

Project Update N° 6

Munich, Nov 27, 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 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 sixth update again news from Uganda, where the Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People (DSI) is implementing a project linked to PRSP and disability. Thanks to all contributors to this newsletter – especially to Jonas Inge-mann Parby 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 and also on the website of the GPDD working group on poverty reduction and disability (<http://www.stakes.fi/sfa/disabilityandpoverty>). 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).

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 (German Technical Cooperation) in cooperation with DED (German Development Service)

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The workshop facilitators demonstrate model peer counselling techniques in a role play.

On October 23 to 25 the last workshop in the framework of the capacity development activities for disabled people's organisations in the province of Thanh Hoa took place. The issue this time was Peer Counselling. The training was organised with the support of facilitators from IDEA, a NGO based in Hanoi, and the Disabled Youths Club in Thai Binh. Participants were leaders of self-help-groups and other key persons of disability organisations from the whole province of Thanh Hoa. The feedback to the seminar was very positive. Participants learned basic counselling techniques, such as interviewing, active listening, how to interpret body language and had a lot of time to practice these techniques.

On one evening, a dinner was organised to award the winners of the competition for the awareness raising campaign. This competition was initiated after the last workshop on "Advocacy and Lobbying" in September (see previous newsletter). The task was to develop ideas for slogans and concept which will later be used for posters and TV spots. The winner of the competition was a young woman with a hearing impairment, with the slogan "We are not different from others" - "We are different because we can read and listen by the hands".



Contributions to the competition on awareness raising

Based on the contributions to the competition an awareness raising campaign will be organised. A first TV spot has already been produced and will be broadcasted on the provincial television programme at the beginning of December.

Parallel to the peer counselling training an evaluation mission took place to assess the project implemented so far. The main findings of the evaluation are:

- The self-perception of people with disabilities and how they are perceived by local authorities and the public has changed.
- The self-help groups and other disability organisations are strengthened.

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- Co-operation between local authorities and self-help groups is fostered.

In summary the project has positive results. The thematic workshops offered by the project were a helpful approach to strengthen the networking between people with disabilities and their organisations. There were only some shortcomings as disability organisations in Thanh Hoa could not influence the provincial action plan on disability.

These findings from the evaluation were presented on a workshop in Hanoi on October 30. The aim of the workshop was to assess the experience and the lessons learnt of the Thanh Hoa project and to develop future perspectives. As a result two activities were identified for the continuation of the project:

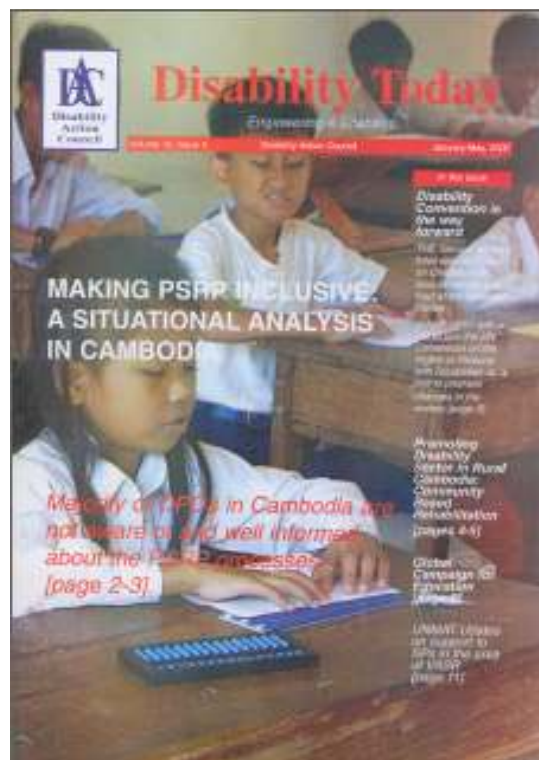
- Development of a training of trainers for participants from different provinces in Vietnam based on the issues covered in Thanh Hoa.
- Support for the disability organisations in Thanh Hoa to implement small-scale projects.

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)



DAC publication with article on PRSP and disability

The last two months were quite calm at the Cambodian project site. The main activity was the compilation of the monitoring report on the micro projects (see previous newsletter). One main finding of this monitoring activity was that it is still very challenging for self-help groups on local level to implement projects related to poverty reduction and to make their activities visible, as they lack some technical skills and knowledge. Therefore the project will offer them some training on advocacy and lobbying, financial management systems, management and leadership. In addition the production of a short documentary film is planned. This film will be broadcasted in TV to make the achievements of the project visible.

The members of the "NSDP Inclusive Committee" continue to link the lobbying and advocacy work on PRSP and disability with their other activities. For example DAC has included an article in their newsletter.

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 [judith@africandecade.co.za] (African Decade) and John Mahegere [jmahegere@yahoo.com] (MDN coordinator)

After some months of silence the MKUKUTA Disability Network (MDN) has restarted its work. A new coordinator has been appointed by November 1, bringing new dynamic to the networks activities. In his first months of duty he was mainly occupied with administrative issues concerning the network, such as:

- The legal registration of the network was not completed until today, but is now almost done.
- The constitution of the network was reviewed in English and Swahili to make it coherent in both languages.
- A bi-annual work plan for the period 2008-2009 was drafted, which will be the basis to approach potential donors.
- A new office has been installed; this will now be a place where network members, especially people with disabilities, can easily meet.
- Drafting a project proposal that will have to be tendered to different donors to support the activities of the MDN and to diversify MDN's financial sources.

Togo

Status of PRSP and disability: Togo finalised the formulation of an Interim-PRSP in August. This I-PRSP needs to be approved by the new government, the World Bank and the IMF in the coming months. Since the beginning of November the drafting process for the full PRSP has begun. Handicap International and FETAPH participate in the process to lobby for inclusion.

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

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In August the umbrella organisation FETAPH participated in a seminar organised by the government to approve the Interim-PRSP. In the previous months FETAPH and Handicap International have done intensive lobbying to include disability aspects into the document. Although disability has not been mainstreamed, the issue has been included at some remarkable points:

- In the poverty assessment it is clearly stated that the health status of household members has an impact on their vulnerability.
- The section about social protection says that the government aims to improve the social protection for people living in poverty, especially to older persons and people with disabilities.
- These social protection measures are specified for people with disabilities. It is planned to improve the professional education for this target group, to support people with disabilities to find jobs and to review sector policies and include disability specific aspects.

Recently legislative election run well in Togo. This will have positive influence on international development cooperation in general and on PRS specifically. IMF and World Bank will intensify their work during 2008 and therefore it is quite likely that the PRS process will be continued.

Liberia

Status of PRSP and disability: Liberia has published an Interim-PRSP which covers the period July 2006-June 2008, but it does not include any reference to disability. The formulation process of the full PRSP, which shall be completed by the end of March 2008, is on-going and the poverty assessment has already started.

Implementing organisations: Handicap International and the National Union of Organisations of the Disabled in Liberia (NUOD)

Contact: Alice Vahanian / François-David Buquet [hiliberia_dp@yahoo.fr] (Programme director Handicap International)

Liberia is currently working on the full PRSP and the poverty assessment has started some weeks ago. The formulation process is meant to be finalised by the end of March 2008. To follow the process and get a disability dimension included in the PRSP, representatives from Handicap International and the National Union of Organisations of the Disabled participated in several consultative meetings, for examples in meetings of the working group "Gender and Equity".

To further promote inclusion Handicap International and the National Union of Organisations of the Disabled will organise a workshop on Nov 30 and December 1. Invited participants will mainly be representatives from disabled people's organisations, service providers and concerned ministries. The aim is to raise the awareness and understanding of the disability stakeholders on the PRSP in Liberia, develop ideas how disability can be systematically included in the process and how people with disabilities can participate in PRS and other development policies in future.

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 second PEAP followed. It is valid until 2008; therefore an evaluation is currently underway and will lead to the formulation of PEAP III.

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 Consultant, NUDIPU



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 disabled people's issues in the national planning processes of the Government of Uganda. Members of committee include resource persons from other DPOs,

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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 considered 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 October and November 2007, the PEAP revision process has started in Uganda. Uganda has decided to develop a National Development Plan (NDP) instead of a Poverty Eradication Action Plan. The drafting process has started and NUDIPU has attended some of the general planning meetings with government and other civil society organisations. NUDIPU and its members are planning to have a workshop in December to gather views from DPOs and other stakeholders within disability, including stakeholders from relevant line ministries, to decide on the key issues that must be included in the NDP as regard disability, both is specific sectors and as a cross cutting issue. The outcome of this workshop is expected to be a working paper that will feed into the drafting process and will be followed closely by the PEAP committee.

A research on disability and poverty which was supposed to be completed by end of this year was postponed by the Ministry of Finance to January 2008. The research is still expected to feed into the overall PEAP evaluation and the drafting of the next NDP.

News

CBR & PRSP

The joint conference by CBR Africa Network (CAN) and World Health Organisation (WHO): “CBR: Inclusive Policy Development and Implementation” took place in Johannesburg from 29th October to 1st November.

CAN was born out of the resolutions of the Africa Community based Rehabilitation (CBR) conference that took place in Uganda in 2001. At this conference members felt that there was a need to share extensively the available information and experience on CBR in Africa. CAN emerged as the organisation to undertake this task.

The conference attracted about 250 participants from different African countries. For the first time there was representation from French and Portuguese speaking African countries as well as representation from North Africa. The range of participants included persons with disabilities, policy makers, parents of disabled children, CBR workers and other professionals, Community based and International agencies.

The theme of the Conference was "CBR: Inclusive Policy Development and Implementation". On the background of Community Based Rehabilitation being defined as a "strategy for poverty reduction within community development" by the joint position paper of WHO, ILO and UNESCO in 2004, some number of presentations focused on CBR for implementing the MDGs and promoting the participation of persons with disabilities in PRSPs. The following initiatives were presented and in part discussed during the Conference:

- The pilot project of the MKUKUTA Disability Network (MDN) on inclusive PRSP in Tanzania,

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- the work of the cooperation between GTZ, Handicap International and CBM on PRS and disability
- the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) on disability and poverty reduction,
- and the cooperation of the African Decade and CBM on promoting inclusive PRSP - also in the context of CBR - in Africa.

For more information, please contact Andreas Pruisken, CBM [andreas.pruisken@cbm.org].

Website on disability and poverty reduction

In the last months the website of the GPDD (Global Partnership for Disability and Development) working group "Poverty Reduction and Disability" has been restructured by the team at STAKES, which launches the site. This website provides a platform for exchanging information, managing knowledge and accumulating experience on how to make people with disabilities beneficiaries and agents of action in poverty reduction strategies. The website lives from active participation, everybody experienced in the concerned field is invited to share information, documents or reports. Please find more information on <http://www.stakes.fi/sfa/disabilityandpoverty>.

New publication

The UN has launched a new publication titled "*From exclusion to equality: realizing the rights of persons with disabilities*". It is a handbook for parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities. The book can be downloaded at: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/>.