

Project Update N° 9

Munich, September 03, 2008

Dear reader,

Since August 2008 Handicap International, the Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) and the GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) have been implementing the project “Mainstreaming disability in development – The PRSP way”. A brief project description is available under www.handicap-international.de/projekte/prs03.html. The activities in Vietnam have entered into a second phase in 2008 and the activities in Cambodia were finalised in Mai 08. The experiences of this project led to the revision of the handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive” (www.making-prsp-inclusive.org).

The idea of this newsletter is not only to inform about the core activities of “Mainstreaming disability in development – The PRSP way”, but also to share experience and knowledge with others. Therefore we invite all initiatives on inclusive PRSPs to use this newsletter for reporting on their own activities and experiences. This time we include a report from FENAPH, Rwanda.

Thanks to all contributors of this newsletter!

The newsletter is published every three months. Should you have any questions, comments or contributions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Ursula Miller: umiller@handicap-international.de.

Best regards,

Stefanie Ziegler and Ursula Miller
(Handicap International)

Contents:

Country Reports	2
Vietnam	2
Cambodia.....	3
Liberia.....	4
Rwanda	5
News.....	6
Translation of “Making PRSP Inclusive”.....	6



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. Since the beginning of 2007 GTZ and DED are supporting self-help groups in the pilot province in Thanh Hoa to empower them to influence provincial development policies, like the NAP.

Implementing organisations: GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) in cooperation with DED (German Development Service) and IDEA (Inclusive Development in Action)

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



Participants of the „Training of Trainers“ in August

In 2008 the Vietnamese project aims to establish a trainer pool on “Capacity Development for Making PRS Inclusive”. As a first step IDEA, in cooperation with GTZ and DED, organised a core group for reviewing and collecting already existing Vietnamese materials on the topics Peer Counselling, Lobbying and Awareness Raising, Models of Disability and Nationals and International Policies. The core group assessed for which topics new materials have to be developed. Two meetings were organised in May 2008 and in 22- 23 June for the above mentioned works. Training materials in Vietnamese and English for the topics Peer

Counselling, Lobbying and Awareness Raising, Models of Disabilities and Nationals and International Policies are now drafted

As second step IDEA has selected 20 trainees from Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, Thai Nguyen, Ha Noi and Nam Ha provinces. These persons will be trained in the mentioned topics and will become members of the trainer pool. Each training combines an introduction of the mentioned topics and a training of trainers. At the first training, held from August 1st to August 5th, three days were dedicated to analyzing and discussing models of disability as well as introducing international and national disability policies. The two remaining days were used for a training of trainers. This action-based training design enables the trainees to connect theory and practice and to develop strategies for their future work as trainers right from the beginning.

The capacity development activities for the groups in Thanh Hoa are also continuing. After the workshop on “Developing project ideas and writing proposals” in March, the groups have worked on concepts for micro projects. Four projects were submitted to GTZ and DED. DED will support three projects:

1. **Training of trainers:** for 15 trainees (leaders of SHGs) who will work as facilitators at district and commune level; the training focuses on communication skills and expands knowledge about and skills for awareness raising.

Mainstreaming Disability in Development – The PRSP Way

2. **Establishment of self-help-groups:** a two day-training addresses officials of the district departments, members of the mass organizations as well as people with disabilities from three districts of Thanh Hoa (Quảng Xương, Đông Sơn, Như Thanh) (in cooperation with the Association for Orphans and People with Disabilities). The 75 participants will be facilitated to set up self-help groups and networks within their districts.
3. **Trainings on international and national disability policies** which is not only aimed at raising awareness of people with disabilities but also officials of three district departments and the mass organizations.

GTZ will support a project of the newly established Club for Persons with Hearing Impairments. They planed to organise a sign language course for 25 persons with and without hearing impairments. The course started at the end of August and lasts two months.

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). Until May 2008 the project activities were funded by the German government via GTZ support Project for Mainstreaming Poverty Reduction. Starting from July 2008 the Spanish Cooperation is funding the follow-up project called "Mainstreaming disability in Development Policies".

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



Consultative workshop on Disability and Development Policies, August 15, 2008

Although the project on disability and PRS finished in May 2008, a new project called "Mainstreaming disability in Development Policies" started in July 2008. This project is planned for 18 months and is supported by the Spanish Cooperation and implemented by Handicap International in collaboration with the Disability Action Council (DAC) which is functioning as a secretariat for the project.


The project cooperates with national and local Cambodian disabled people's organisations and intends to raise the inclusion of disability aspects as a cross-cutting human rights issue. This multi-partner project will target a wide network of mainstream and disability focused civil society organisations, international agencies and semi-governmental entities, Human Rights and poverty focus organizations, as well as government officials. It is led by a committee of DPOs and supported by local key actors on disability. It will be implemented both at national level (researches, workshops, technical advise, advocacy, inclusion in National & Sectoral policies, networking, communication,) and at local level (researches, monitoring, training of DPOs, small grants calls, seminars, technical support). The overall aim of the project is that people with disabilities are acknowledged as full citizens with equal rights, and thus are participating and receiving a fair share in the development of Cambodia.


With the start of the new project, the current NSDP inclusive committee is now being reviewed and is open for new members to increase its diversities and to offer a larger space for exchange and communication with other stakeholders.


As acknowledged in previous newsletters, the consultative meeting between donors and the Cambodian government – called CDCF (Cambodian Development Cooperation Forum) – is held annually to discuss about development issues and donor commitments to Cambodia, and more specifically to monitor the implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). To take this opportunity, a consultative workshop on “Disability and Development Policies” was organised on August 15, 2008 to enable all key disability actors to express their concerns, problems and comments and to monitor the development and disability issues within 2007 and 2008. Regarding the inputs from this workshop, an identified core team is now working on the production of a statement to be incorporated with the joint position paper of NGOs in this year. This statement intends to influence the government, donors, and other members of civil society on inclusive development.

Meanwhile, a research study has been started assessing the situation of people with disabilities. It compiles existing data and conducts some additional surveys to close the gaps in data, information and analysis.

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, was completed in April 2008, its implementation will start in July 2008.

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

 **Contact:** François-David Buquet [hiliberia_dp@yahoo.fr] (country director Handicap International)

On August 06th, representatives of DPOs met with representatives of the lower house to initiate the process of ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In a Liberia that is under a complete process of renovating institutions and structural development, the outputs of the meeting were positive as the representatives, who received a copy of the UN Convention and a summary of the principles, gave their assurance of a rapid ratification.

Lobby actions via the press and senators have already started to ensure ratification shortly, giving a legal frame to the rights of persons with disabilities.


The judiciary and health committee of the lower house gave a positive report on the 14th of August and proposed to vote positively in favour of the ratification of the UNCRPD. The process has now been transferred to the senate. As today, a strong lobbying directly towards concerned senators has been done disseminating the UNCRPD and a resume about why, as a parliamentarian, there is a need to ratify the UNCRPD. This paper recalls the promises of the PRS, which emphasizes: “*The Government wishes to build an inclusive and highly participatory democracy with strong systems of governance in which rights are respected (especially those of women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities), people are engaged in the governance process, institutions serve the public good, and national resources are used for the benefit of all*” (p 22, PRS document).


Mainstreaming Disability in Development – The PRSP Way


Meetings were held with the head of the judiciary and health committee of the senate in charge to report on the UNCRPD in order to push forward and put the issue on the floor of the senate. Also a radio broadcasting involving DPOs youth representatives and senators was held on UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia) radio about the UNCRPD. Representatives of the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare agreed to be on board to lobby about the importance for the senate to issue a positive bill in order for persons with disabilities to have the same rights as any other Liberian citizen. On Friday 29th of August, the report of the judiciary and health committee has been produced and disseminated to the senate.

This week a plenary session is expected to take place with the request of ratification of the UNCRPD to be debated at the senate as the recess of the senate has been postponed until the 13th of September. Most of the senators are already fully informed and assured their support to push forward for the ratification. The next step will be that the law goes to the President of the Republic of Liberia for enactment into law.

Rwanda

 **Status of PRSP and disability:** Rwanda started the PRS process in 2002. The first PRSP did not include persons with disabilities and it focused only on social factors. It was revised in 2007 and was named EDPRS (Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy). In the second strategy the accent was put on the economic growth of different sectors such as: Agriculture, infrastructure, social protection etc. It includes eleven sectors and cross cutting issues which must be integrated in each sector. Disabled persons are linked to the issue of social inclusion which is one of the four components of the cross cutting issues (HIV AIDS, Gender, Environment and Social inclusion). From September 2006 to September 2007 logframes were developed for all sectors.

 **Implementing organisations:** FENAPH (National Federation of people with disabilities) in collaboration with VSO (Volunteer Service Overseas)

 **Contact:** Jules Ndashimye [fajules100@yahoo.com] (Executive Secretary of FENAPH)

This year, the government started the Vision Twenty-Twenty Umurenge Programme (VUP) – a pilot program to implement the poverty reduction strategy. The programme covers all 30 districts of Rwanda and their 416 sectors and provides three major kinds of assistance for persons living in poverty:

- Direct support
- Public works
- Micro-credits

The direct support component will be provided to the poorest of the poor, public works (2nd step or graduation) started before the direct support because it is a system which already exists in another Government programme. During the implementation of this (Public Works) the National Federation of people with disabilities (FENAPH) tried to lobby the coordinator of VUP. The coordinator agreed with FENAPH to sensitize the group in charge of identifying the beneficiaries of the public works programme, on disability issues. A document was developed, which explains different types of jobs for persons with disabilities, for example: Leading controlling, keeping the stores, secretariat and some manual activities (eventually with the support of technical devices). The sensitization was successful and according to the coordinator more persons with disabilities are now integrated in the programme. This positive achievement requires a kind of monitoring system in future. FENAPH decided to monitor this sort of activity in 10 districts out of 30 due to the limit of funds. For monitoring, FENAPH plans to go down on the grass-roots level and meet the group in charge of identifying the poorest families, representatives of persons with disabilities, local authorities, district VUP

coordinators and one or two neighbouring district VUP coordinators to support them to use the same experience in their respective districts.

In the coming months the government plans to implement the direct support component of VUP. According to the VUP coordinator disability is already included in the list of criteria to be taken into consideration during the identification of beneficiaries. This shows that the lobbying and advocacy work of FENAPH was successful, because persons in charge of VUP are now recognising that persons with disabilities need to be included in the poverty reduction strategy.

In addition to the advocacy work FENAPH is also providing mobility aids and rehabilitation to persons with disabilities. This is part of a 3 year pilot project of a solidarity fund established since 2006 by FENAPH in partnership with Handicap International. Some of the beneficiaries of this project can now participate in the public works programme of VUP. Anybody who likes to receive more information on these projects is invited to write to Jules Ndashimye, Executive Secretary of FENAPH.

News

Translation of “Making PRSP Inclusive”

The updated online handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive” has now been translated into French. The Portuguese translation is currently on going and will be available approximately by beginning of October. Please visit www.making-prsp-inclusive.org.