

What Can Be Done to Help the People in Vietnam?

First, the sources of exposure must be detected, evaluated, controlled and eliminated. Then the food supply must be protected through systems for monitoring and dealing with contamination. Health care systems can provide and subsidize comprehensive care for affected individuals, including education, genetic counseling about possible impacts on offspring, training, medications, surgery and rehabilitation, as needed.

Programs reach only a small number of those in need.

- The Vietnamese government provides a monthly stipend of about \$17 to more than 200,000 Vietnamese believed affected by the toxic herbicides.¹ In 2008 alone this totaled \$40.8 million.
- The Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange has raised support since 2004 for those affected by Agent Orange and is conducting a survey to identify others affected nationwide.
- The Vietnam Red Cross has raised more than \$22 million to assist the ill or disabled.
- With funding from the Ford Foundation and other donors, some rehabilitation, education and other services to the disabled are provided by the War Legacies Project, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, the East Meets West Foundation, The Da Nang-Quang Nam Fund, Catholic Relief Services, CHEER Vietnam, Children of Vietnam and Vietnam Assistance for the Handicapped.
- The Ford Foundation, seven other foundations, three European governments, UNICEF and the UN Development Programme have given a total of \$23 million for cleanup, health care and other services to Vietnamese affected by Agent Orange/dioxin, including advocacy for more resources.
- The U.S. Congress has allocated \$9 million over four years for “hot spot” remediation and health programs. So far, \$2 million has been allocated to three U.S. non-governmental organizations for programs to support and care for those with disabilities in Da Nang.

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¹ Statement by Ambassador Ngo Quang Xuan to the House Subcommittee of Asia, Pacific and Global Environment. June 2009: Page 3. <http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/111/xua060409.pdf>.