



2012 Vietnam Summer Program Summary

Fourteen audiology, speech pathology, and deaf education professionals and three graduate students conducted the Global Foundation's third Summer Training program held at Thuan An Center for Hearing Impaired Children in Vietnam from July 9 to August 3, 2012. The multi-faceted effort included Teacher Training for 70 Vietnamese teachers and therapists who work with children with hearing loss; a workshop for 18 teachers who teach at mainstream schools; a focused Audiology program for 43 medical professionals, educational audiologists, and clinical audiologists; and a Family Program for about 40 families. Post-program test scores indicate the lessons taught were well absorbed and qualitative feedback from the Vietnamese participants point to a positive learning experience. Our 2012 Summer Training Program was a success on many levels.

The Global Foundation's Deaf Education Program, which includes the Summer Training Program, Mobile Missions, and Hearing Aid Distribution, is the centerpiece of our work in Vietnam. A collaboration with Thuan An Center for Hearing Impaired Children and Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, the program was launched in June, 2010. This multi-faceted initiative is empowering teachers, medical teams, and families in Vietnam across 38 schools for the deaf and 2 hospitals with the expertise to help young children with hearing loss make use of hearing technology and learn to listen and talk.

What makes our Vietnam Deaf Education Program unique - besides its scale - is its multi-disciplinary and integrated approach. Our program provides professional development and training across audiology, speech pathology, early intervention, and auditory-verbal practice for families and professionals who have or work with children with hearing loss. We also provide hearing aids to young children who need them as part of our Audiology training. During our Summer Training, Vietnamese professionals representing multiple disciplines attend the workshops at Thuan An Center and families engage in consultations and lectures. During the year, we travel to participating locations in our program as part of our Mobile Mission series to provide on-site audiology and auditory verbal practice coaching and support.

We work with the same group of schools, clinics, centers, and hospitals over time to ensure the participants build on their skills and that the children progress in their auditory and language development. Three years later, professionals and families in Vietnam are demonstrating a progression in understanding and expertise for helping children with hearing loss learn to communicate through listening and spoken language. And, because the participants are sharing their knowledge with other professionals and families in their communities, the benefits are exponential -- and sustainable.

Since summer 2010, we have successfully executed three Summer Training workshops and two Mobile Missions. We have trained over 190 teachers, 220 families, and 120 medical and other professionals. We have fit 246 hearing aids on young children.

We will continue to nurture our relationships across education and health care and work with our in-country partners to deliver quality, successful programs through our Vietnam Deaf Education Program. The Global Foundation is also seeking to extend its model to other parts of Vietnam and to other developing and emerging countries that have requested our support.

Our experiences with the families and the Vietnamese professionals in our program reflect a reality that while much progress has been made, there are still gaps in the system of support for children with hearing loss in Vietnam. Over the course of the past three years, we have developed strong working relationships with Vietnamese partners in the deaf education and healthcare communities and with policy makers and other nongovernmental organizations. We will continue to collaborate to look at the system of support and work to strengthen the weak areas. With the united team and commitment that exists in Vietnam, we know the effort will be fruitful.

The Global Foundation For Children With Hearing Loss is grateful to its supporters. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of so many children and their families. Thank you for your continued friendship. We look forward to continuing our work in the years to come and help children with hearing loss access the education, hearing technology, and professional support they need to achieve their potential – no matter where in the world they live.

A 4-minute video of our Summer Training Program:<http://animoto.com/play/BAOQHf0EuTF0IR50q0nhEQ>

Talk Vietnam, a Vietnamese national television show, aired a segment in August 2012 about pediatric hearing loss in Vietnam and what the Global Foundation and its partners are doing to help professionals and families of children in Vietnam: <https://vimeo.com/47176690>

For more, please visit our website at www.childrenwithhearingloss.org

