

WASHINGTON-BASED OFFICES AND PROGRAMS

Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships

Background: Since the inception of the CASS program, the Center for Intercultural Education and Development has taken steps to ensure that potential leaders with disabilities are recruited for CASS scholarships.

The CASS program has granted scholarships to persons with varying disabilities including mobility impairments due to post polio and limb loss, as well as persons with vision and hearing loss. The most significant number of disability-related scholarships has been provided to persons who are deaf and hearing persons wishing to become sign language interpreters. The number of persons with mobility impairments such as post polio and single or double lower limb amputees has not been accurately tracked; however several of these individuals are mentioned in the vignette section of this report.

The CASS program has also provided scholarships to 129 deaf youth and sign language interpreters from Central America and the Caribbean. Currently, 20 deaf CASS youth from the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico are studying computer science/business applications in the United States and are scheduled to return to their home countries in 2006. CASS scholars are recruited from deaf-directed advocacy groups from throughout the region.

CASS training and support has ensured that over 95% of deaf CASS alumni are currently employed back in their home countries. Deaf CASS alumni are employed in public, private, and NGO institutions. These alumni have made many of their employers role models for other companies for how to integrate deaf workers into the workplace. Not only are they good employees, CASS deaf alumni are breaking down barriers in the workplace. They are teaching fellow hearing co-workers sign language and are serving as role models for other deaf youth who aspire to gainful employment.

Despite most CASS deaf students not having high school degrees prior to their CASS scholarships, CASS deaf participants have excelled academically in the USA, achieving Associate degrees in English within two years. Many alumni have continued their education in-country and some have completed both undergraduate as well as graduate degrees.

A new generation of deaf leadership for Central America and Caribbean:

CASS deaf alumni have returned to their home countries and are very actively involved in leadership, many being elected to lead national deaf associations.

Luis Vasquez, of Guatemala, works two jobs to support his family. He is also the current President of ASORGUA, the Guatemala national deaf association, recently being reelected to a second term as President. In his free time he is developing deaf association chapters throughout rural Guatemala and has led human rights workshops for the deaf. In

2000, he was invited to represent deaf Guatemalans at the World Federation of the Deaf Congress in Canada and has represented Guatemala at a regional deaf conference in Costa Rica and at many events within Guatemala..

Other deaf CASS alumni elected as President to their national deaf associations include William Lazo of El Salvador, Virgilio Vizcalino in the Dominican Republic and Elmer Menendez of Honduras.

Deaf alumnus William Lazo of El Salvador has worked in the Information Systems Department of the Ministry of Public Works since 1992, when he returned from his CASS scholarship. Together with other CASS deaf alumni, he is preparing testimony, policy papers and other activities that are changing the legal and economic framework for disabled persons in El Salvador. As current President of the El Salvador deaf association, he is also collaborating with the Ministry of Education in developing a national strategy for the education of deaf children.

Elmer Josue Menendez Aleman, deaf alumnus from Honduras, currently works for the Honduran government's Social Investment Fund (FHIS). With the support of CASS and the government of Canada, he had the opportunity in 2000 to represent the deaf community of Honduras at the XVI Annual Congress of the World Deaf Federation in Montreal, Canada. He is currently President of the national deaf association in Honduras, and in 2003 was elected Treasurer. He is currently also the Coordinator of Sport Activities, and in 2004 organized sport meets for deaf children in three cities of the country.

Also from Honduras, Melvin Giovanni Lazo works alongside Elmer Menendez at the Honduras Social Investment Fund (FHIS). He was elected President of the Honduras national deaf association from 2000-2002 and has worked at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Honduras as a professor of sign language for students who are training to become future sign language interpreters. Melvin collaborates as interpreter for other students, and has traveled to San Pedro Sula to teach hearing people and TELETON participants sign language. In 2004 he participated in the edition of a book using Honduran on sign language, "Manos Felices", for children and their families. Melvin is an active member of his church and teaches sign language to children helping them integrate them more rapidly into society.

In Nicaragua, deaf CASS alumnus Willy Dauria, facilitates leadership modules and teaches deaf students at the 'Escuela Melania Morales' during the week, and spends his Saturdays doing community service for the APRIAS, the deaf association. He is currently running for President of APRIAS-2006, the national deaf association for Nicaragua.

Individual impact vignettes:

In addition to deaf CASS alumni elected to head national deaf associations, many other CASS deaf, blind as well as hearing sign language alumni are making significant contributions. Several individual vignettes follow:

Miriam Encarnación of the Dominican Republic was trained by CASS as a sign interpreter. She returned to the Dominican Republic and secured the first job as a sign language interpreter for local television stations and the Dominican Republic emergency broadcast system. Miriam is also the official interpreter for the Dominican Congress and the office of the President. Prior to Miriam Encarnacion, no news broadcast, emergency weather broadcast or session of Congress had been interpreted in sign language. Recently, she was selected as one of *The Top Ten Women* leaders in the Dominican Republic and was the winner of the National Youth Award due to her work on TV and with the deaf community. Miriam is also an active participant in the National Council for Disabled Persons of the Dominican Republic.

Myrthil Baylord: From 1994 through 1996, CASS participant, Myrthil Baylord attended the Missouri School for the Blind and studied education management and administration at Harris Stowe State College in St. Louis. As a blind alumnus, Myrthil has been very active in Haiti. After completing his CASS scholarship, Myrthil returned to Haiti where he founded “Clair-Voyance”, a non-profit organization which raises money to sponsor scholarships, working with schools, parents, and disabled children to promote the inclusion of disabled children in school. Recipients of Clair-Voyance scholarships have gone on to graduate from high school and others have attended the local university, something that was previously unheard of in Haiti.

In addition to Clair Voyance, Myrthil is the owner of an import export business and has used the profits to buy four acres of land on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince where he is building the first Haitian school for the blind. In 1998, he was elected President of the CASS/Haiti alumni association and has been an active member of the Haitian blind association, ‘Societe Haitienne d’Aide aux Aveugles” (SHAA) where he shares his knowledge and experience.

Danis Rodriguez and Evelyn Rodriguez, two CASS sign language alumni have founded a classroom for deaf children in San Salvador at the Centro Escolar Catolica Imaculada Concepcion. Grisel Flores, a deaf CASS alumnus also works there as a teacher of deaf children. In 2000, Danis Rodriguez coordinated the first CASS alumni sign language interpreter’s conference held in Central America and he is currently exploring ways to develop a sign language association..

Alicia Garcia, a post polio CASS alumnus from El Salvador studied sign language on a CASS scholarship. Upon her return to El Salvador, she founded a special education school where she now is the school director.

Luz Marlene Aguilar, a post polio CASS alumnus also from El Salvador studied sign language interpreter training with a CASS scholarship. Currently she works as an accountant with the Land Mine Survivors Network in San Salvador. Luz Marlene

Aguilar is also very active in disability advocacy. She was elected Vice President of ACOGIPRI, disabled-directed women's pottery and advocacy collective. She has been active on many disability commissions in El Salvador including election reform, and the establishment of new disability policy by the government of El Salvador. Last year she accompanied the President of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York where they supported the creation of a new disability rights convention. Currently, she has been elected to represent persons with disabilities to the government of El Salvador.

Efrain Aguilar, CASS deaf alumnus from Honduras, is currently working on the creation of a manual for a codified Honduran national sign language. He is active at deaf church and in the national deaf association, teaches sign language to parents of deaf children, and works in the computer services department of the Honduran government family assistance department (PRAF).

Aldo Mejia and Misael Melgar, deaf alumni from El Salvador returned from their CASS scholarships to their home country and developed a deaf literacy campaign. In 2002, they were recognized by the President of El Salvador at a formal ceremony for their work and appeared in an article by Rehabilitation International.

Erika Mariela Palacios, deaf CASS alumnus from Honduras volunteers at the Red Cross teaching staff sign language. She is also professor at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma of Honduras where she teaches LESHO (Honduras Sign Language) and teaches hearing people to become future LESHO sign language interpreters. Erika is active in the national deaf association where she creates signs for the use of deaf people and interpreters.

Dominican Republic deaf alumni work in information systems as data processors, editors, graphic designers, and accounting data processors. Ricardo Teresita works in the statistics department of the National Planning Office of the Dominican Republic (ONAP); Virgilio Viscaino works in Dalbert Printing; Zahira Hernandez in Editora Santo Domingo; Richard Gomez in the Caribbean Data Service; and Irma Garcia in Verizon. These and many other deaf CASS Dominican Republic alumni are changing and expanding the employment potential for the disability community. In addition to their work, over 90% of the deaf alumni volunteer in non-profit organizations, and many are still continuing their education.

Maria Valerio, a CASS sign language interpreter in the Dominican Republic works to make the courts in the Dominican Republic responsive to the rights of deaf citizens. Key landmark court cases including the rape of a 15 year old deaf girl and a personal injury suit of an elderly deaf woman would not have been heard without the advocacy of Maria. Maria is very involved in supporting a deaf school with 195 students in her home town. After receiving a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Maine, she learned to become a skillful repair technician for hearing aid devices.

Emma Flores, CASS deaf alumnus from El Salvador has been a teacher for over 8 years at the Centro de Audicion y Lenguaje (Center for Hearing and Language), a deaf school

for children. In addition to improving the quality of education for deaf children, she has taught their parents sign language.

Wendy Padilla, deaf CASS alumnus from Honduras, has been back in her country for five years and has been very active in the community. Wendy helps deaf children and adults by teaching them to read and write. She also teaches sign language so that they can communicate with their family and the rest of the community. Through the national deaf association, she visits poor communities to search for more deaf people and integrate them into the deaf association. In case they find a deaf person with alcohol or drug addictions or someone who has run away from home, she helps them in their rehabilitation. Wendy also helps organize a yearly camp for 200 people, including deaf Americans, and has a paid position with the Honduran government Social Investment Fund (FHIS).

Edwin Rene Jimenez, deaf alumnus from Honduras, is cooperating in the creation of a book and CD to teach sign language with images obtained using graphic design for the use and teaching of the Sign Language of Honduras (LESHO).

Pedro Alvarado, deaf alumnus from Honduras, also works at the Honduran government's Social Investment Fund (FHIS). In his free time, he actively volunteers at the national deaf association where he is designing sign images for words that will be used to teach deaf as well as hearing persons.

Belkis Leticia Reyes, deaf alumnus from Honduras is an active member of the national deaf association and teaches sign language to other deaf people.

Gerardo Ivan Orellana, deaf CASS alumnus from Honduras now uses his CASS computer/business skills with COVELO, a well known microfinance organization in Honduras where he is responsible for the data of COVELO clients.

These are a few of the many vignettes of CASS alumni with disabilities. For additional information, please contact:

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Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade and Women in Development

With ongoing support from Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade and Women in Development (EGAT/ WID), Mobility International USA (MIUSA) continued implementation of a program titled Building an Inclusive Development Community: Gender Appropriate Technical Assistance to Inter-Action Member Agencies on Inclusion of People with Disabilities. The program aimed to increase participation by people with disabilities, especially women and girls, in InterAction member agencies as participants, staff members, administrators, and beneficiaries. MIUSA also sought to increase implementation of InterAction's disability standards for private voluntary organizations (PVOs) among InterAction's member agencies, particularly when including people with disabilities (especially women and girls), in organizational governance, management, and programs.

During 2003–04, MIUSA developed new and deepened collaborative partnerships, called Model Partner Organizations (MPOs), with five InterAction members. They serve as demonstration models for (a) increasing gender-appropriate inclusion strategies; (b) designing and implementing new gender-appropriate training models; (c) providing gender-appropriate training, technical assistance, information, referral, and follow-up support; and (d) producing resource materials for InterAction member agencies. The MPOs are Mercy Corps, Trickle Up, American Friends Service Committee, Church World Service, and Holt International Children's Service.

With MIUSA's training, technical assistance, and resource materials, partner organizations implemented nine priority target strategies for inclusion of people with disabilities as defined in the disability amendments to the InterAction PVO standards. These strategies are (a) a written policy on inclusion, (b) an increased number of people with disabilities in senior decisionmaking, (c) a disability integrated into the organizational-diversity sensitization program, (d) a mechanism established to promote and monitor inclusion in programs, (e) a set of strategies for inclusion of people with disabilities into each stage of the program, (f) a collaboration on strategies with NGO partner organizations in the field, (g) a set of accessible programs and activities, (h) alternate format materials, and (i) financial planning.

The participating organizations have recorded significant successes as a result of the MIUSA-led initiative. For example, Trickle Up achieved its 2004 goal of ensuring that 10 percent of the micro-entrepreneurs it supported around the world were people with disabilities.

In addition to assisting the selected InterAction members, the activity aided USAID's efforts to implement its disability policy by producing specific tools, training curricula, and information resources and by making them available to USAID operating units and partners.

Among many significant MIUSA activities that are worthy of note during this reporting period in 2003, MIUSA published Building an Inclusive Development Community: A Manual on Including People with Disabilities in International Development Programs. This manual provides practical guidance on including persons with disabilities in all aspects of development. It addresses the delivery of programs and services, development

and disability issues, management practice and human resources development, and legal and policy issues. The manual contains useful information on specific disabilities, terminology, organizational resources, USAID disability policy, InterAction's PVO disability standards, and UN instruments. Of special note is its attention to gender issues, gender mainstreaming, and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. In 2004, EGAT/WID distributed a copy of the manual to each field mission and within USAID/Washington.

MIUSA's video, Loud, Proud, and Passionate, which is a training tool used in a variety of settings, and a new video, Loud, Proud, and Prosperous, were made available with both Arabic subtitles and voiceovers. MIUSA also began work on producing versions in French and Spanish to make these unique training videos accessible to people with visual and hearing disabilities in French- and Spanish-speaking countries. The MIUSA staff is currently editing Success Stories, which uses the Millennium Development Goals as a framework to help organizations that have little experience with disability issues understand how including people with disabilities is relevant to their work.

Volume 3 of Gender Advocacy in Afghanistan includes a focus on men and disability, people with disabilities and the Afghan government, rights of people with disabilities in the parliamentary elections, and references. The newsletter presents factual information, statistics, and references relevant to four different gender campaign issues in order to facilitate gender-based campaigns by Afghan journalists, government, and civil society organizations. The newsletter is produced by the United States Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women Afghanistan under support from EGAT/WID and is distributed to more than 1,000 journalists, media training centers, associations, and institutions, as well as governments, NGOs, and UN agencies.

Global Health

The USAID Bureau for Global Health provides support to programs that strive to prevent disability and when prevention efforts fail, programs are implemented that aim to improve lives of persons with disability through effective treatment.

USAID, in partnership with UNICEF and Kiwanis, contributes to global reduction in iodine deficiency through funding support for salt iodization programs. Iodine deficiency is the single most preventable form of mental retardation. Iodine deficiency results in stunted growth and goiters. Seventy percent of the world's household salt is iodized in large part due to USAID's commitment to country level efforts to iodize salt.

Vitamin A deficiency is the cause of more than two thirds of childhood blindness. USAID's leadership in vitamin A supplementation has led to the establishment of national programs for routine supplementation of young children and the fortification of commonly consumed foods. The result has been a rapid reduction of the incidence of severe vitamin A deficiency in developing countries. USAID continues to be the lead international donor for these programs with vitamin A supplementation programs implemented in more than 30 countries worldwide.

Malaria has been shown to cause neurological problems in children and adults who have suffered illness from cerebral malaria, specifically. USAID's malaria programs support a package of prevention and treatment interventions to combat malaria. Prevention efforts emphasize use of bednets and intermittent presumptive treatment of malaria for pregnant women. Combination therapies are prescribed for treatment.

Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death and disability among women of reproductive age in developing countries. One of the most devastating is obstetric fistula, affecting an estimated 2,000,000 women worldwide, primarily in sub-Saharan African and South Asia. USAID programs to prevent obstetric fistula focus on improving quality and access to emergency obstetric care, promoting attendance of skilled personnel at delivery, encouraging delay of first pregnancy, and advocacy to raise global awareness around this issue. USAID's fistula treatment interventions emphasize upgrading surgical centers for training in repair of fistula and quality of care for delivery.

USAID has played a pivotal role in mobilizing worldwide support for the eradication of polio, a major cause of disability in children. USAID is a global leader, with other partners UNICEF, WHO and the Rotary Club, in the fight to eradicate polio through support of national immunization days and strengthening of routine immunization services. The United States has allocated more than \$260 million to USAID's Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) since 1996. More than 3 billion people - half the world's population - in 134 countries and territories now live in areas that are polio-free.

More than half of children suffering from childhood blindness die within 1-2 years of losing their sight either from the primary causes of their blindness or from other deprivations associated with their blindness and care. USAID's response to this crisis is support for implementation of eye health programs in 30 countries. Programs offer a range of services, including vision screening, low vision and rehabilitation services, including training in Braille; correction of refractive error, lost cost and free eyeglasses, and cataract surgery.

Delivery of care and treatment programs is one of the pillars of the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS, which has pledged to reach 10 million people through care and support services and 2 million for treatment over the next five years. Care and treatment programs for HIV/AIDS are an essential component of all USAID HIV/AIDS programs. Programs are meant to provide comprehensive, integrated, wrap-around services, combining care and treatment with other services that address social, economic, nutrition and emotional needs.

Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance and Office of Transition Initiatives

In addition to addressing the needs of persons with disabilities indirectly as part of its overall programming in political participation and other transition areas, OTI also conducted over 40 activities during the reporting period specifically addressing the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, through grants totaling close to \$1 million. These activities were carried out mainly in Iraq, with a small number in Venezuela (2) and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (1).

Indicator 1: People with disabilities (PWDs) included in programs or initiatives funded by USAID.

In Iraq, OTI's Iraq Transition Initiative (ITI) has 38 grants benefiting PWDs worth an estimated \$892,803 and reaching 9,518 direct beneficiaries. A majority of direct and indirect beneficiaries are PWDs, and a minority of this total is staff running local DPOs. The PWD beneficiaries represent a diverse cross-section, from the blind, deaf and mute to other physical disabilities and/or challenges such as dwarfism and victims of man-made threats such as mines and chemical weapons used by Saddam Hussein. Programs have provided direct assistance through training and empowerment programs, have helped raise awareness and increase chances of economic and social survival through outreach, literacy and vocational programs. Many grants are not only top-down transfers of assistance, but also products of bottom-up participation by PWDs in grant design. ITI is proud to have also marshaled direct engagement of PWDs and DPOs in conducting activities in support of Iraq's peaceful transition to democracy, including but not limited to the joint USAID-CPA Civic Education campaign.

In Venezuela, OTI is working with Hagamos Democracia, an organization working to strengthen democracy and human rights, to organize 9 forums in 9 different states (Caracas, Carabobo, Aragua, Lara, Miranda, Anzoategui, Sucre, Bolivar and Zulia) where candidates running for office meet with leaders of NGOs working on the rights of the handicapped in order to allow the candidates to demonstrate how they will govern in a way that is inclusive and meets the needs of the handicapped. The objective of this grant is to increase good governance and strengthen democracy through dialogue about how candidates will care for the most vulnerable Venezuelans; the total grant amount is \$20,686.

Indicator 2: Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) have increased capacity to provide assistance to PWDs and to advocate successfully for the rights of PWDs.

Beyond direct assistance to PWDs through DPOs, OTI has also increased capacity of DPOs to address the needs of their members themselves. In Iraq, OTI has supported a total of 30 separate DPOs throughout the country. A breakdown follows:

DPO	Governorate	Grants
Children's Institute for the Blind	Ninewa	1
Deaf & Mute Association	Sulaymaniyah	2
Handicap Association	Sulaymaniyah	2
Blind Association	Sulaymaniyah	2
Physically Disabled Association	Tameem	2
Kurdistan Zheen Handicapped Association	Erbil	3
Kurdistan Dwarf's Association	Erbil	1
Humanitarian Dwarf's Association	Ninewa	1
Sulaymaniyah Dwarf's Assembly	Sulaymaniyah	1
Soran Handicapped Association	Sulaymaniyah	2
Hiwa Institute for the Deaf & Mute	Sulaymaniyah	1
Kirkuk Deaf and Mute Association	Tameem	1
Kirkuk Blind Association	Tameem	1
Dahuk Dwarf Association	Dahuk	1
Roonaky Blind Institute	Erbil	1
Taqtaq Youth & Culture Center	Erbil	1
Helena Center for Handicapped Children	Erbil	1
Disabled Veterans Association of Diyala	Diyala	1
Dolls Group for Arts	Baghdad	1
Friends of the Iraqi Handicapped Community	Baghdad	1
Hit Charity Society for the Handicapped	Anbar	1
Touz Hourmato Handicapped Clinic	Salah al-Din	1
Basrah Center for Rehabilitation & Prostheses	Basrah	1
Basrah Deaf & Hard of Hearing Association	Basrah	1
Iraqi National Association for the Blind	Basrah	1
Iraqi Association for Handicap Relief	Babylon	1
Al Hayat Association for Disabled Persons	Babylon	1
Association for Disadvantaged Iraqis	Babylon	2
Regional Center for Blind Care	Babylon	1
Al Nor Humanitarian Association for Handicap Care	Babylon	1
		38

In addition, OTI has supported DPOs in Venezuela and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Venezuela, OTI provided \$24,986 to FUNIDIS, a nonprofit organization with a mandate to address the changing needs of children with cerebral palsy, downs syndrome and other physical disabilities in order to allow them to become active members of society. They seek to improve the life quality of children and youth with disabilities due to cerebral palsy and related motor disorders and encourage them to develop their potential. The grant provides equipment and materials to rehabilitate FUNIDIS headquarters. Located north of the city of Barcelona, FUNIDIS is the only institution dedicated to support children and youth with motor disorders and disabilities in the state of Anzoátegui. Once completed, this project will improve the quality of service provided to disabled children and youth thus give them the confidence to become more active in the community.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, OTI gave a grant of \$2,455 to a local PDO to advocate for the passage of legislation to improve the rights of handicapped persons. The PDO organized three televised debates about a particular bill on PWD rights, and arranged for broader television, radio and print media coverage of the bill and related issues. The grant also provided for a ceremony to deliver the bill to parliament, and broad public dissemination of the bill.

Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance/The Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad

PVC-ASHA: Strengthening local NGOs and Cooperatives to provide financial services

In FY 2004 DCHA/PVC-ASHA supported over 20 local NGO and cooperative capacity building programs that provide financial services to poor entrepreneurs. While these programs do not specifically target the disabled, many do provide services to disabled clients which helps raise their incomes, build assets and improve their lives. With DCHA/PVC-ASHA support, US PVOs and Cooperatives are strengthening their local partners' capability to provide services in fragile and post-conflict environments such as Afghanistan, Burundi and Nepal where many microentrepreneurs are disabled survivors of civil conflict.

PVC-ASHA: OCEAN FREIGHT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM GRANTEES HELPING THE DISABLED

The Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) Program is the oldest ongoing Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) support program. OFR allows recipients to ship a wide variety of goods overseas for use in privately funded development and humanitarian assistance programs. The Program provides small competitive grants to approximately 50 U.S. PVOs each year. Funds are used to reimburse the PVOs' costs to transport donated commodities, such as medical supplies, agricultural equipment, educational supplies, disaster relief items, and building equipment to developing countries. OFR grantees generally work in one or more of the following technical sectors: health/medical, agriculture, education, and disaster relief. Although no one grantee is focusing solely on helping those with disabilities, many of the grantees aid the disabled through their health and medical programs, programs for the elderly, and aid to refugees and victims of natural disasters.

An example of such a grantee is Counterpart International's Community and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) which has been a recipient of OFR funds several times over the past few years. CHAP's humanitarian relief programs provide aid to countries throughout the world, helping to bridge the gap between emergency relief and long-term development by delivering material assistance and running projects that help communities build their own local capacity and therefore help themselves.

In 2004 Counterpart used some of their OFR award to fund the transportation of a wide variety of specialized wheelchairs and other walking aids such as crutches, canes and walkers. The PVO worked in a partnership with Fundacion Vista Para Todas (FVPT) based in Quito, Ecuador and Hope Haven Ministries International (HHMI) based in Iowa to execute this shipment. Appropriate wheelchair parts were also included in the donation so that any wheelchairs that might break could be promptly fixed. While

Counterpart handled the transportation logistics and expenses, and was later reimbursed by USAID for the cost of the ocean freight, FVPT took responsibility for the receipt and distribution of the commodities, and HHMI sent a team of technicians in November to custom fit the wheelchairs to each individual recipient. Overall there were over 250 beneficiaries spread throughout Quito, Santo Domingo De Los Colorados and surrounding areas. Many of the recipients were children who are suffering from some form of paralysis.