

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN  
TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES  
Period 2006 - 2010

I - Rationale for the Plan:

A. Legal basis for development of the Plan

It was pointed out at the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam that "the social protection policies should be gradually developed with an approach "the government and the people will work together". Expansion and development of social protection policies, creation of systems and approaches to support people who have contribution to the revolution of Vietnam, and to people living with difficulties. Research should be carried out in order to improve the existing policies, social protection system in conjunction with the socio-economic development and management process . { 1 } This view shows the attention and caring of the Party to the targets of the social protection, including the disabled.

The Constitutions of 1946, 1959, 1980, 1992 affirm that people with disabilities are citizens and members of the society, they are entitled to the rights and duties of a citizen and equally benefit from the social achievements. Because of the disabilities, people with disabilities have rights to receive social support in order to equally participate in the social activities and because of the disabilities, people with disabilities are exempted from some citizen duties. "The Government and the society provide opportunities to disabled children to go to school and to participate in vocational trainings. The elderly, the disabled and orphans are supported by the Government and society" { 2 }

The Ordinance on People with disabilities was promulgated by the Standing Committee of the National Assembly on July 30,1998, and became in effect on November 1st , 1998, clearly regulates responsibilities of each family, the Government and the society to people with disabilities, the rights and duties of people with disabilities in the areas of healthcare and nursing assistance, education, vocational training and employment, culture and sports activities and public facilities for people with disabilities. "The government encourages and provides opportunities to people with disabilities to equally benefit from political, social, economic and cultural rights as well as to fully participate in the social activities and to be included in the community. People with disabilities are supported by the Government and the society in areas of healthcare and rehabilitation, employment and in enjoying the rights as regulated by the law". { 3 } .

The Directive Nr. 01/2006/CT-TTg dated on January 9th, 2006 by the Prime Minister on the enforcement of the policies to support people with disabilities in the current economic and social development context have identified the achievements and the shortcomings after 7 year implementation of the Ordinance. The Directive is the legal basis for all ministries to promote the implementation of the policies on people with disabilities and assign the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) to review the implementation of the Ordinance on People with disabilities and other related legal documents, to provide leadership in coordinating ministries and agencies in proposing measures for policy improvement, or submitting the proposal to

authorized functioning offices, and to develop the National Action Plan to support people with disabilities (2006-2010) and to facilitate the implementation after it is approved.

The United Nations are working on the 7th draft of the International Convention on the Rights and Dignity of people with disabilities; Asia and the Pacific Region is in the 4th year of the second Decade of people with disabilities under the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BIWAKO): "Towards an inclusive, barrier-free and right-based society for persons with disabilities in Asia and the Pacific" with seven priorities: (i) Self-help organizations of persons with disabilities and related family and parent associations; (ii) Women with disabilities; (iii) Early detection, early intervention and education; (iv) Training and employment, including self-employment; (v) Access to built environments and public transport; (vi) Access to information and communications, including information, communications and assistive technologies; (vii) Poverty alleviation through capacity-building, social security and sustainable livelihood programmes . { 4 } Our country has committed to implement the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BIWAKO).

{ 1 } Documents of the 6th Congress of the Communist Party

{ 2 } Articles 59 and 67 of Constitution of Vietnamese Socialist Republic in 1992

{ 3 } Article 3 of Ordinance on People with disabilities (1998)

{ 4 } Seven Priorities of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action approved through the high level conference of inter-governments in October 2002 in Japan (Biwa lake - the biggest lake in Otsu city of Japan)

B. The Situation of people with disabilities in Vietnam and the policies on disability over the past time

1. The situation of people with disabilities:

a. The quantity and geographical distribution of people with disabilities

According to the data of MOLISA, there are approximately 5.3 million people with disabilities nationwide, accounts for 6.34% of the population . However, WHO estimated that people with disabilities in Vietnam accounts for 10% of the population. The Vietnamese with disabilities are distributed in 8 regions as follows:

- North West: 157.369 persons
- North East: 678.345 persons
- Red River Delta: 980.118 persons
- North Central: 658.254 persons
- Coastal Central: 749.489 persons
- Tay Nguyen: 158.506 persons
- South East: 866.516 persons
- The Mekong River Delta: 1.018.341 persons

87,20% of the people with disabilities are living in the rural areas, 12,8% are living in the urban areas.

## b. Forms of disabilities and its causes { 5 }

### ◎Forms of disabilities in Vietnam:

- Mobility: 29,41%
- Mentality: 16,82%
- Visually impaired: 13,84%
- Hearing impaired: 9,33%
- Language: 7,08%
- Brain: 6,52%
- Others: 17,00%

Two forms of disabilities with highest proportion are mentality and mobility, followed is the visually impaired, and other forms of disability accounts for only under 10% of the total population of disabilities. This classification is very important in prioritising activities to support people with disabilities.

Causes of disabilities: Congenital (35.8%), diseases (32.34%), war consequence (25.56%), work accident (3.49%), ... (especially 125.000 become disabled because of traffic accidents from 2001 to now. In average, 25.000 people become disabled per year) and 1.57% of disabilities is due to other causes. These causes reflect the nature of human as well as the primary care for children and the poor quality of health services, which can cause the out-of control over the diseases that lead to high rate of disabilities. The causes from wars is also a high rate, especially the victim of dioxide.

## c. Changing Tendency of People with Disabilities in Vietnam

The number of people with disabilities tends to increase in the coming years due to traffic accidents, work accidents, serious environment pollution; the advancement of technology and development and diversification of health system can intervene strongly the protection and caring of people's health, and reduce diseases, however it will increase the number of people with disabilities { 6 } .

Causes of disabilities also vary and are different from the past; the causes related to innate defects, diseases and wars consequence will be reduced. However, the causes of traffic accidents, work accidents and environment pollution are increasing due to fast development of industrialization, modernization and urbanization.

## d. People with disability's individual life:

According to the statistics from provinces and cities, 70-80% (in urban areas) and 65-70% (in suburban areas) of people with disabilities living on their family, relatives and social allowances. Around 25%-35% persons are working to support themselves and their family.

The survey on Disability carried out by MOLISA in 2005 shows that the majority of households with people with disabilities have low living standards. Per the household assessment, there is 32,5% households living in poverty (that accounts for 22% of the country) 58% is average, 9% is better off, and 0,5% is wealthy. The more people with disabilities each household has , the lower their living standards is. For instance, in a

group of households with one person with disability, 31% lives in poverty, in a group of households with 3 people with disabilities, 63% household is poor.

Regarding housing issue: 24% of the household live in the temporary houses; 65% live in the semi-concrete houses, and 11% live in the concrete houses. The housing criteria for households with people with disabilities are similar to those of other households in Vietnam.

#### e. Education

The education level of Vietnamese with disabilities is low. 41,01% of people with disabilities who are 6 years of age or more are illiterate and only 19,5% people with disabilities have finished secondary school. That rate is even less encouraging in the rural areas, more men go to school than women and the level of education of ethnic minority is lower than that of the Kinh.

In terms of technical and professional qualifications, 93,4% of over 16 years old people with disabilities do not have professional qualification, only 6,5% of them has vocational training certificates, 2,75% has finished technical senior secondary schools or higher. People with disabilities who live in urban areas, or who are male and the Kinh have higher technical qualification than people with disabilities living in the rural areas, being female or ethnic minority. (97% female without technical or professional qualifications while male is 91,3%).

#### g. Employment and Income

About 58% of people with disabilities are working, 30% are unemployed and wish to have a stable job. This rate is highest in the Song Hong Delta (42%), and following region is South-East (approximate 36%). Despite number of people with disabilities having professional and technical qualification is small, very few of them are employed at the agencies and business enterprises.

According to the survey on Disability in 2005 by MOLISA, only 29% of interviewed 15 years of age or upwards people with disabilities answered that they are able to work, of whom 75% do business but only 47,5% have enough work to do, 37,2% do not have enough work to do and 15,3% do not have work to do. Income of people with employment, however, is still very low, even lower than the minimum salary scale. People with disabilities mainly work in agriculture sector that can generate the lowest income. These indicators show that employment and income for people with disabilities are pressing issues that need to be resolved.

{ 5 } Source: Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs 2005

{ 6 } The VNAH's researches indicated that the tendency of people with disabilities in Vietnam increased

## 2. The situation of policies to support people with disabilities in the past years.

After the approval by the National Assembly Standing Committee on the Ordinance on People with disabilities, Government promulgated policies to support people with disabilities, including:

- Decree No. 55/1999/N?-CP on 10/7/1999 of the Government regulates the implementation of the Ordinance on Persons with Disabilities .
- Decree No. 07/2000/N?-CP on 9/3/2000 of the Government on social subsidy policies
- Decree No. 168/2004/N?-CP on 20/ 9/ 2004 of Government to revise and amend some Articles of Decree No. 07/2000/N?-CP on 09/3/2000 on social subsidy policies.
- Decree No 116/2004/N? on 23/4/2004 of Government to revise and amend some articles of Decree No 81/CP regulating the details and providing guidance on implementation of some articles of the Labor Code on Employee with disabilities.
- Decision No. 26/2000/Q? -TTg on 23/02/2000 of Prime Minister , on regulations for people who joined the Resistance and their children are infected by toxic chemical used by the American during the war in Vietnam
- Decision No. 120/Q? -TTg on 5/7/2004 of Prime Minister on regulations for people who joined the Resistance and their children are infected by toxic chemical used by the American during the war in Vietnam (currently replacing Decision No 26/2000/Q?-TTg).
- Decision No.16/2004/Q?-TTg on 5/2/2004 of Prime Minister on support to the families with more than 2 persons who can not serve themselves due to the war consequences.
- Decision No 67/2004/Q?-TTg on 27/4/2004 of Prime Minister on action plan period 2004-2010 to cope with the affect of toxic chemical used by the American during the war in Viet Nam.
- Ordinance passed by the 11th NA Standing Committee on 29/6/2005 and declared by President on 11/7/2005 stipulates that those with merit to Viet Nam's revolution are subjects of preferential benefits. Decree No 147/2005/N?-CP of Government on 30/11/2005 and Circular No 33/TT-BLDTBXH of MOLISA on 09/12/2005 on implementation of the Ordinance.
- Directive No 01/2006/CT-TTg on 09/1/2006 of Prime Minister on promoting the implementation of policies to support people with disabilities in the current situation of socio-economic development.

Other legal documents stipulate policies to support people with disabilities in the areas of education, vocational training, cultural and sport activities, health care and disease treatment with no pay requirements.

- Circular No 13/2000/LDTBXH on 12/05/2000 of MOLISA provides guidance on implementation of some Articles in the Decree No 55/1999/ND-CP. Circular No 18/2000/TT-BLDTBXH on 28/7/2000 provides guidance on implementation of Decree No 07/2000/ND-CP. Circular No 16/2004/TT-BLDTBXH provides guidance on implementation of the Decree No 168/2004/ND-CP. Circular No 17/2000/LDTBXH on implementation of the Decision No 26/2000/QD-TTg . Circular No 10/TTLT-BLDTBXH-BTC on implementation of the Decision No 38/2004/QD-TTg. Circular No 06/2004/TT-BLDTBXH on procedures to receive support policy in the line with Decision No 16/2004/QD-TTg. Circular No 19/2005/TT-LT/BLDTBXH-BTC-BKHDT on implementation of the Decree No 81/CP and 116/2004/ND-CP. Circular No 33/TT-BLDTBXH on 09/12/2005 on implementation of the Decree No 147/2005/ND-CP regarding preferential allowance for people with merit to the national revolutions.

- Circular No 17/2000/BTC on 01/04/2002 of MOHA on implementation of policies to support staff who take care of people with disabilities in state owned nursing centers.
- Official letter No 4892/2000/TC-TCT of Ministry of Finance on VAT reduction for enterprises for people with disabilities.
- Circular No 10/1999/TT-BYT of MOH guides on functions, responsibilities and organization of sanatorium and rehabilitation centers under relevant ministry/agencies.
- Standards of public construction QCXDVN 01:2002: Building codes and standards on construction for people with disabilities, TCXDVN 264:202: Houses and buildings
- basic rules of accessible design and construction for people with disabilities , TCXDVN 265:202 : Routes and Sidewalks - basic rules of accessible design and construction for people with disabilities; TCXDVN 266-2002: Residence - guidance of accessible design and construction for people with disabilities which promulgated by MOC.
- MOT promulgated the Decision No 08/2005/QD-BGTVT dated 10/01/2005 regarding the regulations on public bus station and Decision No 09/2005/QD-BGTVT dated on 10/1/2005 on regulations on public bus based on fixed route and based on contracts regarding to needs of transport of people with disabilities; Branch Standards 22 TCN 302-06: Road motor vehicles: city buses and technical requirements in which regulated the requirements for accessible public buses; Circular No 3/2006/CT-BGTVT on promoting the implementation the policies to support the people with disabilities on transport branch ...

The majority of provinces and cities have Decisions or Guidance on implementation in the line with the context of socio-economical development.

System of legal documents on implementation of Ordinance on People with Disabilities helps form a complete legal framework to support, care of people with disabilities, define responsibilities of authorities from grass root level to central level and stipulate procedure, official forms, minimum of allowance. This framework also creates a favorable legal environment in order to establish plans and activities on Disability.

{ 7 } Synthesizing reports from localities in 2005 (Social Protection Department)

### 3. Situation of Policy Implementation

#### a. Policy on Social Subsidy

- According to reports from localities, the number of people with disabilities who are subsidized by the Government is 183.109 which accounts for 52,78% { 7 } of the people with severe disabilities and poor households. 9.792 people with disabilities are subsidized and cared in over 300 Social Protection Centers.
- The policies to support people with disabilities are regularly revised following the trends of the national socio-economic development context of Vietnam and cost of living, therefore, the lives of people with disabilities are gradually improved.

The number of persons receiving social allowance in 2005 approximately doubles compared to that in 1998, since the Ordinance on Disabilities was promulgated. There are 15 provinces having adjustments to their monthly allowance which is higher than

the minimum allowance norms stipulated by the Government. Those provinces are: Lao Cai, Bac Ninh, Ha Giang, Ha Noi, Da Nang, Binh Thuan, Dong Nai, Long An, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Ho Chi Minh city, Binh Duong, Khanh Hoa, Hau Giang, Bac Lieu { 8 } .

A number of localities have high rate of beneficiaries on social allowances, including Lang Son, Tuyen Quang (100%), Ho Chi Minh city (66,03%), Nam Dinh (56,61%), Ha Nam (54,36%), Tien Giang (56,6%), Gia Lai (50,73%), Kon Tum (50,00%). However, some other provinces have the social allowance norms that are lower than those regulated by Decree No 168/2004/N?-CP dated on 20/9/2004, such as: Hung Yen, Phu Tho, Dien Bien, Son La, Hoa Binh and Quang Nam .

622,783 persons with disabilities who are wounded soldiers, sick soldiers are benefiting from the current policies on war affected soldiers, servicemen affected by work accident, servicemen with professional diseases as regulated in the Ordinance for people who contributed to the Revolution of Vietnam. { 9 } .

In 2005, 133,356 people who participated in the war and their children have been then affected by toxic chemical have been receiving allowance under the Decision No 120/2004/QD-TTg, and the Ordinance to support people with contribution to national revolution. Around 4.700 households are receiving the allowances under the Decision No 16/2004/QD-TTg { 1 0 } .

Presently, 30,869 receive got the monthly allowance from national budget and social insurance on work accidents and professional diseases (whom with their work capability is reduced 31% or more)

{ 8 } Source: Social Protection Department, MOLISA, 2005

{ 9 } Source: Dead and Wounded Soldiers and People with Merit to Revolutions Department, MOLISA, 2005

{ 1 0 } Source: Social Protection Department, MOLISA, 2005

#### b. Orthopedics - Rehabilitation and Healthcare

Over the past 7 years, more than 150 times of people with disabilities have been provided with rehabilitation, orthopedic free of charge, over 10.000 of people with mobility disability have been granted assistive devices, including wheelchairs, artificial limbs ; thousands of children have had support in orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation.

Up to now, the community based rehabilitation (CBR) network has been developed in 46 out of 64 provinces, cities with 215 districts, 2420 communes. 74,1% households with people with disabilities are provided with rehabilitation skills, 44,2% people with disabilities are included into community { 1 1 } . Most of hospitals at provincial and central level have rehabilitation department. At present, 63% of people with disabilities are able to access the healthcare services.

According to the Survey on Disability by MOLISA in 2005, 50.35% household benefits from policies on medical support, of which 38.17% is provided with health check-up and treatment for free of charge and 45.43% is provided with health insurance cards. However, only 4.62% of the households have received support in rehabilitation. This figure is so small since rehabilitation is the first priority of people with disabilities in order them to study, to work and to be included into community. In general, policies on medical support are evenly implemented in localities, between rural and urban areas, between female and male headed households and between the Kinh and the ethnic minority.

{ 1 1 } Source: Ministry of Health

#### c. Education and Vocational Training

In 2003-2004, approximately 14.95% children with disabilities went to school . In 2005, 24,22% { 1 2 } children with disabilities at the school age went to school.

- The Blind Association organizes classes of Braille for 21.000 persons with visual impairments.

The employment services centers of the country has attracted a large number of people with disabilities to participate in the vocational training, with an average of around 10,000 persons per year. The Viet Nam Association for Business Enterprises of People with disabilities (VABED) have 54 out of 203 centers provided with vocational training licenses. Each year, these vocational training centers provide training to thousands of people with disabilities and of those people, 60% have jobs after the training. In 2005, the Government spent 11,5 billion VND for vocational training for people with disabilities and 20 billion VND in 2006 . { 1 3 }

{ 1 2 } Source: Ministry of Education and Training

{ 1 3 } Source: Vocational Training Department

#### d. Business and Production.

1995 was the first year to implement the Labor Code and therefore there are 177 business enterprises of people with disabilities that provided jobs to more than 7.821 employees with disabilities. From 1994 to 1997, the Government provided 14,876 million dong to 481 enterprises that help generate jobs for 14.876 employees with disabilities. At present, more than 400 units with over 15.000 employees of which Blind Association manages 146 units with about 4.000 employees. National Fund for employment reserves 120 for business enterprises of people with disabilities, Blind Association alone uses over 31 billion as loans for its members to generate employment { 1 4 }

According to the survey by MOLISA in 2005 on Disability, 64,86% households has benefited from policy to support business development of which the highest number of households have benefited from the tax exemption policy (91,26%), and followed is the policy to provide loans for business, production and policy on production land.



The rate of households benefiting from this policy is higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas.

MOLISA supported the establishment of Viet Nam Association for Business Enterprises of people with disabilities (VABED) (its General Assembly was held on 18/09/2003) and also be a focal point to promote business activities and marketing of products, strengthening of the international relationships and do researches to find out recommendations supporting employment for people with disabilities.

{ 1 4 } Source: Vietnamese Blind Association

#### e. Accessibility and Use of Public Buildings

Ministry of Construction (MOC) has directed or collaborated with the investors, project managers to upgrade 6 pilot public constructions in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities including railway stations, cultural centers, and post offices and to build new works including Noi Bai airport, My Dinh Complex of Sports, National Ethnological Museum, Trang Tien commercial center, pavements in Hoi An following the Code and Standards. Those would help disabled travelers easily.

#### g. Physical Exercise and Sports

Up to now 35 provinces and cities out of 64 through out the country have established clubs of sports for people with disabilities. The Committee of Physical Exercises and Sports in collaboration with Association Sports of People with disabilities annually organize National Sports Competition for people with disabilities. On the occasion of national festivals, the day of war invalids for instance, the localities hold sports competitions and reward prizes for excellent athletes (Bac Giang, Quang Ninh, Dong Nai, Ho Chi Minh City...)

Sports for people with disabilities have won many prizes in the Olympic regionally and internationally.

#### h. Other Activities:

- Thousands of copies of the Ordinance on Disability and other related documents were made and distributed to localities and other related agencies. The mobile legislation consultative groups have been sent to communes, clusters and towns to provide free of charge consultation on legislation to the poor, social welfare beneficiaries and people with disabilities in Thai Binh, Hung Yen, Ho Chi Minh City...
- News agencies, central and local Press have organized forums, discussions and talks to improve awareness of people on legislation on disabilities, and to notify good examples of people with disabilities who overcome difficulties, always take initiatives and have success in their lives. Stories of those people have touched the hearts of many Vietnamese and people in the world .
- Several localities take initiatives to organize activities to advocate for Disability and fund raising for Disability such as: walking event "Companion with People with disabilities" (Ho Chi Minh city), lottery for Disability fund in Hai Phong, Ha Tinh, Tra Vinh...

- MOLISA have conducted trainings for leaders of DOLISA at provincial and district levels and other officials of the MOLISA line agencies. The trainings focused on implementation of the Ordinance, loan management and employment for people with disabilities. MOLISA also organizes training courses for social workers in the community in skills to take care of people with disabilities, injury prevention for the staff and children in Social Protection Centers.
- National Council on Coordinating Disability (NCCD) has been established. MOLISA and NCCD hosted the campaign to promote the 9th Asian Pacific Decade of Disability was successfully held in Ha Noi in 2001 with participation of 1,500 disabled representatives from the countries in the region.
- The Ministries and Agencies are committed to mobilize the support from international organizations to the Vietnamese with disabilities that contributes to improve the awareness of people and to promote full participation of and equality for people with disabilities.
- Ministries, Central Government Agencies and organizations including Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Health, Committee of Sports and Vietnam Association for Protection of People with disabilities and Orphans, Association of Veterans, National Women's Union organize training courses and develop activities on Disability on the annual basis.
- The Ministry of Telecommunication have free of charge program for the Association of the Blind if they want to send mails to the provinces. From October, 2003 Viet Nam Television has a program for the hearing impaired.

## C- Assessment on the achievements, shortcomings and its causes

### 1. Achievements

- A comprehensive policy system have been developed by the Ministries, Agencies to provide instruction for implementation of the Ordinance.
- Awareness raising activities, staff training, the activities implemented to support people with disabilities have importantly contributed to the improvement of awareness of families, social communities, local authorities and people with disabilities themselves with regard to the rights to equally participate in the social activities.
- The livelihood of the majority of people with disabilities has been improved significantly thank to health care activities, material and spirit support by the Government, mass organizations, INGOs and Local NGOs.
- Number of people who are subsidized under the Government policy has been rapidly increasing, and the subsidy cost norm has been revised to meet the need of the beneficiaries. More and more target people have been receiving loans to do business, poverty reduction activities, employment, vocational training and business training.
- Community based model to support people with disabilities have been effectively established and developed, such as social protection centers, rehabilitation centers for PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES; vocational training and employment centers for PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
- Strategy to socialization on protection and care of people with disabilities has been carried out with support and encouragement of government organizations, social organizations, individuals, and international organizations.

- Effort to overcome difficulties of people with disabilities faced during their daily activities and business development activities as well as cultural, sports activities and scientific research.

- The promulgation of the Ordinance on People with disabilities has changed the recognition and improved awareness of people on disability and of people with disabilities. Over the past 7 years of Ordinance's implementation, a system of legal documents is a basis for implementing protection and care of people with disabilities activities. Number of better off and average households with people with disabilities has been increasing rapidly, that provides opportunities for the disabled to be included in the community. They are also empowered through their participation into social economic activities.

- Seven years of Ordinance's implementation has brought ministries, agencies, organizations and local government with experiences in order to implement better and more effectively the recommendations of the second decade on PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES on Asia-Pacific and those from international communities.

## 2. The Shortcomings and Its Causes

### a. Shortcomings

- The PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES have not received sufficient support from some organizations, agencies in some cities and provinces therefore, people with disabilities have been facing a lot of difficulties in their lives. Some localities do not timely pay attention to awareness raising on disability issues but only briefly talk about disability in the general workshops, meetings or to distribute gifts to people with disabilities on the occasions of festivals, new years.

- Some regulations of the Ordinance such as: health care, rehabilitation, education, vocational training and employment, sport-culture activities, access to public buildings and facilities, or some regulations of Labor Code regarding working hours, resting hours, the ratio of people with disabilities that employers have to hire in their businesses, regulations for enterprises for/of people with disabilities, Employment Fund for PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES and some policies to support people with disabilities are not fully implemented by the government organizations and agencies at all levels.

- In general, the public buildings in the provinces and even in the cities are not accessible to people with disabilities so that people with disabilities are limited to access to education, vocational training, employment, income generation activities, sport-culture activities

- The infrastructure and facilities of the associations, enterprises of/for people with disabilities are still poor.

### b. Causes

- Awareness raising on the Ordinance is not widely carried out and Government Policies on Disabilities are not deep therefore awareness of people, organizations on their responsibilities to people with disabilities is limited.

- The budget to support people with disabilities is limited without financial mechanism to allocate fund for disability programs/activities. The Government allocated budget for people with disabilities and for Centers for/of people with disabilities does not meet the need of people with disabilities followed the policies.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanism
- + There is no mechanism to monitor implementation of the Ordinance, and to provide guidance to provinces in implementation of the Ordinance and policies to support people with disabilities.
- + There is no collaboration among agencies and organizations in implementation of health care activities and provision of opportunities to people with disabilities to participate in social activities.
- + The implementation of the Ordinance and policies to support PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES is not considered as responsibilities of government authorities of all levels.
- + Some provinces and cities do not assign enough staff with good qualification to monitor the implementation of the policies and to provide recommendations if necessary to support PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES at localities.

In order to resolve those shortcomings and to promote the implementation of disability policies in the current context of socio-economic development, as well as to seriously implement the Government commitment on 7 priorities in the second decade of people with disabilities aiming to promote full and equal participation of people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region, there need to have a National Action Plan to create better and more effective support to people with disabilities.

The National Action Plan to Support people with disabilities is an important part of the social support component in the social security system of our country; as the result, it is an important activity of all ministries, agencies in general and of Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) in particular.

The Plan will be greatly contributing to improve awareness of the whole society on disability area, to remove discrimination towards people with disabilities, to create a favorable environment to support people with disabilities, and to help people with disabilities themselves overcome the difficulties and integrate into the community. The Plan will bring its part to improve livelihood of people with disabilities and their families and break the gaps between the rich and the poor and the inequality in the society.

To implement the Directive No. 01/2006/CT-TTg dated on January 9, 2006 by the Prime Minister to promote the implementation of policies to people with disabilities in the current economic and social development context, MOLISA is therefore to develop the National Action Plan to support People with disabilities in the period 2006 - 2010, with the main content as follow:

## II. OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PLAN

### 1. Objectives:

To provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate fully and equally in social activities, to improve quality of life for people with disabilities and to build a barrier-free society and for the rights of people with disabilities.

### 2. Main targets for the period from 2006 to 2010

Target 1: At least 80% provinces and cities have self help group(s).

Target 2: 70 % women with disabilities are supported in different ways

Target 3: 70% PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES have access to health care services, approximately 3000 people have received the orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation for mobility system.

Target 4: 100% children with disabilities who go to schools are supported through exemption or reduction of school fees as provided by the Government's regulations and policies. By 2010, there will be 70% of children with disabilities receive schooling in many different ways.

Target 5: About 80,000 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES have access to vocational training and be provided with appropriate jobs at the vocational training centres, in businesses, and services of different economic areas.

Target 6: 100% of new construction and public transportation projects will be designed and built according to accessibility codes and standards, and 20-30% of old infrastructure will be upgraded accessible.

Target 7: By 2010, the rate of people with disabilities having access to internet and IT services is at least equal to ? of the access rate of Vietnamese population as a whole (as of December 2005, 12.84% population in Vietnam using Internet .

Target 8: 100% of people with disabilities who have needs and meet the requirements become beneficiaries of the credit program of the National Target Programme on Poverty Reduction, the Employment Programme, so that they can improve their income and their livelihood

Target 9: 22% PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES have participated in the sport activities

### 3. Scope of the Plan:

The Plan will be implemented nationwide with special priority given to places facing more difficulties

### 4. Timing:

The Plan's duration is from 2006 to 2010.

### 5. Beneficiaries of the Plan:

- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES regardless of their causes of disability with priority given to women, children and poor people with disabilities.
- Household with people with disabilities

### 6. Effectiveness of the Plan:

- The plan will be to improve awareness and recognition of and to recognize the responsibilities of families and the community in the activities to support people with disabilities.
- The plan will be to provide opportunities and to create favourable conditions for people with disabilities to be included and to equally participate in all social activities.
- The plan have the impact not only on the lives of people with disabilities but also on the social security and socio-economic development of the country.
- The plan contributes to ensure the social equality and to break the gap between the rich and the poor.
- The plan help people with disabilities develop their own business through the activities implemented by the enterprises of/for people with disabilities.
- The plan will improve the livelihood of people with disabilities and their families, through regular social protection policies and the plan activities.
- The plan help strengthen responsibilities of the society to people with disabilities through social activities and mobilise the support from enterprises, organisations and government agencies for people with disabilities.
- The plan shows off to the international community a strong commitment of the Government to implementation of the priorities of the second decade of people with disabilities.

### III. Activities of the Plan:

1. Conduct a national survey on disability and to develop a national database on disability based on the survey results, to develop new or revise current legal documents on disabilities and a mechanism to support people with disabilities.

a. National Survey on disability and to develop a national database on disability based on the survey results

Objective: A comprehensive system of data on disabilities, forms of disabilities, severity of disabilities providing a basis for revising policies and developing measures to support people with disabilities.

Content:

- Number of people with disabilities
- Gender, age, and marital status of people with disabilities

- Forms of disabilities and its severity
  - Education level and technical qualification
  - Health status
  - Ability to participate in business activities and employment status of people with disabilities
  - Ability to participate in sport activities
  - Income situation of people with disabilities and their families
  - Policy of the Government and support from community to people with disabilities and to families with people with disabilities
- Budget: 7 billion dong from Central Government and 3 billion dong from local budget  
 Leading agency: MOLISA  
 Collaborating agencies: MOH, GSO, Ministries and other related agencies

b. Development of new or revision of current legal documents on disabilities and a mechanism to support people with disabilities

Objective: Develop a law on disability basing on the survey on situation of lives of people with disabilities, develop policies and approaches to support people with disabilities.

Content:

- Research and develop Law on Disability
- Conduct research to improve policies to support people with disabilities in the areas of livelihood, healthcare, education, vocational training, sports, cultures socialist oriented socio-economic context.
- Research on cost effectiveness of investment on disabilities

Budget: 2 billion dong from Central Government  
 Leading agency: MOLISA  
 Collaborating agencies: Related Ministries and other related agencies

2. Development of criterias for classification of disability forms in Vietnam

Objective: To have a set of tools that provides basis to conduct survey on disabilities and implementation of policies to support people with disabilities.

Content:

- Support to research and develop the criterias for disability classification
- Pilot application of the criterias for disability classification

Budget: 3 billion dong from Central Government  
 Leading agency: MOH  
 Collaborating agencies: MOLISA, Related Ministries and other related agencies

3. Awareness Raising on Disability and People with disabilities

Objective:

Improve the awareness of the society as a whole and people with disabilities themselves on disabilities and people with disabilities so as to protect, support and

create good opportunities to people with disabilities in order them to be included in the community and to overcome the difficulties.

Content:

- To develop IEC plans on policies, programmes to support people with disabilities
- To organize information sharing campaign on mass media, provide legal books relating to people with disabilities for communal libraries, to plan for regular announcement and information sharing activities at the commune level so as to allow public access to advanced knowledge on disability issues; to inform on the ways to avoid disabilities, policies and services for people with disabilities.
- To provide education on gender, violence protection and discrimination against women with disabilities, particularly in rural and remote areas.
- To promote best practices on social protection activities, on good examples of people with disabilities overcoming difficulties, on effective support for people with disabilities to be included into society;
- To improve quality of information sharing to people with disabilities via audible or visible means to the same level as in other countries of this region.
- To prepare and publish works on literature and arts which provide education and encouragement to people with disabilities and their families.
- To organize training courses for authorities, experts at different levels on correct attitudes, treatment to people with disabilities, on people with disability's needs, and on policies, legislation and programs to support them.

Budget: 8 billion VND, of which 3 billion dong from Central Government and 5 billion dong from local budget

Leading Agency: MOLISA

Collaborating agencies: Ministry of Culture and Information, and Mass Medias

#### 4. Establishment of SHGs and parents associations of People with Disabilities

Objective:

To provide guidance and to create favourable condition for establishment and reorganization of SHGs and to better promote their roles in the society. To establish associations of people with disability on the basis of their forms of disabilities.

Content:

- To establish a mechanism, legal framework for development of SHGs.
- To best empower people with disability and their organizations in such a way that they can make initiatives and get involved in finding solution for issues relating to themselves



- To take steps towards establishment of people with disability's parent and family association at local levels and by 2010 at national level.
- To encourage SHGs to participate in decision making process in matters relating to people with disability, to stimulate women/girls with disabilities, people with retarded intellectuality and mental disability to take part in SHGs.
- To call for support, protection from local authorities towards SHGs, to minimize procedures and requirements for the application for the establishment of these SHGs.
- To conduct a study about and take steps towards the establishment of a national association of people with disabilities of Vietnam.

Budget: 4 billion VND, of which 1 billion dong from Central Government and 3 billion dong from local budget

Leading agency: Ministry of Home Affairs

Collaborating agencies: MOLISA, SHGs

#### 5. Support to women with disabilities

Objective:

To create good condition for women with disabilities to access vocational training, credit programmes, to participate in production activities to improve their lives and to be included into the community.

Content:

- To include women with disabilities in the priority list for access to credit under the HEPR to enable them to create job, improve income generation and to be included into the society.
- To organize training on technology transfer, information sharing, vocational training and access to job opportunities for women with disabilities
- To encourage women with disabilities to participate into SHGs, and establishment of the SHG of women with disabilities as well as to create good environment for women with disabilities to participate in social activities.
- To organize the communication campaigns on education, gender equality, reproductive health care, violence protection and discrimination

Budget: 5 billion VND, of which 4 billion dong from Central Government and 1 billion dong from local budget

Leading agency: Vietnam Women's Union

Collaborating agencies: Ministries, agencies, organizations and People with disabilities Organization

## 6. Early detection, early intervention and Community- based Rehabilitation (CBR)

Objective:

To ensure that new-born babies are healthy, minimize disabilities and improve CBR services, and to provide good condition for people with disabilities to be included into the society.

Content

- To improve capacity to implement activities for early detection of impairment in newly-born babies, to create good condition for babies of up to 4 years old to access early detection services, to increase communication, counseling and services of productive health for women with disabilities.
- To establish a pilot model of early detection through orthopedic surgery and rehabilitation for 3000 poor children with mobility disability in northern, central and southern regions of the country.
- To improve professional capacity for health workers in general and for rehabilitation workers in particular, especially workers at grass root levels on expertise on early detection and early intervention.
- To implement CBR programme following the model promoted by MOH in 50% of the total number of provinces/cities, 50% of the total number of districts/township, 50% of the total number of communes/wards of the country.

Budget: 25 billion VND, of which 5 billion dong from Central Government and 5 billion dong from local budget and 15 billion dong from programs of MOH.

Leading agency: MOH

Collaborating agencies: MOLISA, Population, Family and Children Committee and relevant organizations and agencies

## 7. Support in Education :

Objective: To create an environment for disabled children with capacity and need to participate in education

Content:

- To encourage disabled children who are in school age to attend classes and develop activities for them to participate in.
- To create the opportunities for people with disabilities to access to education

- To expand inclusive education model, rehabilitation and learning should be combined, schooling fee and other fee should be exempted for people with disabilities, to provide scholarship for people with disabilities in public and private schools.
- To encourage individuals and organizations to set up inclusive and special schools for people with disabilities.
- To develop/standardize and to expand the use of sign language and Braille in many forms, through various means. To train sign language interpreters.

Budget: 30 billion VND, of which 5 billion dong from Central Government and 25 billion dong from Strategies and Action Plan on education of disabled children period 2006-2010

Leading agency: MOET

Collaborating agencies: MOLISA and other relevant ministries and agencies

## 8. Vocational Training and Employment

Objective:

To promote the vocational training and good environment for people with disabilities to access to employment opportunities, thus people with disabilities can be included into community.

Content :

- To develop training programs for trainers of the vocational training for people with disabilities.
- To research for manufacturing facilitates appropriate for vocational training of people with disabilities.
- To promote the establishment of the Employment Fund for people with disabilities in the provinces.
- To provide people with disabilities opportunities to access to the employment fund of people with disabilities, national fund for employment and loan of Social Policy Bank
- To develop and pilot the vocational training models, job creation through working in collaboration with 10 vocational training schools and 10 employment service centers aiming to train people with disabilities and provide them with stable jobs.

Budget: 8 billion dong from Central Government and 48 billion dong from the National Target Program on Employment and National Target Program on Education and Training,

Leading agency: MOLISA

Collaborating agencies: MOET and other relevant ministries and agencies

## 9. Transport and Construction Accessibility

### a. Accessibility to built environment:

#### Objective:

To ensure the accessibility and use of people with disabilities to the public facilities and public buildings.

#### Content:

- To develop new legal documents, and revise the existing regulations to be submitted to the relevant functioning government organisations for approval so that the code and standards for construction can be applied to the public buildings.
- To monitor and review designs of new construction projects or to upgrade the public buildings including housing, schools, hospitals, entertainment centres, public culture houses to ensure the accessibility for people with disabilities.

Budget: 3 billion dong from Central Government

Leading agency: Ministry of Construction

Collaborating agencies: other relevant ministries and agencies

### b. Accessibility to public transportation

#### Objective:

To ensure the accessibility and use of people with disabilities to the public transport facilities.

#### Content:

- Revise the current regulations on transport services for passengers with disabilities including transportation of passengers and national strategy on transport accessibility.
- To provide support to transport enterprises to set up pilot routes for accessible buses in some key cities; to organise lessons learned workshops/meetings before they are replicated nationwide.

Budget: 3 billion dong from Central Government

Leading agency: Ministry of Transportation

Collaborating agencies: other relevant ministries and agencies

## 10. Accessibility to and Use of Information Technology (IT) and Communication

### Objective:

To assist people with disabilities to access and use facilities of information technologies, raise awareness and improve the culture and spirit lives of people with disabilities.

### Content :

- To include ICT standards for people with disabilities in the overall set of International ICT standards, to provide guidance to include ICT for people with disabilities to into the national policy on ICT.
- To standardize a system of sign language (sensory sign language) and Braille at the national level and to provide teaching programs on those languages through publications, CD-ROM, etc.
- To train sign language interpreters, Braille readers, Braille interpreters and readers
- To do research on accessibility standards and use of the informatics and communication technologies for people with disabilities
- To develop the tools to support for people with disabilities included into communities through application of the informatics technology and telecommunication services.

Budget: 5 billion dong from Central Government, 4 billion dong from Localities.

Leading agency: Ministry of Post and Telecommunication

Collaborating agencies: other relevant ministries and agencies

## 11. Support people with disabilities to access to social security and poverty reduction programmes

Objective: To improve the living standards of people with disabilities.

### Content:

- To implement policies and measures to support people with disabilities through sustainable livelihood programmes, especially National Target Programmes, including: Poverty Reduction Program, Employment Programme, Clean Water for Rural Areas Programme, Universal Secondary Education Programme, Radio and Television Programme, etc.
- To strengthen capacity of people with disabilities and their family members to overcome poverty.
- To develop the community-based caring models for people with disabilities who have special difficulties in 3 communes of 3 provinces, key cities and the models of livelihood security in 3 communes of 3 provinces and key cities.

- To help people with disabilities borrow loan from poverty reduction program to generate income and improve their livelihood.
- To create good condition for people with disabilities to participate in regional and global sport activities and events for people with disabilities.

Budget: 5 billion dong from Central Government, 250 billion dong from National Target Program on Poverty Reduction.

Leading agency: MOLISA

Collaborating agencies: other relevant ministries and agencies

## 12. Follow-up, Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective:

To ensure the project is successfully implemented, achieved objectives, covered the right target groups and the authorities at all levels timely revise policies and regulations

Content:

- To establish a monitoring and evaluation system at 4 levels (from central to commune)
- To develop M&E regulations to ensure the equality, transparency in implementation of the legislation on disabilities.
- To set up a system to collect and analyse data at different levels
- To set up a software to assist follow up target groups at province and district levels.
- To establish baseline data on disability situation before the project implementation
- To conduct monitoring and evaluation at different levels with participation of ministries, agencies at central level on the basis of annual, mid-term, final and participation of the People's Council, the National Assembly.

Budget: 2 billion dong from Central Government, 3 billion dong from localities.

Leading agency: MOLISA

Collaborating agencies: other relevant ministries and agencies

## IV - Advantages and Disadvantages during the Plan's Implementation:

### 1. Advantages:

- There is availability of good legislation and policies promulgated by Government, close direction and guidance by the Party and government authorities at different level, and the participation of SHGs, people with disabilities and social organizations.

- The Government commits to the implementation of 7 priorities for the Second Decade on people with disabilities by the UNESCAP

- Continuous economic growth that allow mobilization of resources for the project implementation. In addition, the Government prioritize the development and improvement of a social security system that keeps pace with the market driven economy with socialist orientation.

## 2. Disadvantages and Challenges

- Vietnam is still a poor country, therefore mobilization of resources for the project implementation have been facing many difficulties. The need/demand is great but it is not always that all needs and demands are met due to limited resources, especially there is no separate budget line for implementation of disability programs therefore poor provinces will be facing difficulties to budget for the Plan.

- Staff working under Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (LISA) at commune level is part-time but they are busy and their capacity is limited and non-professional. (cultural and social activities), therefore it is very difficult for them to fulfil the tasks while implementing the Plan.

- Awareness of the community and the society on disability issue and people with disabilities is still poor. Discrimination towards people with disabilities still exists, The activities for people with disabilities still follow charity-based approach rather than the right based approaches, "social responsibility sharing" or "to work with people with disabilities.

## V. Measures To Be Applied for Implementation:

### 1. Diversification of resources for project implementation:

Diversification of different resources for the plan's implementation is necessary to ensure the plan's objectives to be met. However, the budget from the Government is very important:

The total budget of the Plan is 412 billion dong (100%), of which

- Central Government Budget: 56 billion dong (13.59 %)

- Locality budget: 24 billion dong (5.83%)

- Contribution from other programme: 332 billion dong (80.58%)

Budget allocation at the Central Government will be considered for the social activities to be increased the next five .

Table 1. Total Budget allocation for the Plan's Implementation (billion dong)

Activity Total Budget 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

1. Conduct a national survey on disability and to develop a national database on disability based on the survey results, to develop new or revise current legal documents on disabilities and a mechanism to support people with disabilities

a. National Survey on disability and to develop a national database on disability based on the survey results total: 10

Cen: 7,0

Loc: 3,0 4,5

3,0

1,5 5,5

4,0

1,5

b. Development of new or revision of current legal documents on disabilities and a mechanism to support people with disabilities Cen: 2,0 0,1 0,6 0,6 0,4 0,3

2. Finalisation of criterias for classification of disability forms in Vietnam Cen: 3,0

0,5 1,3 1,2

3. Awareness Raising on Disability and People with disabilities total: 8

Cen: 3,0

Loc: 5,0 0,6

0,2

0,4 1,8

0,8

1,0 2,0

0,8

1,2 1,8

0,6

1,2 1,8

0,6

1,2

4. Establishment of SHGs and parents associations of People with Disabilities total:

4,0

Cen: 1,0

Loc: 3,0

0,3

0,1

0,2

0,95

0,25

0,7

0,95

0,25

0,7

0,9

0,2

0,7

0,9



0,2

0,7

5. Support to women with disabilities total: 5,0

Cen: 4,0

Loc: 1,0 0,6

0,4

0,2 1,2

1,0

0,2 1,2

1,0

0,2 1,0

0,8

0,2 1,0

0,8

0,2

6. Early detection, early intervention and Community- based Rehabilitation (CBR)

total: 25

Cen: 5,0

Loc: 5,0

Com, int'l: 15 3,0

0,5

0,5

2,0 5,4

1,2

1,2

3,0 5,4

1,2

1,2

3,0 5,7

1,1

1,1

3,5 5,5

1,0

1,0

3,5

7. Support in Education total: 30

Cen: 5,0

Com, int'l: 25 3,5

0,5

3,0 7,2

1,2

6,0 7,3

1,3

6,0 6,0

1,0

5,0 6,0

1,0

5,0

8. Vocational training and employment total: 50

Cen: 8,0

Com, int'l: 42 8,5

0,5

8,0 11

2,0

9,0 11

2,0

9,0 9,8

1,8

8,0 9,7

1,7

8,0

9. Transport and Construction Accessibility

a. Accessibility to built environment Cen: 3,0 0,5 0,8 0,7 0,5 0,5

b. Accessibility to public transportation Cen: 3,0 0,5 0,8 0,7 0,5 0,5

10. Accessibility to and Use of Information Technology (IT) and Communication

total: 9,0

Cen: 5,0

Loc: 4,0 0,9

0,5

0,4 2,2

1,2

1,0 2,2

1,2

1,0 2,1

1,1

1,0 1,6

1,0

0,6

11. Support people with disabilities to access to social security and poverty reduction programmes total: 255

Cen: 5

Com, int'l: 250 50,5

0,5

50 51,2

1,2

50 51,2

1,2

50 51,1

1,1

50 51

1,0

50

12. Monitoring and Evaluation total: 5,0

Cen: 2,0

Loc: 3,0 0,6

0,1

0,5 1,8

0,8

1,0 0,7  
0,2  
0,5 1,9  
0,9  
1,0  
TOTAL total: 412  
Cen: 56  
Loc: 24  
Com, int'l: 332 69,5  
4,8  
1,7  
63 89,65  
15,55  
6,1  
68 91,75  
16,95  
6,8  
68 80,5  
9,3  
4,7  
66,5 86,6  
9,4  
4,7  
66,5

## 2. Strengthen the participation of the people, especially of people with disabilities themselves

A participatory approach will be applied to encourage participation of people with disabilities in every activity of the Plan including planning, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation at all levels. People will be fully informed on the strategy, policies of the Government on people with disabilities and their families, and people should be encouraged to equally participate in all activities organised in the community.

## 3. Decentralization of Management Responsibilities:

### Central level:

To develop policies, mechanism, criterias of national plan, allocation of resources, and organising of monitoring and evaluation for the implementation process of the Plan.

### Province and district levels:

To make plan to support people with disabilities, mobilize local resources and allocate resources to the respective communes; to provide guidance and monitoring for implementation at commune level; to conduct survey and report to central government on disability data.

Commune level:

To identify people with disabilities, to mobilize the local resources, to implement policies and measures within their areas of responsibility, to organize monitoring of the plan's implementation.

#### 4. Strengthen capacity staff working to support people with disabilities

- To improve professional capacity for staff working on disability at all levels
- To conduct training need assessment for businesses, enterprises, and mass organisations.
- To develop training programs for staff working on disabilities. The training will focus on awareness raising, skills on implementation of policies and programme; skill to identify the community's needs; project planning and management; community mobilisation, local resource mobilization, data and information collection, monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.
- To provide facilities and equipment for the training
- To conduct Training of Trainers classes so they can provide training to officials at grass-root level.
- To organize review of activities on training, communication, reporting, and annual evaluation.

#### 5. Revision of policies to support for people with disabilities

- To improve service system for people with disabilities in a direction that the Government will directly pay for the services of health, education, vocational training or to pay on behalf of people with disabilities at the service centres in order to improve the quality of services and people with disabilities equally access to the services.
- To revise the social subsidy standards for people with disabilities and the level of support to rehabilitation equipments, vocational training and education.
- To revise the criterias to identify people with disabilities who will receive support from the subsidy policies in accordance with the social-economic development context.

#### 6. Strengthening of International Cooperation on Disability Issues

- To fully implement the Government's commitments on implementation of the Biwako Millennium Framework for Action (BIWAKO)
- To maintain and strengthen relationship with organisations in the regions and the international community to support people with disabilities.

