

Project Update N° 5

Munich, September 20, 2007

Dear reader,

Including disability in poverty reduction strategies (PRS) may be one of the most effective ways for people with disabilities to actively participate in developmental programmes. For this reason, Handicap International, the Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) have agreed on a cooperation on PRSP and Disability. These organisations are currently implementing activities in several countries based on the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" (available at: www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs01.html). A brief project description is available under www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs03.html. Project activities are underway in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania. The idea of this update is to briefly inform everyone involved in the project or interested in the subject "disability and PRSP". The newsletter also intends to disseminate information about the project and encourages the knowledge sharing between different stakeholders involved in similar actions worldwide. For example Jonas Parby from the Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People (DSI) provided the paragraph about Uganda – special thanks to him.

This project update is shorter than the previous ones – due to summer brakes – and therefore only covers Cambodia, Vietnam and Uganda.

The project updates are available on www.handicap-international.de/download/download_pub.html and also on the website of the GPDD working group on poverty reduction and disability (www2.stakes.fi/sfa/disabilityandpoverty/index.htm). Please feel free to forward this information to anyone who might be interested. Should you have any further questions or comments, or if you like to report your experience on PRSP and disability in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us (Ursula Miller: umiller@handicap-international.de).

Best regards,

Stefanie Ziegler and Ursula Miller
(International Coordination Office)

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Country Reports

Vietnam

Status of PRSP and disability: Vietnam developed its own PRSP in 2002 – the so-called CPRGS (Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy). The main aims of the CPRGS are now reflected in the national Socio-Economic Development Plan (Five-Year Plan 2006-2010). Since disability issues were still not adequately included, a "National Action Plan to Support People with Disabilities (NAP)" with a comprehensive approach was published in October 2006 by the Vietnamese government.

Implementing organisations: GTZ Vietnam in cooperation with DED (German Development Service)

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Sign language course in Thanh Hoa (as reported in the previous newsletter)

As planned during the kick-off workshop in March a workshop about "Advocacy and Lobbying" took place in the pilot province Thanh Hoa. The workshop addressed members from the self-help groups and DPOs. Representatives of the Disability Forum Hanoi and the DPO "Bright Future" shared their experiences and "lessons learnt" about lobbywork. Furthermore, the workshop introduced some important techniques for lobbying and methods for working with the media. Therefore, parts of the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" (E 2.1, E 2.3) were adapted to organize

group work, which enabled the participants to use the strategies and tools proactively and independently. The participants gathered information about self-chosen topics such as "Vocational training opportunities for people with disability in Thanh Hoa", "How to set up a DPO", "How to set up a self-help group for deaf people in Thanh Hoa" by using books, brochures and the internet. For many of the 32 participants it was the first time to access the internet and use the links provided in the handbook. In a second group work the participants prepared a presentation or wrote a press release about their topic. Therefore, the participants used tools (especially 28 and 30) from the handbook, which they assessed as helpful.

The workshop also functioned as a bridge between official authorities and people with disabilities. Representatives of DoLISA (Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs) showed particular interest in the workshop and took the opportunity to make personal contact with the people with disabilities themselves. They were fascinated by listening to signing deaf people and gained insights in their potential for communication and learning. At the end of the workshop, the vice president of DoLISA signalled to provide more support for the foundation of further self-help groups and a DPO Thanh Hoa.

On the previous workshop a participatory planning process for an awareness campaign was initiated by the project coordinators. The participants discussed different models of disability and developed ideas for posters and TV spots. The planning process for the awareness campaign is still ongoing. At present, the core group in Thanh Hoa encouraged the members of self-help groups and other associations to develop more concrete ideas and slogans, which will be presented on the next workshop. The decision-making process will also be carried out in a participatory way.

In September, the handbook has been reviewed by the focus group as well as individual persons.

Cambodia

Status of PRSP and disability: The PRS process in Cambodia started in 2000. The "National Strategic Development Plan" (NSDP) is the second PRSP. At the moment, NSDP is in the implementation phase. There are very few disability-relevant sections in this document.

Implementing organisations: Handicap International is working together with a coordination committee called "NSDP Inclusive Committee" consisting of five DPOs: Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation (CDPO), National Centre of Disabled Persons (NCDP), Disability Action Council (DAC), Action on Disability and Development (ADD) and Association of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC). The project activities are funded by the German government via GTZ support Project for Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction.

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Micro project in Kampong Speu

While disability has been included in the NGO position paper and other sectoral position statements, the NSDP Inclusive Committee has committed to address the issues of PRSP and disability in their coming activities to make the project visible in the work with their members and partners. In the mean time, the committee members including DAC and Handicap International were selected by the NGO-Forum to join a training course on "Budget Analysis and Advocacy Governance" which was facilitated by experts from the International Budget Project and FUNDAR in Mexico.

To make the project more interesting and visible among the involved stakeholders, the NSDP Inclusive Committee has discussed some key activities, such as awareness raising on the disability legislation and the connection between disability and poverty through media campaign, and the organisation of a national workshop on disability and poverty for the commune councils. However, the possibilities for these propositions need to be further discussed and reconfirmed amongst the committee members before taking any action.

On local level, the seven micro-projects implemented by local DPOs in four different provinces, as reported in the previous newsletter, are running for 2 months now. The NSDP Inclusive Committee has taken part in the first monitoring and evaluation since early September. One of the interesting achievements is that the commune council in those provinces are really open minded and willing to include the disability issues in their Commune Development Plan (CDP). Information about the detailed implementation process and the achievements of these projects will be provided in the next report.

In addition, the Cambodian project site is also working on the revision of the Handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive": the committee members and other disability organizations, as well as civil society organizations will provide comments and feedback on the existing version.

Uganda

Status of PRSP and disability: Uganda started with systematic poverty reduction plans quite earlier. The first PEAP (Poverty Eradication Action Plan) was published in 1997. In 2003 the second PEAP followed. It is valid until 2008; therefore an evaluation is currently underway and will lead to the formulation of PEAP III. In previous PEAP, disability was not mainstreamed into all sectors, but was confined mostly within the social development sector.

Implementing organisation: The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), supported by the Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People (DSI)

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The National Union of Disabled People in Uganda (NUDIPU) is the umbrella organization for DPOs in Uganda. As such, it is a key organization representing disabled people's interest in relation to involvement in national political processes in Uganda such as the PEAP.

As per May 2007, NUDIPU decided to create a small committee to undertake more systematic work on inclusion of PWD issues in the national planning processes of the Government of Uganda. Members of committee include resource persons from other DPOs, representatives from national NGO umbrellas, representatives from relevant government ministries, and NUDIPU staff. The committee also invites other external resource persons to attend its meetings when relevant.

The key purpose of the committee is to support the lobby and advocacy work of NUDIPU vis-à-vis the Ugandan PEAP, national budgets and other national planning processes by providing technical input and advice and increasing and improving networking opportunities.

In the last two months, the PEAP committee has met and identified key sectors as focus areas for lobbying and advocacy work as well as mapping of the key sector working groups to become involved in. Members of the Committee also attended a study design workshop under the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development; this was a preparation of the research project on Disability and Poverty. During the workshop the focus areas of the research project were identified. The project will investigate to what extent people with disabilities have benefited from previous interventions in selected districts of Uganda, and will thus provide valuable input to the lobbying and advocacy work of NUDIPU. The research project is expected to take place from September-December 2007 under the auspices of UPPAP (Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project), a department under Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Selected members from the disability fraternity will be involved in the research process to ensure that disability perspectives are integrated in the field work. The outcome of the research will feed into the national PEAP review and will thus ensure that PWD issues are better integrated in the next PEAP of Uganda.

In the coming months, the PEAP committee will consolidate its work and involvement in the research project as well as in other areas.