commune and district People's Committees, the highest government bodies in each geographic area. Furthermore, the efforts from the OPD contribute to a meaningful building for the local community in an inclusive cultural house and shelter for everyone.

Members of Quang Ngai OPD at the opening of a new cultural centre and emergency shelter, as part of a project from CBM and Action to the Community Development Institute (ACDC).







Empowering Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam through UNCRPD Ratification and Collaboration

Vietnam has taken significant steps towards the holistic development of persons with disabilities by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This commitment was further backed by active participation from individuals with disabilities in the development of the Independent Report, serving as evidence of Vietnam's fulfillment of its legally-binding obligations.

One of the most significant achievements of this collaboration between organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), is the elimination of geographical barriers and unique expertise, which led to the creation of a comprehensive report featuring timely and accurate content.

The monitoring and development of the UNCRPD implementation report involved individuals of all ethnicities, genders, ages, and abilities, including marginalized communities such as the poor, homeless, institutionalized, and those living in remote areas. Their contributions went beyond personal stories, with individuals proposing innovative solutions like improving the determination of a degree of disability or revising disability benefits and insurance provisions. Students with disabilities, for instance, were also supported to enhance their learning outcomes.

Vietnamese Federation on Disability (VFD), with support from international counterparts, played a vital role in coordinating and supporting persons with disabilities, with over 37 organizations, groups, and clubs responding to the questionnaire. VFD conducted training and capacity-building

workshops for participants from different regions, including persons with disabilities, and shared the report with 56 state agencies. The 18 advocacy events held, serving as the voice of persons with disabilities, aimed to empower and inform legislators and policymakers on issues facing this community in line with the motto "Nothing about us without us."

Innovation in Disaster Mitigation: The Importance of Including Persons with Disabilities in Community-Based Plans

Disasters are often unpredictable and can have a devastating impact on the community. While everyone is affected by disasters, certain segments of society are more vulnerable, such as persons with disabilities. Natural calamities can make it even more difficult for them to access resources and evacuate to safety.

The “Strengthening Community Resilience and Disability-Inclusive Sustainable Livelihood Model” project in Kon Tum City, Vietnam, stands as a testament to the vital role of persons with disabilities in disaster prevention and risk mitigation. The project’s primary objective was to integrate individuals with disabilities into community-based plans for disaster prevention and control.

Located in an area prone to frequent disasters such as storms, floods, and landslides, Kon Tum City recognized the critical importance of including the most vulnerable group, persons with disabilities, in their disaster risk prevention and mitigation plans. Through community-based planning, project members identified areas vulnerable to storms and floods, assessed strengths and weaknesses of existing infrastructure, and leveraged available human resources to prevent and mitigate disasters.

A key component of the project involved organizing mock drills tailored to specific disaster scenarios, enabling community members to build their capacity for disaster mitigation. Persons with disabilities were actively involved in these drills, enhancing their awareness and knowledge of potential disaster risks in their locality. These exercises played a crucial role in improving their preparedness, empowering them to actively participate in disaster prevention and control efforts. The project also introduced a “hazard map” as a unique feature, enabling communities to visualize the potential consequences of natural disasters and take necessary precautions to ensure

their safety. By developing comprehensive disaster prevention plans, persons with disabilities gained self-reliance and the ability to manage disaster risks effectively.

An inclusive approach to disaster prevention and control was a significant strength of this project. It ensured that persons with disabilities were not excluded or overlooked, and their specific needs were considered in disaster prevention and risk mitigation strategies.

Mr. Nguyen Tuan Phuoc, Deputy Head of the Economic Department of Kon Tum City, expressed his gratitude for the project, highlighting how it empowered the community to take proactive measures in responding to disasters. He noted that prior to the project’s implementation, the community had suffered losses and damages, particularly during the Ketsana typhoon, due to a lack of disaster response plans. In response, community members united to develop comprehensive disaster prevention plans.

The success achieved in Kon Tum City has inspired the extension of this initiative to other communities affected by natural disasters. The project’s outcomes have underscored the importance of including persons with disabilities in disaster prevention plans and emphasized the need for state agencies to play an active role in capacity building and resource preparation to respond effectively to such challenges.



In the midst of the Covid-19 response, Bui, a person with a physical disability, receives aid packages along with his family.

Empowering Community-Based Rehabilitation

Many persons with disabilities face stigmatization and a lack of access to resources needed to improve their quality of life. In Thua Thien Hue Province, CBM organization has been actively working since 2005 on addressing these challenges and implementing sustainable community rehabilitation activities through partnerships with local organizations.

Phase 1: Disseminating Information and Improving Knowledge (2005-2012)

In the first phase of the CBM project, which spanned from 2005 to 2012, the main focus was on disseminating information about disabilities and enhancing the knowledge of healthcare providers and village health workers. The project trained and supported local collaborators who played a crucial role in guiding exercises for persons with disabilities at home, providing rehabilitation tools to those in need, and organizing vocational training and interest-free loans. The aim was to empower individuals with disabilities and their families to manage their own exercises and integrate more effectively into society.

Phase 2: Expanding CBR Networks and Support (2014-2016)

The second phase of the CBM project, conducted from 2014 to 2016, aimed to expand Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) networks and provide support to a larger number of persons with disabilities. The project offered training courses to nearly 2,000 village health teams and equipped medical teams from nine districts, towns, and cities with essential rehabilitation knowledge. This expansion allowed the teams to provide assistance to almost 5,000 individuals with disabilities, offering specific livelihood support and assistive devices as needed. The project also collaborated with healthcare media centers and broadcasting stations to raise awareness by sharing activities and important information related to disability support.

Phase 3: Recognizing Rehabilitation Excellence (2019-2022)

The ongoing third phase of the CBM project, which began in 2019 and will continue until 2022, aims to achieve recognition for the Rehabilitation Hospital of Thua Thien Hue Province according to national standards for providing prosthetics, orthotics, and assistive device (POAD) services. The project has

focused on improving patients' access to the hospital and has established a comprehensive community-based rehabilitation network. This network includes the provincial steering committee, district CBR officers, commune-level staff, village health workers, and other collaborators.

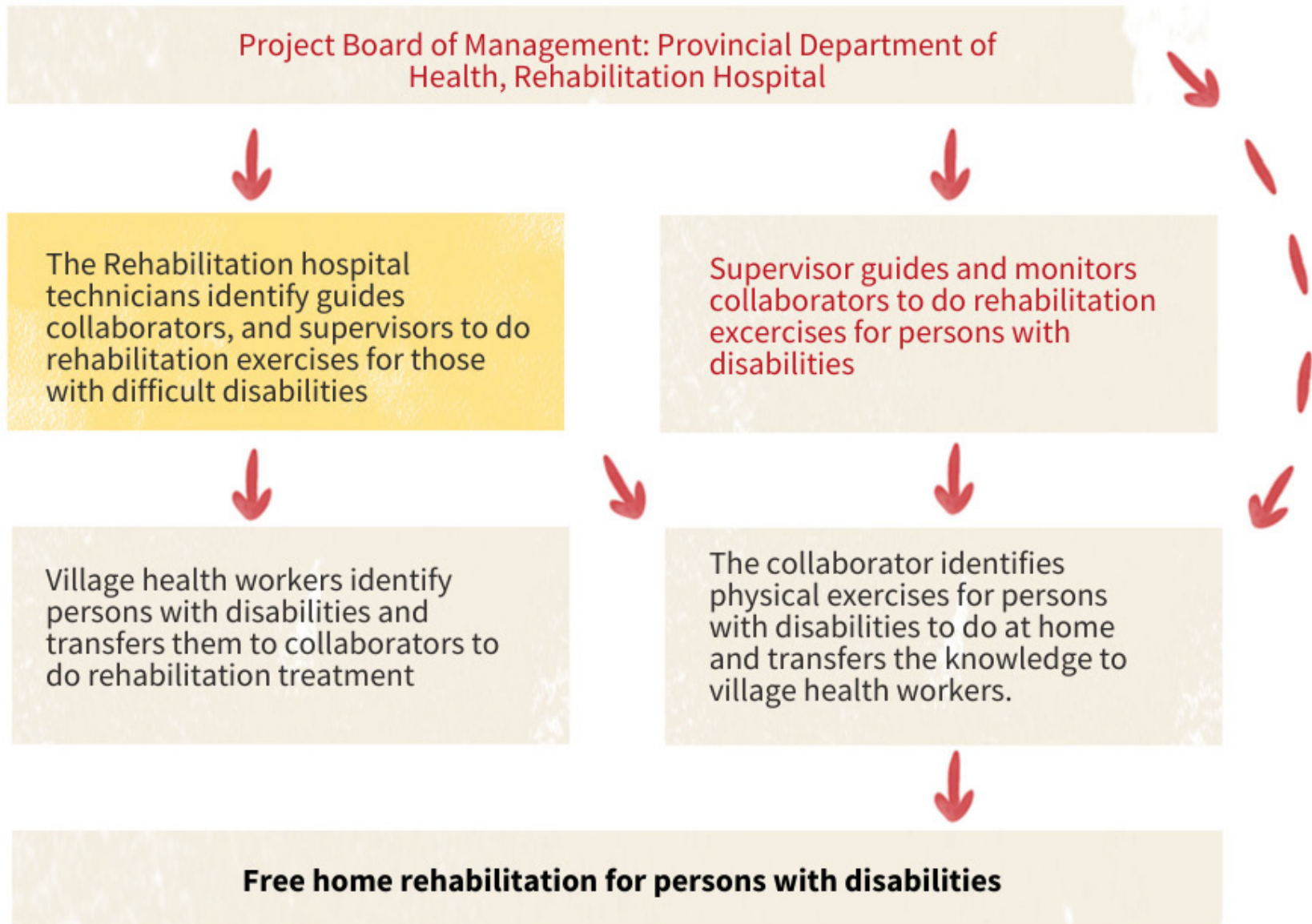
Workshops and Training for Capacity Building

Throughout the project, various workshops and training courses have been conducted to enhance the capacity of staff, health centers, and program collaborators. These sessions have focused on important aspects such as gender equality, empowerment, and breaking down barriers for persons with disabilities. Additionally, the CBM project provides financial assistance to individuals with mobility impairments, helping them cover direct and indirect costs associated with using POAD services. In 2022, a workshop was organized to share health policies and experiences in utilizing assistive devices, orthotics, and prostheses within the community, involving local government and civil social organizations.

Promoting Accessibility and Inclusion

The CBM project serves as a commendable model for promoting accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities. Throughout its three phases, the project has empowered individuals with disabilities, raised public awareness, and supported the sustainability of community-based rehabilitation activities. By providing livelihood resources, counseling services, physical training, and assistive devices, the CBM project has made a significant impact on the lives of persons with disabilities in Thua Thien Hue Province. While there is still much work to be done, the CBM project stands as an inspiring example for communities worldwide seeking to create a more inclusive and accessible environment for individuals with disabilities.

Operational Chart of the CBM Project in Hue





Monitoring and Evaluation of UNCRPD Implementation in Vietnam

In its mission to elevate the position and amplify the voice of persons with disabilities in local policy development and implementation, the CBM project “Monitoring and Evaluation of UNCRPD Implementation in Vietnam“ engaged in collaborative efforts with relevant authorities and OPDs.

The birth of the Quang Ngai Province Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) in November 2016 was the result of tireless collaboration between the project, relevant authorities, and local organizations of persons with disabilities. The provincial authorities played a pivotal role by offering their support and granting permission for the formation of the OPD. Moreover, the consensus and enthusiasm of persons with disabilities in Quang Ngai were instrumental in making this milestone possible.

The journey towards establishing the OPD began with the “Law Bridge contest” program held in April 2016. This program, organized by the Department of Labour – Invalids and Social Affairs in conjunction with ACDC, aimed to disseminate knowledge about policies and create a social platform for persons with disabilities. It sparked a sudden wave of interest among persons with disabilities in Quang Ngai, igniting their passion for understanding their rights and advocating for change. Following the Law Bridge contest, persons with disabilities in Quang Ngai were invited to participate in a series of training courses on conventions, laws, and policies related to disabilities. These courses also provided an opportunity for them to connect with leaders with disabilities from various provinces across the country. Through these interactions, they gained valuable insights into local policy advocacy experiences.

Thanks to the unwavering efforts and strong support from the OPD network, the provincial government of Quang Ngai officially recognized the need for an OPD and signed a decision to establish it. Since its formation, the association has witnessed a rapid

increase in membership, with over 1,500 people joining the cause. Moreover, the OPD’s leadership has been instrumental in fostering relationships with local and external entities, securing funds to support persons with disabilities.

The association has spearheaded numerous programs aimed at improving the lives of persons with disabilities in Quang Ngai. These initiatives include advocating for accessible public accommodations, providing livelihood support, and organizing feedback sessions to address accessibility concerns. Mr. Tran Tuan Kiet, the chairman of the OPD, takes great pride in the progress made, stating, “Now, the OPD has a strong voice with provincial authorities, and we are recognized by organizations both inside and outside the province. Through workshops, training sessions, and various activities, we have built valuable relationships and garnered more support for people with disabilities in Quang Ngai.”

The success of the project in Quang Ngai would not have been possible without the consultation and exchange of knowledge within the network of Vietnamese persons with disabilities. The project’s working sessions facilitated the formation of new and close friendships, fostering a sense of camaraderie among individuals working towards empowering persons with disabilities. Despite encountering difficulties and moments of disappointment, it was the collective consensus and shared dream that ultimately brought about this remarkable achievement.

Dien Bien: Where one small investment went a long way

In Dien Bien province, located in a mountainous area of northern Vietnam, CBM supported a project which had a life-changing impact for persons with disabilities. The project was a result of cross-sector collaboration in which the Provincial Health Department and Department of Labour and Social Welfare (DOLISA) have worked with CBM to support the social integration of persons with disabilities and their families in the province.

One family that has benefited from it is that of Mr Lo van Chung, an ethnic minority Thai person with a physical disability living in the Dien Bien district with his wife and 18-year-old daughter studying in grade 12.

Like Mr Lo van Chung, Ms Lo van Chung is also a person with a disability. Their primary source of income was the monthly social protection allowance provided by the government (about 30 EUR each month). Another far more modest source of income came from making bamboo products like baskets, small chairs and chopsticks.

Before joining the project and due to self-stigma, Mr Chung's family isolated themselves from the local community and did not have high hopes for their daughter, who was about to leave high school.

In 2018, DOLISA staff in the local commune approached him to talk to him about the project and ask him if he would be interested in participating. Mr Chung was hesitant because, like others, everyone needed to deposit 10-15% of the first investment as a commitment. At this point, his extended family in the village offered to help him. As a result, a buffalo worth

VND 15 million was provided to his family (equivalent to 550 EUR). Relatives contributed VND 2 million (80 EUR), and the project covered the rest.

For many families in the region, a buffalo is a valuable asset, which Mr Chung and his wife could only have dreamt of before the project came along. One year later, the buffalo gave birth to its first calf. Not long after that, a local trader offered an amount of VND 46 million to buy both buffalos. The family plans to sell the second buffalo when their daughter officially registers for college.

The family feels happy because they now have a source of income that will allow them to support their daughter to realise her dream: to study at a pedagogical college in Dien Bien City. Looking ahead and at their own livelihoods, they would like to continue this income generation model by growing and selling more buffalos each year.







1-2-3-4-5-6-7
x quy khách ấn nút số tầng đi
Dùng để mở cửa thang máy
Door open
Dùng để đóng cửa thang máy
Door close
E.CALL
(Emergency call)
E.S
(Emergency stop)
DÉN BẮC
(Overload)

CHỖ NGƯỜI
TẢI TRỌNG
KHÔNG QUÁ
8 NGƯỜI

Addressing the Neglect of Hearing Impairment: Leaving No One Behind

Dealing with hearing impairment is a daily struggle that often goes unnoticed by society. This invisible disability presents unique challenges that are not always properly addressed, leaving many individuals with hearing loss at a disadvantage.

In Vietnam, there are limited educational institutions that cater specifically to students with deafness. Only two schools, located in Hanoi and Dong Nai, offer high school training programs tailored to the needs of these students. These schools employ professional sign language interpreters to facilitate effective communication and learning.

However, in remote areas, students with deafness face even greater difficulties. They may lack access to sign language and encounter teachers who may not possess the necessary knowledge to provide adequate support. This lack of access to education and effective communication leaves many vulnerable to the violation of their rights.

Communication barriers pose a significant hurdle for students with deafness. They find it challenging to interact with individuals who do not understand sign language, and they may struggle to express themselves effectively. As a result, they can experience a sense of isolation, even within their own families, leading to misunderstandings and limited social interaction opportunities.

CBM and ACDC (Action to the Community Development Institute) successfully partnered to address the challenges faced by the deaf community in Vietnam. Through their collaborative efforts, they have empowered individuals with hearing impairments by raising awareness about their rights

and ensuring access to education, employment, recreational activities, and freedom of choice. This project has been successfully completed, with positive outcomes for the deaf community.

As part of this initiative, ACDC conducted training courses to deepen participants' understanding of their rights and boost their self-confidence. The training sessions were organized in deaf clubs across the country, spearheaded by teachers who themselves are deaf. These dedicated educators utilized visual teaching methods that catered to the unique learning styles of individuals with hearing impairments.

Through these efforts, deaf individuals gained a thorough understanding of their position in society and developed a stronger belief in their own capabilities. ACDC's focus on empowerment has resulted in a more inclusive society, where diversity is embraced, and equal opportunities are provided to all.

The partnership between CBM and ACDC has proven instrumental in enabling the deaf community to overcome educational challenges and thrive in Vietnamese society. By championing the rights of individuals with hearing impairments, this completed project has contributed to fostering a society where everyone has the chance to flourish.

The Role of Communication Campaigns in COVID-19 Prevention in Tan Uyen

In the early months of winter 2020, the pandemic had spread extensively in Tan Uyen town and Muong Khoa community, located in Tan Uyen district. However, with the support of CBM, the Lai Chau Provincial Party Committee implemented an effective prevention campaign to reduce severe cases and mortality rates.

CBM, through its various initiatives, utilized a range of communication mediums to educate and inform the residents of Lai Chau about the importance of preventive measures against the pandemic. Television, local radio stations, mobile broadcasting were all employed to disseminate knowledge and vital information. These efforts were widely appreciated by the locals, who credited them with their improved understanding and adoption of effective preventive measures.

Thanks to the community's dedication and adherence to these preventive measures, Lai Chau was recognized as one of the most successful regions in controlling the spread of COVID-19. With one of the lowest numbers of COVID-19 cases reported nationwide, this achievement was a testament to the commitment and resilience of the people of Lai Chau.

During a visit to the region, Ms. Thuy from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) praised the locals' unwavering dedication to preventive measures despite the lack of adequate healthcare equipment. She remarked on the community's strong adherence to the "5K + vaccine + testing + awareness" message, which emphasized wearing masks, disinfecting, practicing social distancing, avoiding gatherings, getting vaccinated, and staying informed. This level of commitment and understanding made the CDC's work in combating diseases and improving healthcare

in the region significantly easier. Ms. Thuy also expressed gratitude for the support provided by CBM in their prevention efforts

We sincerely thank CBM for your support, in the prevention of Covid-19 epidemic. We sincerely thank CBM for your support, in the prevention of Covid-19 epidemic.

- Ms. Thuy CDC Staff

The success of Lai Chau's pandemic control measures served as an inspiration to other regions grappling with the ongoing health crisis. It highlighted the importance of community engagement, effective communication, and the adherence to preventive measures in curbing the spread of COVID-19.





Thank you

CBM's success in Vietnam can be attributed to the organization's strong partnerships with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities. Through these partnerships, CBM has been able to achieve its goals of improving access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities in Vietnam. By working closely with local partners, CBM has been able to ensure that its programs are sustainable and responsive to the unique needs of persons with disabilities in Vietnam. Through this approach, CBM has achieved significant success, improving the lives of many persons with disabilities and promoting a greater understanding and acceptance of their rights and capabilities.

At CBM, we are committed to making a positive impact on the world around us. As we prepare to exit Vietnam, we are proud of the progress we have made and the relationships we have built with our partners. We believe that we have left Vietnam better than we found it, through our dedication to sustainable practices, responsible business operations, and community engagement. We are also confident that our partners will continue to carry the torch, building on the foundation we have established and creating even greater change in the years to come. We look forward to following their progress and supporting their efforts as they work towards a brighter future for Vietnam and its people.



Christian Blind Mission (CBM) is an international Christian development organisation, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world.



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