

Disability allowance for people with disabilities in Vietnam



Location & scale

Vietnam, National

Type of disability

All people with disabilities

Involved actors

- Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education and Training
- Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (Provincial level)
- Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs Division, District People Committee (District level)
- Disability Degree Determination Council
- Heads of Cultural and Social issues (Commune level)

1. Description

People with disabilities in Vietnam are entitled to an unconditional cash transfer to cover for daily life expenses. To be eligible, people must have “severe and very severe disabilities” certified by the Disability Degree Determination Council. As of July 2021, people with disabilities can receive a standard social support of about US\$17 (VND 360.000) per month. Depending on age and level of severity, larger cash transfers may apply. For instance:

- Adults with severe disabilities: ~ US\$25,5
- Children or elderly with severe disabilities, or adults with **very** severe disabilities: ~ US\$34
- Children or elderly with **very** severe disabilities: ~ US\$42,5

Each allotment is given at the commune level at the local state administrative agency by the responsible civil servant and can be collected in person by the applicant or an individual designated on their behalf.

2. Origin

- In Vietnam, about 7% of the population have disabilities.
- Compared with the general population, people with disabilities in Vietnam:
 - often live in rural areas
 - are two times more likely to be poor
 - have extra living costs due to higher expenses (e.g. in medical care, personal assistance, assistive technology, etc.)
 - more often use health services (medical examination, treatment and rehabilitation)
- In 2012 a social protection program was introduced, including a disability allowance
- About 40% of people with disability receive a monthly disability allowance, which is mainly used to cover basic needs (food, clothing), household expenses and access to general health services.
- Implementation challenges include coordination of services, adequacy of evaluation tools and accessibility of disability assessments.
- Therefore, in 2021 the government decided to reform the social protection program for people with disabilities.

3. Impact

- Expanded coverage of the disability allowance: 395.000 beneficiaries in 2011 to 1,1 million in 2021
- Increased rate along the years (from US\$12.75 to US\$17)
- Improved accessibility for disability assessments
- Improved household ability to meet basic needs or access healthcare

4. Impact statement

“Social support policies are implemented promptly, fairly, publicly and transparently; on the basis of level of disadvantage and priority in family and community where beneficiaries live” – The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Clause 1, Article 3 Decree No. 20/2021/ND-CP)

5. Critical success factors

- Existence of a disability law (2010) promoting the right to access to healthcare, education, transportation, vocational training, and employment
- Disability being on the government’s agenda
- Effective local organizational structure with focal points addressing the needs of people with disabilities

6. Lessons learned

- Cash payments could be extended to better cover the needs of people with disabilities.
- Disability Degree Determination Councils need further training on disability and assessment tools to improve consistency across the country.
- There is a need to improve the participation of organizations of people with disabilities in the council.
- It is important to clarify procedures related to the responsibilities of district and commune-level People's Committees in implementing social protection policies.

Sources & links

- Disability-inclusive social protection research in Vietnam (Link [here](#))
- National Disability Survey Vietnam 2016 (Link [here](#))
- Action to the Community Development Institute, Vietnam: "Some innovations in the social assistance policy in Decree No. 20/2021/NĐ-CP of the Government, related to people with disabilities" (Link [here](#))

Acknowledgments

We thank Action to the Community Development Institute Vietnam for their input and review of this work