NARROW THE GAP 2014
Access to Education

DESIRE TO INTEGRATE

The Deaf Community of Ho Chi Minh City (DCOH)

MISSION
DCOH works to create a fair, stable, civilized life for deaf and mute people by supporting social integration, by communicating their needs and wishes and by bringing equal opportunities to hearing impaired people and help improve their quality of life.

PROJECT DURATION
October 2014 – October 2016

NEED FOR THE PROJECT
Special circumstances double the barriers for hearing impaired people to successfully integrate into their communities: a lack of sufficient education has led to illiteracy, an inability to understand sign language and/or limited conditions to improve their capacity. Hearing impaired people often lack opportunities to pursue a professional career and, when they try to, they are not often taken seriously. DCOH designed this project to provide an educational foundation, necessary life skills, and an opportunity to pursue artistic aspirations in an effort to help hearing-impaired people to build themselves a better future.

BENEFICIARIES
230 hearing impaired people, many of whom are migrants, homeless, teenagers and/or orphans, all of whom are living in Ho Chi Minh City. 15 will study art, 30 will be rescued from illiteracy and all 230 will learn about the Disability Law and gain life skills.

MAIN ACTIVITIES
3 training courses:
- Art: basic to advanced practice, from sketching and calligraphy to hand made products that can be displayed and/or sold to customers (15 beneficiaries);
• Teaching sign language and providing textbooks to overcome illiteracy (30 beneficiaries); and
• Raise awareness about the Disability Law and provide necessary life skills and self-defense skills (230 beneficiaries).

**PROJECT COST**

Funding Requested: 589,500,000 VND

Funding Provided by DCOH: 297,000,000 VND

**EXPECTED IMPACT**

Through trainings, hearing impaired people will gain the necessary skill sets to protect their law given rights while helping to give them a voice in the process of advocating for laws that provide more opportunities for hearing impaired people to develop. A smaller group will also be able to pursue their innate talent and interest in the arts, which can help them to build confidence and contribute back to society.