

## Project Update N° 3

Munich, May 24, 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](http://www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs01.html)) and on past experience in Tanzania, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone and Honduras. Project activities already started in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania. In addition to the project activities other initiatives can be found worldwide. We are pleased to include in this third update again news from Rwanda, where the Voluntary Service Overseas is implementing a project which is also linked to PRSP and disability. The Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People (DSI) has provided the paragraph about the Ugandan experience. Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter – especially to Natascha Hermann from VSO and Bengt Kokhauge from DSI.

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 encourage the knowledge sharing between different stakeholders involved in similar actions worldwide. The project updates are available on [http://www.handicap-international.de/download/download\\_pub.html](http://www.handicap-international.de/download/download_pub.html) and also on the website of the GPDD working group on poverty reduction and disability (<http://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, please do not hesitate to contact us (Ursula Miller: [umiller@handicap-international.de](mailto:umiller@handicap-international.de)).

Best regards,

Stefanie Ziegler and Ursula Miller  
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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 recently published by the Vietnamese government.

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

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As planned during the kick-off workshop in March (and announced in the last project update) a two-day workshop about "different understandings of disability and strategies for awareness-raising" took place in the pilot province Thanh Hoa. The thirty participants represented a wide range of backgrounds and organizations such as provincial governments (DoLISA - Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, DoET – Department of Education and Training), disability organizations (Blind Association, Thanh Hoa Association for Supporting Children with Disabilities and Orphans and Victims of Agent Orange, and Vietnamese Fatherland Front) and self-help groups.

The workshop comprised three parts:

- Clarifying the understanding of disability: analyzing different models of disability, introduction to policies such as the UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities as well as Vietnamese policies, discussion of approaches such as the right-based approach (one day)
- Develop statements and strategies for the awareness-campaign: introduction to advocacy and campaigning strategies, developing messages for the campaign (half day)
- Training of trainers: How can I raise awareness about different models of disability in my (self-help) group? - assessing self-images of group members, selecting relevant topics and appropriate methods for discussion (half day)

The workshop brought persons from different contexts together. The various working groups and discussions gave persons with disabilities a voice and encouraged them to share their experiences and ideas. Participants from governments and official organizations had to recognize that the self-images and needs of the affected persons differed from their own perception and opinion. In the course of the workshop a shift took place: from viewing persons with disabilities as passive victims with abnormalities and deficits towards equal human beings with capabilities and equal human rights. Furthermore, different contents and tools of the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" were applied and adapted for working groups and presentations. It became clear, that in spite of the simplifications some texts of the handbook required background knowledge, which none of the participants had. Nevertheless, the handbook provided a good foundation for introducing models and approaches concerning disability.

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One of the activities that were planned at the previous workshop is to conduct a training course for Sign Language. The trainers as well as fourteen participants who later will work as teachers were already chosen. Among them are four persons with hearing impairments, five teachers from primary schools, three trainers from vocational training centres and two members from local authorities. The course will start at the end of May and will last two months (until June 2007). A period of practical work is followed by a four-week advanced course at the end of the year. The training includes a training of trainers to multiply the new communication skills throughout the province.

### 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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**Statement to NGO Forum:** After the workshop on PRSP and disability in January the NGO Forum suggested that Handicap International and the NSDP Inclusive Committee should produce a statement on the issue. This statement was submitted to the NGO Forum on March 31 2007 to claim for possible inclusion in its general statement to CDCF (Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum) Meeting in June 2007. Through this approach, disability will be included in one way or the other in the monitoring process of the NSDP.

Recently, Handicap International and the NSDP Inclusive Committee received a positive feedback from NGO Forum in which the statement is expected to be mainstreamed in its general monitoring statement. In addition, NGO Forum also suggested producing small proposition boxes on disability which will hopefully be added to the statements of the sectoral working groups (education, health, gender, de-mining and others). In addition, NGO Forum and Handicap International have contacted several key stakeholders of the sectoral working groups to lobby directly for inclusion in the statements.

**Situational Analysis:** Handicap International has finalized a situational analysis on PRSP and Disability in Cambodia and has distributed the report to key donors, disability organisations, (International) NGOs, involved governmental ministries and workshop participants by the end of April. Parallel to the production of the report, the NSDP Inclusive Committee has agreed on an action plan, which is also included in the report. For further information about this, please ask for the analysis report.

**Call for Proposal:** Providing grants to DPOs is one of the activities agreed in the action plan. The Inclusive Committee decided to launch the call for proposals in late March. Deadline for proposals was initially May 4, 2007. The dissemination of information on this opportunity was quite effective since it was spread by the members' networks and followed up by Handicap International. As most DPOs could not complete their proposals on time, the dead-

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line was postponed to May 10, 2007. Under the coordination of Handicap International, the first screening selection (administrative selection) was done on May 11, 2007. The final selection will be done in the committee meetings on May 23 and May 31 2007. The selection process and grant implementation will follow a schematic procedure prepared by Handicap International and agreed by the members

### Rwanda

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Rwanda is currently drafting its second PRSP – the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) – with an aim of finalisation by June 2007. The first PRSP had no specific reference to disability or how to include people with disabilities in the process. People with disabilities were not aware of any benefits of this strategy, nor of any direct impact on their community.

**Implementing organisation:** VSO Rwanda (Voluntary Service Overseas), through funding from DfID, aims to support the Disabled People's organisations (DPOs) to participate more actively in the process and to insert disability firmly into the EDPRS, so ensuring their involvement and inclusion in the implementation of the strategy over the coming years.

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Rwanda is currently in the final stages of elaborating the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) with the aim of finalisation by June 2007. Over the last couple of months eleven Sector Working Groups have defined their *logframes*, which are now being pulled together by Ministry of Finance (MINECOFIN) and Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC) into one coherent EDPRS. Whilst Disabled People's organisations (DPOs) have actively participated in the initial stages of the EDPRS process, their involvement got less the further the EDPRS process has progressed: Fewer opportunities have arisen for DPOs to engage in the process at the national level and to lobby for including Disability as a crosscutting issue.

However, even though the EDPRS is going to be a national strategy, it will be implemented by the Districts. MINECOFIN and MINALOC have therefore started in a parallel process to work with the Districts on developing District Development Plans (DDP). The DDPs are guided by the national EDPRS whilst taking the local characteristics and needs into account. As the EDPRS, the DDPs are going to be 5-year plans to reduce poverty and to ensure economic growth.

The Disability Movement in Rwanda felt that this process presents an opportunity to insert the disability issue firmly into the development of Districts. They are currently exploring possibilities in Rutziro District, one of the 30 Districts in Rwanda, which is progressing more rapidly than others. Representatives of the Disability Movement have participated in the District Analysis, which forms the basis for elaborating the DDP. The Unit Heads from the respective District appreciated the collaboration with the Disability Movement and their advise on how to include people with disabilities in reducing poverty and economic development. Due to this initial success the District has invited DPOs to continue their participation in developing the DDP until its finalisation in July 2007.

The Disability Movement realises the need to roll out the good practice from Rutziro District to the other 29 Districts in Rwanda. The challenge remains, HOW this can be done within the constraints of capacity and time. The initial idea to support and work closely with one District in each of the five Provinces, in order to build up a role model for the others, needs to be developed further and put into practice. This process would, however, build naturally on the sensitisation done around the International Disability Day and the discussion forums held in a number of Districts. Furthermore, it would also facilitate to re-structure the Disability Movement to fit the new decentralised administrative structure and to strengthen DPOs at District level.

## Uganda

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Uganda embarked on the development of its third PRSP – called PEAP (Poverty Eradication Action Plan) in 2002. The PEAP III covers the period 2004/2005 – 2007/2008. For the first time the Ugandan disability movement participated in the consultative process with the rest of civil society through the National NGO Forum. Despite a lot of efforts disability was only briefly mentioned in the new PEAP. The development of new and more comprehensive national plan is expected to start in 2007.

**Implementing organisation:** The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), Uganda Society of Disabled Children (USDC) and Action on Disability and Development Uganda (ADD). The Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People (DSI) provided funding for a consultant to develop a concept paper

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The Ugandan disability movement spearheaded by NUDIPU participated for the first time in the consultations on the development of PEAP III. The three implementing DPOs participated in the following working groups:

- Pillar:1: Rapid economic growth and structural adjustment
- Pillar 2: Good Governance and Security
- Pillars 3: Increasing the ability of the poor to raise their income.
- Pillar 4: Enhancing the quality of life of the poor.

A concept paper was developed but only very few elements were included in the final PEAP. Part of the problem was the reluctance by the NGO Forum to include disability as a priority in the final civil society statement to government, which led to a lot of disappointments among the DPOs. In the final PEAP, disability is mentioned under vulnerable groups and the only intervention is community based rehabilitation (see PEAP, p.177).

The experience from the first participation of the Ugandan DPOs in the consultations on the PEAP show how important it is to build alliances with other and more experienced NGOs in order to put disability on the agenda. If the other NGOs are not sensitized on disability, the issue might be looked at as marginal or inferior.

A workshop on PEAP with DPOs and other stakeholders in October 2006 revealed very limited knowledge among the DPOs about PEAP and the meeting decided to form a working committee that shall analyze the existing PEAP and identify the relevant entry points for disability. The information gathered shall be disseminated in accessible and easy to read formats

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to all the DPOs. Furthermore, preparations will be made for the participation in the next PEAP. The working committee will start its work in May 2007.

A report on the involvement of the Ugandan disability movements in the PEAP process is available at: [http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/small\\_prsp.html](http://www.disabilitykar.net/research/small_prsp.html)

NUDIPU's concept paper developed by Davis Ddamulira, Participation of Organizations and Partners for Persons with Disabilities in The PEAP 2003 Revision can be downloaded from: [www.disabilitykar.net/docs/recommendations\\_nudipu.doc](http://www.disabilitykar.net/docs/recommendations_nudipu.doc)

PEAP III can be downloaded from:

<http://www.finance.go.ug/docs/PEAP%202005%20Apr.pdf>

## **News**

On July 2 and 3 a conference on Inclusive Development will take place in Bonn, Germany. The event titled "Development for All? Making Development Inclusive – Including Persons with Disabilities" will be organised by CBM, Handicap International and Bezev (German association for disability and development cooperation). The aim is to initiate an exchange between mainstream development NGOs, disability-specific organisations in the North and the South.