

## Postscript

### *From Enemies to Partners: Vietnam, the U.S. and Agent Orange*

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We wrote *From Enemies to Partners* to call for accelerated action on Agent Orange/dioxin and to provide a ready reference for American and Vietnamese leaders and policymakers as well as journalists, students and concerned citizens in both countries. In our aide memoire of December 11, 2018 we recommended six actions that would make the U.S.-Vietnam joint work on Agent Orange/dioxin “a more perfect partnership.”<sup>1</sup>

Now, new information on the U.S. response to Agent Orange in Vietnam has become available.

- Since 2007, when the United States first began working with Vietnam on Agent Orange, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has disbursed \$25 million for programs to assist disabled Vietnamese in eight provinces that were heavily sprayed with Agent Orange during the Vietnam War (See Table 1).
- The spraying of Agent Orange/dioxin is associated with severe disability. USAID programs aim to reach the severely disabled—defined in successive Appropriations Acts as “*individuals with severe upper or lower body mobility impairment and/or cognitive or developmental disabilities.*” There are some 95,000 severely and very severely disabled people in the seven provinces where USAID is currently focusing its attention (See Table 2).
- USAID and the Ministry of Defense have successfully completed the remediation of dioxin at the Danang Airport at a cost of \$110 million and have agreed to work together on dioxin remediation at the Bien Hoa Airbase (See Table 1 footnote.)

When U.S. diplomats and officials talk about Agent Orange we recommend they say,

***This is a story we want to tell. Agent Orange happened but we are working with the Vietnamese to address it. Since 2007 when this work began, the United States has spent \$25 million on programs to help the disabled in Vietnam and \$110 million to clean up the dioxin residue left by Agent Orange at the Danang Airport. We will continue to work together with the Vietnamese to do more.***

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/of-interest/perfecting-us-vietnam-relations/>

**Table 1. USAID Disbursements for Agent Orange/Dioxin in Vietnam, 2007-2018**

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
<b>DISABILITY ASSISTANCE</b>													
Obligations (mn.)	\$1.000	\$0.096	\$2.124	\$0.203	\$5.317	\$2.677	\$3.000	\$4.750	\$4.500	\$6.500	\$10.200	--	\$40.367
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$17,656</b>	<b>\$96,102</b>	<b>\$667,656</b>	<b>\$1,067,386</b>	<b>\$1,081,244</b>	<b>\$501,108</b>	<b>\$1,618,857</b>	<b>\$2,791,407</b>	<b>\$6,331,028</b>	<b>\$5,741,514</b>	<b>\$5,104,597</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$25,018,555</b>
Expenditure by Geographic Area													
National									\$991,710	\$2,013,889	\$1,961,641	--	\$4,967,240
Da Nang	\$17,656	\$96,102	\$667,656	\$1,067,386	\$1,081,244	\$501,108	\$1,618,857	\$2,791,407	\$3,839,731	\$406,849	\$0	--	\$12,087,996
Tay Ninh									\$553,193	\$1,296,074	\$953,988	--	\$2,803,255
Thua-Tien Hue									\$392,135	\$678,972	\$693,316	--	\$1,764,423
Binh Phuoc									\$272,025	\$750,872	\$674,298	--	\$1,697,195
Dong Nai									\$150,500	\$252,414	\$284,004	--	\$686,918
Binh Dinh									\$62,791	\$224,203	\$350,680	--	\$637,674
Quang Nam									\$68,943	\$118,241	\$186,670		\$373,854
Quang Tri												--	
<b>DIOXIN REMEDIATION</b>													
Obligations (mn.)	\$0.000	\$1.904	\$0.876	\$14.141	\$15.703	\$17.323	\$14.162	\$15.000	\$15.000	\$10.000	\$35.000	--	\$139.109

Table by Charles R. Bailey & Le Ke Son, authors- *From Enemies to Partners: Vietnam, the U.S. and Agent Orange*. Data courtesy of USAID/Vietnam.

**Note on obligations & expenditures:** The data for dioxin remediation are obligations, of which \$110 million has been expended to complete the clean up of Da Nang airport. The balance of obligations is being applied for the first stage of remediation of the Bien Hoa airbase. As U.S. government funds become available, USAID/Vietnam obligates them into projects by implementing partners. The implementing partners then expend the funds on project activities. Expenditures lag obligations by about a year and a half.

In 2018 Quang Tri province was added to the provinces receiving USAID disability assistance.

**Table 2. Vietnam: Numbers of Severely & Very Severely Disabled People in Seven Heavily Sprayed Provinces 2018**

Type of Impairment	Tay Ninh		Quang Nam		Dong Nai		Binh Dinh		Thua-Tien Hue		Quang Tri		Binh Phuoc		Seven Provinces
	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Number	Pct.	Total
Prioritized disabilities															
Mobility	8,677	44.4%	13,199	41.4%	8,891	38.4%	9,106	41.0%	6,489	40.7%	4,649	36.0%	4,730	38.6%	
Intellectual	1,487	7.6%	3,164	9.9%	2,912	12.6%	2,913	13.1%	1,963	12.3%	1,976	15.3%	1,308	6.7%	
Mental	2,914	14.9%	6,564	20.6%	4,303	18.6%	3,162	14.3%	3,029	19.0%	2,268	17.5%	2,037	10.4%	
Total	<b>13,078</b>	66.9%	<b>22,927</b>	72.0%	<b>16,106</b>	69.5%	<b>15,181</b>	68.4%	<b>11,481</b>	72.0%	<b>8,893</b>	68.8%	<b>8,075</b>	55.7%	<b>95,741</b>
Other disabilities															
Vision	1,943	9.9%	3,573	11.2%	2,508	10.8%	2,768	12.5%	1,500	9.4%	1,594	12.3%	1,313	6.7%	
Speaking & hearing	2,096	10.7%	3,425	10.7%	2,630	11.4%	2,799	12.6%	1,750	11.0%	1,559	12.1%	1,628	8.3%	
Other	2,442	12.5%	1,936	6.1%	1,922	8.3%	1,439	6.5%	1,217	7.6%	881	6.8%	1,223	6.3%	
Total	6,481	33.1%	8,934	28.0%	7,060	30.5%	7,006	31.6%	4,467	28.0%	4,034	31.2%	4,164	21.3%	42,146
Grand Total	19,559		31,861		23,166		22,187		15,948		12,927		12,239		137,887

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 Provincial Disability Information Survey (DIS) data courtesy of USAID/ Vietnam.