

Project Update N° 7

Munich, March 3, 2008

Dear reader,

For more than one year, Handicap International, the Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) and the GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) are 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 now entered into a second phase and the activities in Cambodia will be finalised soon. The experiences of this project led to the revision of the handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive”.

**The handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive”
is now available as online-version:
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. For the third time now we include information from Uganda, where the Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People (DSI) is implementing a project in cooperation with NUDIPU.

Thanks to all contributors of this newsletter!

Please note, that we have changed the frequency of this newsletter: it will now be published every three months. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us: Ursula Miller: umiller@handicap-international.de.

Best regards,

Stefanie Ziegler and Ursula Miller
(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.

Implementing organisations: GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) in cooperation with DED (German Development Service)

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In the last three months, the activities in Vietnam focused on awareness raising and capacity development of local organisations of and for persons with disabilities in the pilot province Thanh Hoa.



German visitors with vice-major of Thanh Hoa visiting the exhibition.

A video clip was produced and disseminated in the provincial TV programme of Thanh Hoa. The video clip can be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.making-prsp-inclusive.org/4-case-studies/46-vietnam/466-perspectives.html>. Another awareness raising activity was the participation of the Association of People with Disabilities and Orphans in a photo exhibition of Thanh Hoa city. 20 photos from the workshops and activities of the project were printed and presented from 6th to 15th December in the city hall.

A new club for persons with hearing impairments was officially registered under the Thanh Hoa Association of People with Disabilities and Orphans and acknowledged by the Department of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs on 15th of January 2008. The club is an outcome of the sign language courses and workshops which were implemented in 2007. In these courses and workshops persons with hearing impairments met not only each other, but also other persons with disabilities and local authorities. In this atmosphere they developed the idea to establish their own club. This new club plans to celebrate an opening ceremony in March.

In January the president of the Thanh Hoa Association of People with Disabilities and Orphans organised a meeting with the leaders of self-help-groups and clubs, which are registered under the Association. In this meeting a call for proposals of the World Bank Civil Society Fund 2008 was introduced to encourage the clubs and self-help-groups to submit their projects. Some of the self-help-groups have already developed project ideas.

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 seven micro projects implemented by local DPOs and self-help groups were completed by the end of December 2007. The implementation of these projects was used as a learning process for all participating organisations and persons to understand the possibility to influence the local PRS process. Regarding the activities of these projects, a final monitoring exercise was done in late December with the participations of the members of the NSDP Inclusive Committee. Although some shortcomings were identified regarding the technical skills in advocacy and lobbying, most of the participating organisations have succeed to influence the local development plans and to include disability issues. The concerns, needs, and abilities of persons with disabilities are now recognised by the commune councils, by school teachers, by public servants in health centre and by the communities in general. The relationship amongst persons with disabilities themselves and between persons with disabilities and local authority has been built and improved. Most of the communes in the project areas have already included disability in the Commune Development Plan for 2008 in specific areas, for example:

- By promoting the accessibility for children with disabilities to education,
- helping poor persons with disabilities to participate in vocational trainings or to gain free access to public health care,
- encouraging persons with disabilities to participate in social activities such as community meetings or elections.



Participants of the Training Course on Basic Financial Management


However, the project teams and the local authorities would need more time to follow up the progress and to expand activities in other nearby areas where discrimination against persons with disabilities is still challenging.


Furthermore, Handicap International already provided two training courses on grass root advocacy and on basic financial management to the key members of the micro projects, due to the lack of technical skills, which were identified in the monitoring process. The advocacy course was implemented in cooperation with a


skilled organisation called the Advocacy and Policy Institute. Participants said that this training was really useful to extend their knowledge and experience and to improve their professional work at the grass root level. The capacity building organisation Silaka cooperated in implementing the workshop on financial management. Participants evaluated the training as being interesting and useful as it was targeting their weaknesses and has introduced a very good practical approach in financial management work.

At the end of February, Silaka offered another course on the Management and Leadership in cooperation with Handicap International.

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)

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In Liberia Handicap International, the National Union of Organisations of Disabled (NUOD) and its member organisations were deeply involved in the formulation of the PRSP.

As announced in the last newsletter, NUOD and Handicap International organised a workshop on disability and PRSP on November 30 and December 1, 2007. The workshop aimed to bring different stakeholders together and raise awareness on the importance of poverty reductions strategies for persons with disabilities. It also intended to enable the participants to define strategies how to include disability into the PRS of Liberia. Workshop participants were mainly members from organisations of persons with disabilities, but representatives from governmental department and international NGOs were also present. To follow-up the activities on PRS in Liberia, a working group was established at the end of the workshop. This group consists of persons from organisations representing different types of impairments, men and women alike. The group represented the disability community in the Montserrado County Consultations and other events. It also prepared a position paper, which was signed by NUOD, the Group 77 (G77) and Handicap International and which was forwarded to different PRS stakeholders.

In January the draft 0 of the PRSP was circulated. Handicap International, NUOD and the working group members realised that this draft did not mention disability and they commented on it intensively. Recently the draft 1 of the PRSP has been released and it included some recommendations of the working group: For example persons with disabilities are mentioned whenever vulnerable population or specific groups as women and children are mentioned, too. Still, the working group sees some needs for improvement, such as:

- The importance that security forces should ensure equal protection for persons with disabilities. This issue should be included in the training for police and military forces.
- The Government has to ensure employment for persons with disabilities, especially by implementing the existing law (Act to establish National Commission on Disabilities, 2005), which says that 4% of employees should be skilled persons with disabilities. It

will also ensure equal rights to access to micro-finance programmes to start medium-term businesses or farming activities for persons with disabilities.

- The Government is the duty bearer and has to ensure full implementation of the already existing Act to establish the National Commission on Disabilities (2005): persons with disabilities will be represented in the National Legislature; the establishment of a bureau of Special Education within the Ministry of Education; increase the budget of the National Commission on Disabilities. It will take steps to empower and develop capacities of organisations of persons with disabilities to enable persons with disabilities to speak for themselves effectively.
- The health care delivery system will have to be accessible and affordable for persons with disabilities. Concerning Human Resources, the Government needs serious commitment to identify, train and retain qualified health professional on prevention and early detection of disability.

The final PRSP will be published by the end of March, then it will be presented to the parliament and its implementation should start in July 2008.

Uganda

Status of PRSP and disability: Uganda started with systematic poverty reduction plans quite early. The first PEAP (Poverty Eradication Action Plan) was launched in 1997. PEAP II was implemented in 2001-2003. PEAP III followed from 2004/05-2007/08. Disability was only captured vaguely in the last PEAP, but not considered as a cross-cutting issue. Currently, Uganda is in the process of evaluating ten years of PEAP implementation while at the same time developing a new national planning framework the National Development Plan (NDP) 2008-2012.

Implementing organisation: The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), supported by the Danish Council of Organizations of Disabled People (DSI)

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The National Union of Disabled People in Uganda (NUDIPU) is the umbrella organization for DPOs in Uganda. As such, it is a key organisation representing disabled people's interest in relation to involvement in national political processes in Uganda such as the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) and the National Development Plan (NDP).

As per May 2007, NUDIPU decided to create a small committee to undertake more systematic work on inclusion of disabled persons' issues in the national planning processes of the Government of Uganda. Members of the 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 considered relevant. The key purpose of the committee is to support the lobby and advocacy work of NUDIPU vis-à-vis the Ugandan PEAP which has now changed its name to the National Development Plan (NDP), national budgets and other national planning processes by providing technical input and advice and increasing and improving networking opportunities.

In December 2007, the committee developed a draft working paper to be submitted to the national steering committee of the NDP. NUDIPU gathered all national DPOs as well as representatives from key ministries for a workshop to share the draft and get comments and input. The Minister of State for Disability also attended the meeting and supported the initiative. Following

this, the PEAP Committee has been sharing the paper with key sector ministries to ensure inclusion of disability issues in the NDP. NUDIPU has also worked closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to ensure that disability issues are included the priorities of that sector. In addition, NUDIPU has initiated visits to sector ministries to ensure inclusion of disability issues in sector priorities.

NUDIPU has also engaged in the parallel development of working papers in civil society and has pushed for inclusion of disability in these fora. A two-pronged strategy is applied: lobbying for a separate, elaborate section on persons with disabilities in the NDP, as well as insuring that the different sectors consider disability as a cross-cutting issue in their working papers and priorities.



A research on disability and poverty and how persons with disabilities have benefited from the national poverty eradication programmes over the last ten years was supposed to be completed by end of 2007, but was postponed by the Ministry of Finance to February 2008. The research output is still expected to feed into the overall PEAP evaluation and the drafting of the next NDP. Four researchers with expertise in disability are involved in the study.

News

UN Commission for Social Development: Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

In February 2008 CBM was invited to speak about mainstreaming disability in development in the framework of the 46th session of the UN Commission on Social Development in New York. Since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission has been the key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Each year since then, the Commission has taken up key social development themes as part of its follow-up to the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit. This year's subject was "Promoting full employment and decent work for all".

As best practice example, Judith van der Veen co-worker of the Secretariat of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities, a CBM partner, presented the joint initiative "Making PRSP Inclusive" of GTZ, Handicap International and CBM.

As a follow-up of this session the commission will develop a resolution about "Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda", which will be published soon.

More information: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/csocd2008.htm>

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Making PRSP Inclusive – Updated

The updated version of the handbook “Making PRSP Inclusive” is now available as online-version at www.making-prsp-inclusive.org. The revision integrates the experiences made in different project countries. The structure of the handbook has been reorganised and the content was updated and improved, for example:

- Country case studies include now Vietnam and Cambodia.
- All chapters contain more examples.
- The toolbox is improved, especially by the inclusion of tools used during the implementation of project activities.

The website aims to be more user-friendly and easier to read compared to the first version of the handbook. Special functions like an automatic glossary and a search area have been added. It also seeks to achieve accessibility standards.

As an online-handbook, “Making PRSP Inclusive” will be a living document, constantly developing and improving. Therefore everybody is invited to send comments and information to be incorporated on the site; please contact Ursula Miller: umiller@handicap-international.de.

