

Example: Workshop on PRSP and Disability in Tanzania

Background

The Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) and Handicap International have jointly started the PRSP disability programme in Tanzania. The aim of the programme is to promote the inclusion of disability in the Tanzanian PRSP (known locally by the acronym MKUKUTA). The first step of the project was to plan a workshop.

In the project planning phase, the project coordinator conducted a survey on organisations working in the field of disability in Tanzania. A planning group consisting of five representatives from different organisations (DPOs and organisations working in the field of disability) was established to draft the concrete vision, objectives and contents of the workshop.

They formulated the following vision and objectives:

“An enhanced environment exists for full inclusion of disabled people in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MKUKUTA towards a better quality of their lives”.

Objectives

- To popularise the PRSP among workshop participants and among people with disabilities in Tanzania
- To bring the DPOs and other stakeholders together in order to plan strategically the implementation process of the MKUKUTA
- To establish a countrywide disability network, enabling better cooperation and information-sharing
- To prioritise and operationalise concrete points in the MKUKUTA concerning disability
- To chart the way forward, whereby each participant commits himself/herself to certain actions in order to achieve the MKUKUTA's objectives
- To establish ways of mobilising resources.

Workshop Report

The workshop took place from 27 to 29 September 2005 in Dar es Salaam. On average there were about 60 participants, drawn from a wide range of DPOs, organisations working in the field of disability, service providers, governmental and UN institutions, and national and international NGOs and institutions. The whole workshop was chaired and facilitated by members of Tanzanian DPOs and organisations working in the field of disability. The presentations were provided by internal and external resource persons.

Day 1

The first day had around 90 participants. The basic principles of PRSP and disability were outlined in a number of presentations. The opening speech was given by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Other presentations covered the PRSP approach in general, the living situation of people with disabilities in Tanzania, and legislation and regulations for people with disabilities, as well as an introduction to special and mainstream approaches.

Day 2

The day started with an overview of the points in the MKUKUTA that are related to disability, which can now be found in seven sectors (Health, Education, Employment and Vocational Training, Accessibility, Social Protection, HIV-AIDS, Governance and Accountability). This was emphasised as a positive result of the lobbying work of different organisations. However, it is still the case that not all points are included in a comprehensive way. There are still open questions on the quality and quantity of the implementation activities.

After that, the participants divided themselves into groups according to the seven MKUKUTA sectors that relate to disability. Each group was asked to develop strategies showing how the points relating to disability in the MKUKUTA

could be put into action. The results were very comprehensive and global. Within the group work and the presentation of the results, the participants were able to discuss and explore many ideas intensively. There was lively interest in these discussions and the exchange of ideas. The results of the working groups were documented and are available upon request.

Day 3

A representative from the Vice President's Office started the third day with a presentation about the MKUKUTA, focusing on implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and the involvement of people with disabilities in the whole process. A concrete structure for implementation and for monitoring and evaluation still needs to be developed. The Vice President's Office is coordinating the whole process, but the participation of all stakeholders (including the government and the civil society) is needed.

After the presentation, the participants went back to their working groups of the previous day and continued to develop strategies. The focus was now on two concrete activities and their implementation as well as their relation to specific points within the existing Tanzanian PRSP. The aim of this exercise was for the participants realistically to put the proposed activities into action. On this basis, it proved possible to elaborate clear action plans. The participants committed themselves to projects and programmes which will further advance the implementation of the points.

After the Workshop

In order to implement the proposed activities and the action plan, an Implementation Committee was established, consisting of the members of the planning group for the workshop as well as stakeholders from different governmental and non-governmental institutions, as follows:

- One umbrella organisation consisting of six DPOs
- Three NGOs working with/for people with disabilities
- Three governmental units: the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Labour, Youth and Sports/Social Welfare; and the Vice President's Office
- One UN organisation: the ILO
- One CSO
- Two INGOs.