



The Kien Khleang Rehabilitation Center Wheelchair Workshop

USAID supported Veteran International, the rehabilitation centers has provided over 20,000 prosthetic and orthotic device to Cambodia people who have been affected by landmines, childhood diseases, and accidents.



Vanna Ngoun at work in the Kien Khleang Rehabilitation Center Wheelchair Workshop.

The Kien Khleang rehabilitation center is one of five provincial centers in Cambodia that have been supported by USAID and the Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund. The centers provide prosthetics (artificial limbs), orthotics (braces), physical therapy, and assistance devices (wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches) to the many Cambodian victims of landmines, disease, and accidents. USAID supported rehabilitation centers have provided over 20,000 prosthetic and orthotic devices to the Cambodian men, women, and children who have been affected by landmines, childhood diseases, and accidents.

USAID has also supported a variety of formal and informal training opportunities for disabled Cambodians, including vocational training, employment services, and occupational therapy. Vanna was one of the first staff hired at the Kien Khleang wheelchair workshop when it was opened, and of the many people with disabilities who produces assistance devices for others in need. After helping to assemble over 4,000 wheelchairs, Vanna is not an expert. One specialization is assembling wheels from component parts; lacing spokes onto the hubs and truing the wheels, using only basic tools and his hearing and touch.

According to the 1997 Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey, the most common causes of disability in Cambodia are illness or disease (30%); congenital (25%); war and conflict (21%); and accident (13%). USAID has invested \$20 million dollars into services and training for Cambodians, building local capacity to provide services to these in need, and supporting full participation and equality of opportunity in social life and development for persons with disabilities.