The Vietnamese government ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2015, and is revising national legislation regarding disabilities; some physical rehabilitation services are already covered by state health insurance that will soon include a range of assistive devices. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) both conduct activities for persons with disabilities, while the Vietnamese Training Center for Orthopedic Technology (VIETCOT) trains prosthetists and orthotists.

Cooperation between the MOLISA and the ICRC began in 1989, focusing on orthopedic assistance for persons with disabilities. MoveAbility took over from the ICRC in 1995, and we have expanded our activities.

In 2002, we began our partnership with the Viet Nam Red Cross Society (VNRC), with whom we work to identify and follow up on people in need of physical rehabilitation services. Partnerships on identifying such people have been extended to three Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) in Danang, Ho Chi Minh City and, Can Tho. We also work with another DPO, the Action for the Community Development Center (ACDC), on advocacy-related matters. Although Viet Nam’s economy has been improving over the past few years, persons with disabilities – primarily caused by past conflict – still lack funds for medical care. The situation is particularly acute in poor rural areas.

### KEY FACTS & FIGURES - 2018

- **POPULATION**: 94,541,000<sup>1</sup>
- **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**: ~6,100,000<sup>2</sup>
- **CAUSE OF DISABILITIES (MOBILITY, SELF-CARE, VISION)**: Stroke; cerebral palsy; infectious diseases (polio, leprosy); drug and alcohol use
- **UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNCRPD)**: 2007
- **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)**: 116/188

<sup>1</sup> Source: World Bank data  
<sup>2</sup> Source: https://vietnam.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Disability_ENG.pdf

### MOVEABILITY’S PARTNERS IN VIET NAM*

- Action to the Community Development Center (ACDC)
- Can Tho Orthopaedic & Rehabilitation Center
- Can Tho Association of People with Disabilities (CAPD)
- Danang Orthopaedic & Rehabilitation Hospital
- Danang Disabled People Organisation (Danang DPO)
- Disability Research & Capacity Development (DRD), Ho Chi Minh
- Ho Chi Minh Rehabilitation Center, Ho Chi Minh City
- Ministry of Health (MOH)
- Ministry of Labour, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA)
- Quy Nhơn Orthopaedic & Rehabilitation Center
- Vietnamese Training Center for Orthopedic Technology (VIETCOT), Hanoi

*Presented in alphabetical order
A GOLDEN COMPETITOR

Mrs. Vu Hoai Thanh was born in Hanoi in 1980. One early morning of summer in 1996, she was cycling to the market to sell chicken eggs for her family, when she was hit by a truck which had lost its wheels. She had her right leg amputated after the accident. She cried a lot and thought she would not be able to run, jump nor climb again.

After a while she calmed and said to herself that even if she was more limited, at least she was still able to see and do things. This mindset helped her overcome her physical loss. She went back to her studies and graduated from a college, where she joined the Hanoi Student with Disability Club. It is through this club that she learned about the different sports adapted for persons with disabilities and started practicing badminton in 2003. Immediately she became passionate and was very good. As a result, in the same year she got her first gold medal for her first competition at the 2nd ASEAN Para Games. She continued to play sports at a high level, while working full time.

At first, she had been fitted with a standard trans-tibial prosthesis for both daily and sports use. But the friction of the cotton sock with the polypropylene sock, coupled with intense activity, caused her a lot of pain. The chafing, the swelling and even the bleeding on some occasions, forced her to stop playing sports for some periods to heal the wounds. For a long time it was very difficult for her to practice her sport and she only dreamed of having a sports prosthesis, as was the case for athletes in other countries such as Thailand.

Her dream finally came true when she received a sports prosthesis adapted to badminton in January 2017, with support from MoveAbility. The new prosthesis eliminated all the previous issues she had, thanks to its silicone sleeve which allowed it to be more efficient to use at work and for sports.

During the 9th Para Games in July 2017, she had progressed so much that her competitors could not believe it. She won three gold medals and one bronze medal at National Competition in July 2018 and set herself the goal of winning in the single-player category in the next ASEAN Para Games in 2019 in the Philippines. “Despite the difficulty of the situation I have been through, I was lucky to receive support and that the government of my country takes care of persons with disabilities and their inclusion. Society cares about the well-being of persons with disabilities like me and allows us to flourish. I never thought I would be able to do so many things despite my disability,” she concludes.

OUR APPROACH IN VIET NAM

WORKING WITH THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

MoveAbility will continue to work with MOH, MOLISA, DPOs, the Vietnamese Red Cross and other stakeholders in making physical rehabilitation services more available and accessible in Viet Nam. For example, we will continue to support the authorities’ efforts to extend the coverage of state health insurance to include prostheses and orthoses. Our study on the gaps in the supply of mobility devices and on the existing needs of people with physical disabilities and services available to them in Viet Nam, aims to help the authorities develop long-term plans to address these concerns. We will also keep working with the authorities to review or design new regulations on physical rehabilitation, and to improve the management of facilities.

To help ensure the sustainability and quality of physical rehabilitation services, we will continue to support the professional development of current and future prosthetists and orthotists in Viet Nam, through various educational opportunities.
MAIN ACHIEVEMENT

NATIONAL PLAN
With ACDC, MoveAbility supported the MOH in drafting official documents to standardize prices for orthoses, including a circular that regulates rehabilitation techniques, assistive devices and rehabilitation day care services covered by state health insurance.

We helped develop a national survey on mobility devices. During a workshop, we presented the results of an extensive desk review of existing studies to local partners and stakeholders; the first draft of the implementation action plan was also presented.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
We continued providing scholarships to eight people studying at VIETCOT and a ninth person in a Thai university, to complete a three-year ISPO Category II and a four-year Category I training, respectively.

QUALITY OF SERVICES
Technical assessments of services and beneficiary satisfaction surveys were conducted to help our partners evaluate the quality of their services.

ACCESS TO SERVICES
With ACDC, we advocated for the revision of domestic labor policies to better integrate the concerns of people with physical disabilities in 2017. We also continued to support vulnerable persons with disabilities for the payment of the prosthetic and orthotic services they need (861 devices)

MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES
The Ho Chi Minh Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Center have been trained on the Essential Management Package – Leadership Development Program (EMP-LDP), to improve their management skills, with our support. Staff from VIETCOT, working alongside MoveAbility staff, helped facilitate the sessions.

BENEFICIARY STATISTICS 2016–2018

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED SERVICES FROM OUR PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018*</td>
<td>3,704</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROVIDED BY OUR PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Prostheses</th>
<th>Orthoses</th>
<th>Crutches</th>
<th>Wheelchairs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,651</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>2,654</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,674</td>
<td>1,993</td>
<td>2,481</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018*</td>
<td>2,424</td>
<td>1,716</td>
<td>2,128</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Services include: prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, other rehabilitation services and consultations.
2 As reported in October 2018, extrapolated to year end.
3 As reported between January and October 2018
OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED IMPACT FOR 2019-2021

By the end of the reporting period covered by this document, in 2021, we aim to have contributed to the following objectives:

**NATIONAL PLAN**
- The national authorities work towards enacting policies that make assistive devices more available and accessible to people with physical disabilities
- Prosthetists and orthotists are included in the national organization for physical rehabilitation professionals

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
- Students on MoveAbility scholarships complete their physical rehabilitation studies by 2020; professionals in the sector – those working in schools or centers – hone their skills further
- Physical rehabilitation schools are accredited by the national authorities and international organizations

**QUALITY OF SERVICES**
- The national authorities adopt quality-control criteria that adhere to international standards
- Local service providers provide good-quality physical rehabilitation services

**ACCESS TO SERVICES**
- Vulnerable people with physical disabilities have their treatment costs covered by state health insurance
- Referral mechanisms with the Vietnamese Red Cross and Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) are strengthened – broadening access for people with physical disabilities to the appropriate services
- The national study on the gaps in the supply of mobility devices and on the existing needs of people with physical disabilities and services available to them in Viet Nam is finalized

**MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES**
- Management procedures, organizational structures and functions of physical rehabilitation facilities are regulated by the national authorities for more efficient service-delivery
- Managers and key staff of physical rehabilitation centers benefit from training and organizational support; tools for leadership development (e.g. Essential Management Systems Assessment Tool (EMSAT)) are implemented at training centers or facilities

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1. The budget is indicative and is subject to income received.