



Environmental Remediation and Health Program



Workers drill holes at the airport in Danang to collect soil samples.

(Photo: Diana Shannon, USAID)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

USAID's implementing partners for environmental health and remediation activities include CDM Smith, Terra Therm, and TetraTech.

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Under the leadership of the U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, the U.S. Government is providing assistance in the environmental remediation of dioxin and for health activities in the city of Danang. These activities are carried out by USAID in close coordination with the Government of Vietnam and other donors. USAID's Environmental Remediation and Health program focuses its support on environmental remediation of dioxin contamination at the Danang Airport where Agent Orange was stored during the Vietnam War and on health activities in nearby communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION ACTIVITIES

The airfields at Danang, Bien Hoa, and Phu Cat have been referred to as "hot spots" due to dioxin concentrations remaining in the soil at these sites. The United States has joined Vietnamese authorities to support remediation activities in Danang. Working in close partnership with the Government of Vietnam, USAID completed an Environmental Assessment in June 2010 and is engaged in carrying out the engineering and design work for the remediation activities. The Vietnamese Government has completed its own Environmental Impact Assessment and has also completed unexploded ordnance clearance at the Danang Airport site. As a part of the strong partnership, the U.S. Government is committed to building Vietnamese capacity to address environmental remediation beyond Danang.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

USAID is also addressing health and social conditions in Danang. This includes health, education, and job skill support to persons with disabilities, regardless of cause. Since October 2008, USAID has cooperated with nongovernmental organizations to provide services to approximately 11,000 persons with disabilities and their family members in Danang. This includes health examinations for more than 8,500 disabled people, 2,000 corrective surgeries, wheelchairs, hearing aids, and assistive devices, and more than 1,500 people supported in home-based and formal employment activities. USAID has assisted the local government in Danang to improve service for people with disability and with strategic planning. A new program called "Comprehensive Support for People with Disabilities" will begin in 2012. The new program will continue efforts towards building a comprehensive and integrated approach to address the needs of disabled populations.

The program's objectives are:

- Strengthening case management and service referral system for people with disabilities;
- Improve the quality of and access to specialized services;
- Enhance relevant public health services; and
- Conduct assessments in Phu Cat and Bien Hoa and expand the integrated model from Danang to other selected areas.

The program will also build the capacity of Vietnamese local institutions that receive grants.