



USAID | VIETNAM

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Environment:

- **A Grantee of the USAID Saving Species Activity from Vietnam Wins Goldman Environmental Prize:** The world-renowned [Goldman Environmental Prize](#) honors individuals who demonstrate significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment through local community efforts. This year's prize for the Asia region has been awarded to Mr. Thai Van Nguyen, the founder of [Save Vietnam's Wildlife](#), a Vietnamese non-profit organization that works to save animals from illegal trade, protect the recognised wildlife strongholds and monitor released individual and wild populations in Vietnam. It rescued 1,540 pangolins from the illegal wildlife trade between 2014 and 2020. Nguyen also established Vietnam's first anti-poaching unit, which, since 2018, has destroyed 9,701 animal traps, dismantled 775 illegal camps, confiscated 78 guns, and arrested 558 people for poaching, leading to a significant decline in illegal activities in Pu Mat National Park (in Vietnam's central province of Nghe An). USAID is strongly committed to countering wildlife trafficking efforts in Vietnam and provides assistance on strengthening law enforcement and reducing consumer demand for illegal wildlife and wildlife products. In 2019, [USAID Saving Species](#) provided a grant to Save Vietnam's Wildlife to support their pangolin rescue and release work with the use of drone technology to monitor recovered pangolins, greatly enhancing their ability to track these animals after their release back into the wild. The grant also supported law enforcement training on combating illegal wildlife trafficking. USAID is proud to have supported Save Vietnam's Wildlife and this prestigious prize is well-deserved recognition for the organization's outstanding counter wildlife trafficking and rescue work.

Economic Growth:

- **USAID Helps Vietnam Launch First Ever Guidebook on Digital Transformation for Businesses:** Digital transformation is progressing at a heightened speed all around the

world, especially in the COVID-19 context, as it helps enterprises increase the value they deliver to customers and be better positioned to meet customers' demands and expectations. The [USAID Linkages for Small and Medium Enterprises \(LinkSME\)](#) project is supporting Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) to carry out its "Supporting Enterprises' Digital Transformation from 2021 to 2025" as part of its efforts to help Vietnamese enterprises boost productivity, resilience, and global reach. With USAID support, this week, MPI launched the first ever [Digital Transformation Guidebook for Vietnamese Enterprises](#), which discusses the fundamentals of digital transformation, offers a roadmap to it, and lays out technology solutions that will help enterprises get there. The guidebook also introduces tools that small and medium businesses can use to assess their readiness for digital transformation. This will be a useful resource for Vietnamese enterprises to apply digital transformation in order to retain their competitive edge. **So what?** With USAID support, the guidebook will help Vietnam's small and medium enterprises strengthen their operational capacity in the post-COVID-19 context, enhance their competitiveness, and take Vietnam one step further on its path to sustainability and digital independence from non-strategically aligned actors.

Social Development:

- **USAID Promotes Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam:** Despite the passage of a disabilities law in 2010 mandating accommodation and access for persons with disabilities to public buildings, locations, and services, many facilities have still not been structurally modified. This lack of access prevents full social participation of persons with disabilities. To strengthen implementation of the law and ensure persons with disabilities have access to public buildings, [USAID's Raising Voices, Creating Opportunities](#) activity collaborated with the Organization of Persons with Disabilities and others in Quang Tri province to carry out an assessment survey on building accessibility. The findings were submitted to the Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee which led to direct support from the provincial government through a directive issued to builders, designers, and investors in the province to comply with the disabilities law and ensure access to public buildings. As a result, a number of buildings in the province have been renovated with funding mobilized by the Organization of Persons with Disabilities and other stakeholders, including accessible ramps in Dong Ha City at the Department of Finance's office, Le Duan Park, and Vietcombank Branch; wheelchair accessible facilities at the new People's Committee Headquarter in Ward 2; ramps and handrails at the People's Committee and the Police station of Cam Thuy Commune; and three cultural houses in Cam Thuy, Trieu Ai and Trieu Tai Communes. USAID also conducted a series of

trainings on technical building regulations for investors and representatives from the construction sector, provincial and local government, and the Organization of Persons with Disabilities, to develop the accessibility assessment report and support efforts on compliance. **So what?** Through USAID's support, persons with disabilities in Quang Tri province now have access to nine additional facilities and their related services, and advocacy efforts for more accessible buildings will be continued; Local policy implementers and stakeholders have improved knowledge and skills regarding physical access for persons with disabilities; And the role and the voice of the Organization of Persons with Disabilities has been enhanced to more effectively implement monitoring plans in coordination with local authorities and mobilize resources to support and promote accessibility and full social participation for persons with disabilities.

Project Spotlight:

Each week we will highlight one of the more than 40 activities used to provide assistance in Vietnam.

The [Advancing Medical Care and Rehabilitation](#) activity enhances the health and well-being of Vietnamese persons with disabilities by providing higher quality and sustainable services, raising awareness of their needs, and strengthening advocacy efforts. By September 2020, USAID expects over 8,000 persons with physical impairments to benefit from services in hospitals and rehabilitation centers, and among them, 400 children and adults will be followed to measure the quality of services. Over 400 health and rehabilitation professionals, community workers, and volunteers will be trained to set up upgraded rehabilitation services. Teams consisting of 15 trainers in brain lesion care, 15 teachers in physiotherapy, and eight teachers in occupational therapy will be established to conduct certified, comprehensive rehabilitation care.

Outreach Opportunities on the Horizon:

- **June 30 (Danang, online):** Launch of Vietnam Urban Energy Security - Danang
- **July TBD (Hanoi, online):** Launch of Improving Private Sector Competitiveness

More Information about USAID/Vietnam Programs:

- USAID/Vietnam Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/vietnam>
- USAID/Vietnam Fact Sheets: <https://www.usaid.gov/vietnam/fact-sheets>

