



# PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SEPTEMBER 2015 – AUGUST 2018 | IMPLEMENTER: ACTION TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (ACDC) | PLANNED BUDGET: \$1,200,000

Persons with disabilities are often denied chances to work, attend school or fully participate in society. This fact creates barriers for their prosperity and well-being. The Protecting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities project works in Thua Thien Hue and Binh Phuoc provinces to ensure the social and physical rights of persons with disabilities are being realized.

## INCREASES LOCAL ADVOCACY FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

To improve the quality and effectiveness of advocacy efforts, the project conducts trainings on leadership, life skills, monitoring and evaluation, and advocacy skills for persons with disabilities and their families, especially for people with severe disabilities, women with disabilities and Disabled Persons Organizations' (DPO) potential leaders. In addition, the project participates in developing provincial disabilities action plans, advocacy conference dialogue with policymakers at both provincial and national levels, and improves the ability of DPO and parent associations to advocate for disability rights.

## IMPROVES LEGAL ADVICE AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Many persons with disabilities are not aware of their legal rights to claim benefits and access services, such as education. To improve local legal counseling centers, the project trains legal officers and Ministry of Justice staff to better understand the legal rights and protections for persons with disabilities and enable them to provide improved legal counsel for clients with disabilities.

## EXPANDS ACCESSIBILITY

The project focuses on improving access to key buildings that provide essential services for persons with disabilities. Trainings with local officials as well as DPO members in the Code and Standards for Accessible Construction are provided to help each province develop a Disability Accessibility Plan.

## RESULTS

The project aims to create a sustainable network of DPOs, groups of women with disabilities and parents' associations with better relationships with their local authorities who can advocate for adherence to disability laws and plans. Over 1,500 persons with disabilities will directly benefit from improved skills and knowledge about their rights and services available to them. In addition, over 7,800 persons with disabilities and family members will directly benefit from access to legal advice that can help them resolve legal issues and exercise their legal rights, such as social protection and free vocational training.

*In the photo: A person with disabilities receives free legal aid through the project (ACDC)*