



USAID | VIETNAM

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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PROGRAM UPDATES

Economic Growth and Governance:

- **USAID Supports the Government of Vietnam's Strategy to Improve the Business Environment and National Competitiveness:** The Government of Vietnam is prioritizing an initiative to improve the business environment and national competitiveness. Widely known as Resolution 02, it focuses on trade, investment, and economic growth, along with accelerating economic integration with the global market. To further this effort, on August 19 the Central Institute for Economic Management, with support from the [USAID Linkages for Small and Medium Enterprises \(LinkSME\)](#) activity, conducted a workshop on "Business Environment Reform from 2014 to 2020: Results, Lessons Learned, and Recommendations." More than 90 representatives from the Government, research institutes, business support organizations, and the media gathered online to inform the Government's strategy for improving the business environment and enhancing national competitiveness in 2022 by analyzing key achievements, gaps, and limitations in the implementation of Resolution 02 (and its predecessor Resolution 19) between 2014 and 2020. The participants also determined solutions regarding non-cash payments and property registration. **So what?** By providing support to improve the business environment, USAID enhances SME competitiveness, creates more jobs, and helps level the playing field for domestic and foreign investors.
- **USAID Supports Vietnam to Upskill its Workforce for Digital Economy:** COVID-19 has accelerated the digital economy in Vietnam and exacerbated the shortage of digital skills of the workforce of Vietnam. USAID's [Vietnam Workforce for Innovation and Startup Ecosystem](#) (WISE) activity is supporting Vietnam to upskill its workforce to meet the rapidly increasing demands of digital skills and power the economy. On July 20, USAID WISE, in partnership with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, organized the first workshop to discuss the formation of a training partnership. The workshop brought together 60 representatives from ministries, associations, training institutions, employers, human resources companies, financiers, and other stakeholders to

collaborate on preparing Vietnam for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and to identify significant opportunities and challenges of the digital economy, including developing a higher skilled workforce and clear career pathways. The participants agreed to form the training partnership and committed their time and resources to develop and sustain it with initial USAID assistance. **So what?** Through this support, USAID is helping Vietnam reskill and upskill its workforce to develop the digital economy. The activity will enable Vietnam to take advantage of new opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and 4IR, and reduce the digital divide in Vietnam through facilitated public private cooperation.

Higher Education:

- **USAID-supported Medical Education Programs Achieve Regional Accreditation:** [USAID IMPACT-MED](#) is strengthening Vietnam's healthcare by helping five leading Vietnamese Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy to comprehensively reform the six-year training program for general medical doctors. In addition to introducing innovations in teaching and learning, IMPACT-MED has improved institutional governance practices and systems for continuous quality improvement of the medical programs at these partner universities. As a result, Ho Chi Minh City University of Medicine and Pharmacy and Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy have recently achieved ASEAN University Network - Quality Assurance accreditation for their medical programs. With this initial success, IMPACT-MED will further support partner universities to pursue the World Federation for Medical Education standard for the reformed programs. **So what?** Medical education reforms are a crucial component to ensuring that the Vietnam healthcare systems can meet current and future population needs. In partnership with the Ministry of Health, USAID is helping Vietnam build a stronger health workforce to tackle health challenges and threats, and enhance health security in the country and beyond.

Social Development:

- **USAID Continues Strong Support to Persons with Disabilities in Vietnam:** On September 1, USAID announced two new disability awards to support persons with disabilities in Vietnam, specifically in Quang Tri, Thua Thien – Hue, and Quang Nam provinces. The new awards, [Inclusion-I](#) and [Raising Voices, Creating Opportunities – II](#), will focus on improving physical accessibility, increasing access to healthcare and other social services, facilitating engagement in social life, and advocating for disability equity and disability rights. Speaking at the event, Mission Director Ann Marie Yastishock highlighted Quang Tri province's strong leadership and esteemed collaboration in

disability support projects, and stressed the importance of the partnership between USAID and Government of Vietnam agencies. To date, USAID has contributed \$126 million to Vietnam in war legacy funds to address the needs of persons with disabilities in areas sprayed with Agent Orange. **So what?** By strengthening local organizations and mobilizing community resources, the new disability activities reinforce USAID's objective to collaborate with the Government of Vietnam and local partners to achieve sustainable results on improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities and overcoming war legacies in Vietnam.

- **USAID Helps Improve Skills of Local Rehabilitation Service Providers:** USAID's [Disability Rights Enforcement, Coordination, and Therapies](#) (DIRECT) activity has managed to continue training for local rehabilitation workers amid COVID-19 restrictions. During the last two weeks of August 2021, DIRECT, in collaboration with Government of Vietnam health partners, organized two online training courses for 83 rehabilitation practitioners in Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces. The two-day training program comprising theory and practice sessions, guided local health workers on how to use new rehabilitation record templates and tools. The templates provide standardized tools for intake and discharge assessments and outcome measurement in rehabilitation services. They were developed with DIRECT's technical assistance and recently enacted by the Ministry of Health for nationwide use. The training also included the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health, and Disability Assessment Schedule. **So what?** While fighting COVID-19 remains a top priority, USAID is also continuing support for other healthcare needs, improving rehabilitation care and quality of life for persons with disabilities in Vietnam.

Project Spotlight:

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

The [USAID Sustainable Forest Management](#) project aims to reduce emissions from deforestation, forest degradation, and poor timber plantation management practices in seven provinces in Vietnam (Lao Cai, Son La, Hoa Binh, Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Tri, and Quang Nam).

No Upcoming Events Currently Scheduled

More Information about USAID/Vietnam Programs:

- Twitter: @USAIDVietnam
- USAID/Vietnam Website: <http://www.usaid.gov/vietnam>
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