

## Project Update N° 4

Munich, July 26, 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)). A brief project description is available under [www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs03.html](http://www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs03.html). Project activities already started in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tanzania. In addition to these joint project activities, other initiatives take place worldwide. We are pleased to include in this forth update again news from Rwanda, where the Voluntary Service Overseas is implementing a project linked to PRSP and disability. The Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People (DSI) has provided the paragraphs about the Ugandan and the Nepalese experiences. Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter – especially to Natascha Hermann from VSO, Jonas Ingemann Parby and Renu Lohani 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 encourages the knowledge sharing between different stakeholders involved in similar actions worldwide. The project updates are available on [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 ([www2.stakes.fi/sfa/disabilityandpoverty/index.htm](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  
(International Coordination Office)

### Contents:

Country Reports .....	2
Vietnam .....	2
Cambodia.....	3
Tanzania .....	4
Togo.....	5
Rwanda .....	5
Uganda.....	6
Nepal.....	8
News.....	8



## 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)

**Contact:** Ellen Kramer [ellen.kramer@gtz.de], Pham Thuy [thuy.vietcot@netnam.vn] and Vivien Heller [v.heller@ded-vietnam.org]



In Thanh Hoa a sign language course started on June 11, 2007 with 16 participants. The initiative for this course was taken at the planning workshop in March. Six of the participants have hearing impairment; the others are teachers from primary schools in Thanh Hoa province. The course will end on July 31, 2007, but ten additional days will be offered in August for the teachers to strengthen their pedagogical skills in contact with children with hearing impairments.


#### *The sign language class*


The aim of the course is not only to learn sign language, but also to establish contacts to other people with hearing impairments and their organisations. Therefore the participants travelled to Hanoi and visited vocational training centres and workshops and the club of people with hearing impairments. For many participants it was an encouraging experience to see people with disabilities going to work and leading an independent life.


Another aim of the project is to strengthen the contacts on different levels:

- Four group leaders from Thanh Hoa participated at the International Exchange Programme from June 8-11. For the first time these group leaders had the possibility to participate in such an international meeting and to exchange experience with people with disabilities from Korea, Japan and the Philippines.
- Two group leaders participated in the National Conference "Inclusive Development" on June 14, which was organised by the NGO IDEA and financed by USAID. The project coordinator Pham Thuy also had the opportunity to present the handbook and the project "Making PRSP Inclusive" at this event.

## **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.

 **Contact:** Ratha Ken [pm-prsp@hicambodia.org] (project manager)

As reported in previous newsletters the NSDP Inclusive Committee has produced a statement about disability and PRSP and forwarded it to the NGO Forum, government and donor organisations. This was widely acknowledged and the statement was included in NGO Position Papers on Cambodia's Development in 2006 for CDCF (Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum) meeting on June 19 and 20, 2007. Disability has been included in a single chapter and in other sector position statements by providing a "disability box" on issues like Education, Legislation and Governance, Health and Gender. Besides the proposition boxes in these sectors, disability is significantly indicated for many related issues across the statement of Education Sector. The NGO's position paper can be downloaded at: <http://www.ngoforum.org.kh/Development/Docs/doc.htm>.

To empower DPOs in the frame of poverty reduction for people with disabilities the project launched a call for micro-projects in March. In the meantime the NSDP Inclusive Committee selected seven micro-projects, which local DPOs will implement in four different provinces in the coming six months. These are some of the planned project activities:

- Awareness raising on disability and poverty
- Surveys on the situation, problems and needs of people with disabilities, especially women
- Advocacy and lobbying for inclusion of children, women and men with disabilities in the district and commune provinces
- Capacity building for staff members, leaders and representatives of DPOs, self-help-groups and federations
- Initiative vocational training for people with disabilities
- Networking meetings with NGOs

## **Tanzania**

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Tanzania initiated the PRS process in 2000. The second PRSP was published in 2005 and is known under the Swahili abbreviation "MKUKUTA". DPOs were actively involved in the drafting process of MKUKUTA and disability is almost a cross-cutting issue, as it is included in seven sectors.

**Implementing organisations:** CBM and MKUKUTA Disability Network (MDN), funded by the German Government via GTZ project "Systems of Social Protection".

**Contact:** Judith van der Veen [coordinator@prsp-disability.com] (CBM) and Kaganzi Rutachwamagyo [rutakaga@yahoo.com] (network chairman)

On May 27 the annual general meeting of MKUKUTA Disability Network (MDN) took place in Dar Es Salaam.

Although disability is mentioned in the MKUKUTA various times, no disability-specific activities were implemented so far. In the recently published Status Report about the implementation in 2006, there are no references to people with disabilities. They are only summarised under "vulnerable groups" which implies in the Tanzanian context only orphans, girls in pastoralist communities and children who cannot go to school, but have to work. Therefore the MDN was established in 2005. Members agreed on the network's constitution on the annual general meeting, including the following main objectives:

- To establish and maintain a country wide network towards better cooperation and information sharing.
- To coordinate, facilitate and monitor if specific actions related to disability in the MKUKUTA are implemented.
- To coordinate, facilitate and monitor pledges made in the annual general meeting towards achieving the disability related action points are implemented.
- To ensure participation of people with disabilities and their organizations in their individual capacity or through in the MKUKUTA working groups.
- To identify different roles of different stakeholders /implementers involved in the MKUKUTA. Know and share information in relation to implementation and monitoring processes (Who does what?).
- To ensure that MKUKUTA is popularized around the country and the voice of different groups is heard.
- To mainstream disability and combat obstacles to inclusion of disability into development activities especially into budget allocation.

On the annual general meeting it became obvious, that one of the strength of the MDN is the diversity of its members: They work in the fields of human rights, education, economic support and rehabilitation services. In addition, the MDN gets international support, especially from the World Bank and the GTZ. The government of Tanzania through the National Economic Empowerment Council has also pledged its support to the MDN. The government, in collaboration with the Washington Group, is about to conduct a national wide census specifically for citizens with disabilities. This aims at furnishing planners and development agencies with reliable data about people with disabilities and their living situation.

### Togo

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Togo will publish an Interim-PRSP within the next weeks. It has already produced a PRSP some years ago, but it had not been approved by the World Bank and the IMF. The new draft of the PRSP did not include disability in the beginning, but Handicap International contacted UNDP and they gave FETAPH the possibility to make suggestions.

**Implementing organisations:** FETAPH (Fédération Togolaise des Associations de Personnes Handicapées) and Handicap International

**Contact:** Patrick Senia [psenia@hi-togo.org] (Programme Director)

During the last six months the National Federation for Disabled People's Organisations (FETAPH) and Handicap International have lobbied intensively for an inclusive PRSP. They have established contacts to UNDP (a main actor in the Togolese PRSP process), ministries and donor organisations. Now, they have reached another milestone: The FETAPH is invited to participate at the workshop where the I-PRSP will be approved. This workshop will take place from July 24 to 27 in Lomé. The invitation of FETAPH to this occasion shows that disability is recognized as an important issue for poverty reduction in Togo and that PRSP stakeholders see FETAPH and people with disabilities as important participants for the future process.

### Rwanda

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Rwanda has recently published its second PRSP – the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS). 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.

**Contact:** Natascha Hermann [natascha.hermann@vsoint.org] (Disability Advocacy Officer)



Over the last 15 months the government of Rwanda has developed together with development partners, civil society and the private sector the second PRSP. In June 2007 the final draft of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) was published.

For the first time members of the Rwandan National Decade Steering Committee, the Union of the Blind, the Union of the Deaf, the Association of Physically Disabled and the Parent's Association of Children with Mental Disabilities were invited to participate in the EDPRS process. In the PRSP formulation phase, 11 Sector Working Groups (SWG) have been formed and the Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) prioritised the Education, Health and Social Protection SWG. Whilst 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.

## Mainstreaming Disability in Development – The PRSP Way

However, the efforts of the active participation bore fruits and for the first time the EDPRS makes specific references to disability on inclusive education and sustainable self-support:

*‘In the area of special needs, the educational aim is to improve access and retention of vulnerable children. These children include the [...] physically and mentally handicapped. Efforts will be made to [...] ensure that school management is inclusive. The school curriculum will be revised to be more responsive to the needs of children with disabilities’.*

*‘In order to enable food insecure households to move into sustainable self-support, the sector will establish a range of employment alternatives for this category of vulnerable people and ensure that issues of gender equity and disability are taken into account’.*

Furthermore, there are a couple of references to social protection, social inclusion and vulnerable groups, which can be interpreted in favour of people with disabilities. These include e.g. effective and sustainable social protection, which is going to be implemented by establishing budget lines for different vulnerable groups. It refers also to the establishment of a comprehensive social safety net based on a feasibility study to determine vulnerability criteria, establish the number of vulnerable people who would be eligible and to assess their differentiated needs.

Even though the EDPRS is going to be a national strategy, it will be implemented by the Districts. Therefore the Districts started in a parallel process to work on developing District Development Plans (DDP). The DDPs are guided by the national EDPRS whilst taking the local characteristics and needs into account. The DPOs felt that this process presents an excellent opportunity to insert the disability issue firmly into the development of Districts. They worked initially with Rutziro District, one of the 30 Districts in Rwanda, to explore opportunities. Through intensive awareness raising and sensitization on disability issues Rutziro District Authorities put one objective in the DDP on identifying and categorizing people with disabilities in order to allow effective planning for them. They also allocated a separate budget of 503,000 FRW (approximately 1 Mio \$USD) for disability.

For the next months the challenge remains to roll out the success from Rutziro District to the other 29 Districts and, at the national level, to advise on and monitor the implementation of the EDPRS.

## 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)

**Contact:** Jonas Ingemann Parby [parby@yahoo.com] (Project Advisor, NUDIPU – DSI, Kampala)

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 coming year, the key focus will be on the evaluation of the PEAP I (1997-2002) and PEAP II (2003-2008), Uganda's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation PRSPs. This evaluation is leading up to development of the PEAP III which is expected to be finalized during 2008. NUDIPU with the support of the Committee and in collaboration with other civil society organisations, international partners and government actors will work to become closely involved in the process and will be pushing for inclusion of disability sensitivity across all pillars of the PRSP. Specific thematic areas of NUDIPU's lobby work in this end is to be finalized during the coming months. Key areas of work include analysis of the pillars of the policy pillars in the PEAP with a disability perspective, increased engagement with sector working groups in different sectors and with other civil society actors involved in the PEAP process, and development of a paper with specific recommendations on disability mainstreaming to be presented to the government and other stakeholders for inclusion in the next PEAP.

Furthermore, the Uganda Ministry of Finance is commissioning a research project on Disability and Poverty to be carried out by the Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment project (UPPAP). This research project will also involve a number of actors from the DPOs in Uganda and members from the PEAP Committee. The research 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 August-December 2007.

Uganda is a signatory to the UN Convention for people with disabilities and is expected to ratify in the near future. This will create better options for inclusion of disability issues in national planning processes. Furthermore, Uganda has established an Equal Opportunity Act and a Commission with one member representing disabled people. This is also providing an enabling environment in relation to disability inclusion in national policies.

## Nepal

**Status of PRSP and disability:** Nepal has incorporated in its regular planning strategies participatory elements and a poverty dimension to be eligible for World Bank and IMF funding. Therefore the Tenth Plan (2002-2007) is the MDGs-centred Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Disability has not been included as a separate targeted programme in the PRSP/10th plan, but it included skill development and professional trainings for people with disability. Currently an interim plan for 2007 to 2010 is in the drafting phase.

**Implementing organisation:** The National Federation for the Disabled Nepal NFDN supported by DSI

**Contact:** Renu Lohani [Rlohani@wlink.com.np or DSI\_Nepal@wlink.com.np]



As the Tenth Plan is in its final year of implementation, the PRSP and the MDG goals will be incorporated in the interim plan (2007-2010) currently in the final stages of drafting. The interim plan is supposed to fill in the vacuum until the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> plan to be formulated after the completion of the current political transition.

The interim plan draft outlines specific targets for the disability sector, and outlines a long term vision to protect the fundamental rights of people with disability, to develop their inner talent and potential, and to enable them to live a just, respectful and free life. The draft plan outlines two major targets:

- a) To prepare rights oriented legal institutional and policy infrastructures and to amend current provisions in order to empower people with disability.
- b) To create and develop opportunities for the people with disability to develop their talents and potential and to live respectful life.

It focuses on areas like legal provisions, classification of people with disability and to implement programmes targeted to these special needs, to encourage NGOs working in the disability sector, and to make physical infrastructures accessible to people with disability.

In this context empowerment of people with disability is specifically addressed for the first time in the history of planning. In addition, there is also a special focus on children with disability in programmes under the children's sector.

## News

The International Coordination Office will review the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" in the coming months. The revision will incorporate the experience from the project countries and aims to provide updated and practical information on issues linked to PRSP and disability. To improve the handbook any feedback is welcome on the current version. You can use the annexed questionnaire or send your comments to Ursula Miller [umiller@handicap-international.de]. Thanks in advance for your support!

