

Project Update N° 8

Munich, June 05, 2008

Dear reader,

For more than one year now, 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 will be finalised this month. 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,

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(Handicap International)

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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. 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)

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In 2008, the capacity development of the self-help groups in the pilot project in Thanh Hoa will be consolidated through different activities:


- **Small grants** for self-help groups in Thanh Hoa: At a workshop (“Developing project ideas and writing proposals”) the members of the self-help groups analyzed which support they need to further develop their own capacities as well as how to use their capacities to strengthen other people with disabilities and/or their self-help groups. On this basis, they developed project ideas, learned to plan budgets and write proposals for small grants.
- **Publication of oral histories and written life stories:** The project team encouraged members of the self-help groups to write their life story and invited them to participate in narrative/episodic interviews. The life stories and interviews will be published. The aim is to provide people with disabilities the opportunity to express their world view and to enrich the traditional perceptions and assumptions about people with disabilities. The idea to collect and publish stories of and about persons with disability received high approval and interest. The interviews and stories reflect different perspectives and backgrounds and represent unique and varying portraits of the lives of persons with disabilities.
- **Photo Voice Project** in cooperation with the “Civil Society and Good Local Governance Programme” of the DED: Photo Voice blends a grassroots approach with photography and social action. It provides cameras not to professionals but to people with least access to decision-makers affecting their lives. Photo Voice is a process where people can identify, represent and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique. The goals are to enable people to record and reflect their community’s strengths and problems; to promote dialogue about important issues through group discussion and photographs; to engage policy makers. In September, an exhibition will be organized in Hanoi.


At the national level a core group was organized which is linked to a Vietnamese NGO (I-DEA, Inclusive Development in Action). Based on the handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive” and the experiences made in Thanh Hoa, the core group will develop and publish training materials and small handbooks on relevant topics for understanding and participating in the PRS process. The identified topics are *Peer Counselling, Lobbying and Advocacy, Models of Disability and National and International Policies on Disability* as well as *Accessibility*. The core group reviewed already existing materials and started to develop clear and comprehensible handbooks/brochures which will be published in Vietnamese and English. In the course of

2008, the core group will establish a certified trainer pool on “Capacity Development for *Making PRS Inclusive*”. A training of trainers and further workshops on the identified topics will be conducted between July and October.

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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The project activities in Cambodia are currently coming to an end. In the last three months the main activities included the project evaluation and the production of a film.


In April 2008 the project activities in Cambodia were evaluated. The main findings of the evaluation are:


- At the beginning of the project, people with disabilities and their organisations did not participate in the PRS process, and they themselves were not aware of PRS. The disability sector had not been included in the PRS process. Due to the project, knowledge about the PRS among the disability stakeholders was spread and their interest to promote the disability dimension into the NSDP was raised.
- The cooperation between disability stakeholders and commune councils on community level was strengthened significantly through the micro projects which proved to be a helpful approach and learning field for cooperation. Most of the micro projects succeeded in establishing regular mechanisms for consultation and discussion with the commune councils.
- The pilot project “Making PRS Inclusive” faces difficulties regarding ownership on the national level, but almost all disability organisations within the committee approve the leadership role that Handicap International has in the NSDP Inclusive Committee even though it is an international NGO and an organisation for persons with disabilities. The organisations consider the work of the committee as important and most of them expect Handicap International to continue the committee work.

As reported in the previous newsletter, the Cambodian project and the “NSDP Inclusive Committee” have decided to produce a promotional film named: "**Cambodian Persons with Disabilities and Their Rights - Mainstreaming Disability into Development**". The film aims to promote the rights of persons with disabilities and mainstreaming in Cambodia. It presents the main principles of the UN Convention, the declaration of Human Rights and the emphasis on the impacts of the project from the grass root to the national level. The final version was finalized in May. Subtitles, voice and sign language make it accessible for a high number of spectators. As planned and agreed, the film will be broadcasted on some local TV channels through a TV programme, which belongs to NCDP, one of the members of the NSDP Inclusive Committee. In addition, a number of film copies will be distributed to all stakeholders involved with the disability sector, the NSDP, and the local development process.

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)

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Since the end of 2007 Handicap International and the National Union of Organisations of the Disabled (NUOD) in Liberia have actively participated in the PRS formulation process.

An introductory training to 20 DPOs was organized jointly by the NUOD and Handicap International in December 2007 to disseminate information about the PRS, the process and the importance to have the civil society and specifically DPOs included in the whole process of formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. This workshop initiated the creation of a steering group of DPOs led by NUOD that continues to influence the formulation process. A position paper on the problems encountered in their daily life written by persons with disabilities and ways to address these problems (articulated around the 4 pillars of the PRS) was produced and widely disseminated to various government institutions, UN bodies, embassies, donors, INGOs and national NGOs after the workshop.

The process of consultation was very open. It started with county consultations, then regional county consultations where NUOD and Handicap International succeeded to attend in all of them and to participate and raise the voice on the rights of persons with disabilities in the process of reconstruction of Liberia within the PRS process.


The drafts released were also commented with NUOD and a steering group of DPOs in the four pillar groups (security, economic revitalization, governance & rule of law, infrastructure & basic services) in order to obtain a document that takes into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities.


In March 2008 the final document was published, which is available at: <http://www.emansion.gov.lr/content.php?sub=Final%20PRS&related=PRS>.


The document stresses that “*Liberia must ensure that the benefits from growth, and the provision of basic health and education services, are spread much more equitably throughout the population, including to women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.*” (p. 20). Persons with disabilities are also recognised as being among the poorest of the poor and are mentioned in the context of economic growth, security issues, rural development, employment, strengthening governance and rebuilding infrastructure.

The process is not yet finalised and there is still a need for disability stakeholders to participate actively in the implementation of the activities under the respective pillars in order to review the deliverables of the PRS and to ensure that DPOs join the monitoring and evaluation process.

Tanzania

 **Status of PRSP and disability:** Tanzania initiated its 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".

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The MKUKUTA Disability Network (MDN) is currently composed of 27 members which include Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), organizations working with people with disabilities as well as key players of the Tanzanian government. MDN's vision is "to empower people with disabilities towards achieving a better quality of life" and its mission is "to create an enhanced environment for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MKUKUTA and other programmes related to social and economic development". MDN focuses its activities on the education sector.

MDN's member organizations managed to be actively involved in the drafting process of the MKUKUTA during the second half of 2005. Nevertheless, it became clear that their expertise with regards to monitoring, lobbying and advocacy activities aiming at the inclusion of the rights of people with disabilities into the PRSP could still be enhanced. Also, it was suggested to focus the network's activities (which do currently cover the whole country) on one target area in order to work more efficiently. In December 2007, the MDN Executive Committee hired a new national coordinator, Mr. Mathew Kihulya, to bundle the members' activities in the MDN secretariat.

The network has started to advocate for the collection of reliable statistical data on disability.

MDN will meet representatives of the ministry of Education in the first half of June. The aim is to obtain data on the enrolment of children with disabilities in primary and secondary schools as well as in higher learning institutions. This information will then be used as an advocacy tool to accentuate the importance of providing a good education to children with disabilities. There will also be a critical review of the statistical education reports and the MKUKUTA reports, as these documents are considered not to include the concerns of people with disabilities adequately.

An MDN survey conducted in April 2008 revealed that the enrolment of children with disabilities in Tanzania had only increased from 0.1% in 2006 to 0.29% in 2008, which is far too low in comparison with the target stated in the MKUKUTA document to raise this share up to 20% by 2010. With regards to secondary education, at present only 0,1% of the total number of students enrolled do have a disability.

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)

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The Federation of Disabled persons participated in all phases of EDPRS from the drafting of National logframe to the elaboration of Districts Development Plans. At national level the participation was quite effective although the Government is always faster than the civil society organisations, especially disabled person's organisations.

Although few of the districts' development plans effectively include the issues of disabled persons during the first year of EDPRS, hopefully disabled persons will be included in the following years of the plan. In the future the strategy of social protection sector, which is currently elaborated, will determine how persons with disabilities will take part in the implementation of EDPRS. Persons with disabilities were represented in two working groups (definition and classification working group and Monitoring and Evaluation working group) of the last social protection cluster meeting, which took place on 14th of May 2008. The cluster meeting will be in charge of mainstreaming all issues concerning the implementation of EDPRS' social protection sector.

In addition, FENAPH lobbied for the Vision Twenty-Twenty Umurenge Programme (VUP) which is a pilot programme to implement the poverty reduction strategy and to include disabled persons. FENAPH and the programme coordination agreed to work in closer collaboration, in order to share information on how disabled persons can be supported to become self-sustained. The aim is to avoid that all disabled persons receive direct support from VUP. Instead it is preferable, that disabled persons should advance from the direct support programme to public work programmes and even to credit programmes, which are the other two components of VUP.

The Rwandan Government is willing to include disabled persons but the disability movement lacks the means to build up a strong coordination for advocacy and lobby activities. It may be successful though if FENAPH takes the lead, in partnership with other organisations.