

Project Update N° 1

Munich, Dec 22, 2006

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 & 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) and on past experience in Tanzania, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone and Honduras. Activities already initiated in Vietnam and Cambodia and other countries such as Tanzania or Ethiopia will continue in early 2007.

This Newsletter aims to provide regularly updated information on these activities and related initiatives. 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 encourage the knowledge sharing between different stakeholders involved in similar actions worldwide. Please feel free to forward this information to anyone who might be interested. Should you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact us (umiller@handicap-international.de).

We wish you happy holidays and all the best for 2007,

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Notes on project countries

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" with a comprehensive approach was recently published.

Implementing organisation: GTZ Vietnam in cooperation with DED (German Development Service)

To initiate project activities in Vietnam, a workshop took place in Hanoi on Dec. 1, 2006. The aim of the workshop was to get input from the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" and decide on further steps for project implementation. A range of civil society and government representatives participated in the workshop. Proposed activities range from "peer counselling for living skills" to supporting future umbrella organisation of DPOs and disseminating the "National Action Plan to Support People with Disabilities". The gtz's "poverty reduction support" project offers an ideal framework and the proposed activities will be implemented in one of its pilot provinces. The first step is analysing needs and conducting an in-depth-study of stakeholders (December 2006-January 2007), as well as translating the relevant parts of the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" into Vietnamese. The workshop report and the description of next steps are available on request.

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 organisation: Handicap International is working together with a recently founded coordination committee consisting of four DPOs: CDPO, NCDP, Disability Action Centre (DAC), and Action on Disability and Development (ADD). The project activities are funded by GTZ.

In Cambodia, Handicap International is already working on a detailed analysis of the PRS and the disability situation. A first meeting took place in October, and as a result four DPOs formed the "NSDP Inclusive Committee". This committee will function as a core group for work on disability in the NSDP. A workshop for DPOs, other members of civil society and government representatives will take place on January 18 and 19, 2007. The workshop aims provide information on relationship between poverty reduction and disability, invite the participants to discuss the issue and present their recommendations for further steps.

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 organisation: CBM and "MKUKUTA and Disability Network (MDN)", funded by GTZ.

GTZ has made funding available for the "MKUKUTA and Disability network (MDN)" as of January 2007. The network was established in 2005 as part of the initial project funded by the World Bank on including People with Disabilities in PRSP. The network will initially focus on inclusive education. As a first step, the MDN Executive Committee will hire a Project Coordinator to coordinate the work plan implementation that was agreed on in 2005.

Ethiopia

Status of PRSP and disability: Ethiopia has conducted a PRS process since 2000. The parliament approved the second PRSP called "Poverty Alleviation for Sustainable Development in Ethiopia" in May 2006. As the document is not presented on Internet, there is no information available about disability-related issues.

Implementing organisation: CBM

CBM has agreed that Ethiopia will play a coordinating role within the established alliance. The CBM Regional Office is already in contact with a qualified person as coordinator. As CBM has agreed on a strategic partnership with the African Decade on PRSP, and will second a Coordinator for PRSP to the Secretariat in Cape Town, the start of this project will be postponed – most likely in March – until this person is in place.

News

Further Project Development

Handicap International is planning project launch activities in Honduras and Bangladesh. Activities in these countries will tentatively start in March/April 2007. More information will follow in future newsletters.

Workshop in Berlin

CBM organised the "Making PRSP Inclusive" workshop in Berlin on Dec. 7 and 8, which was supported by GTZ. The workshop was part of the EU-funded project "Breaking the cycle of poverty and disability in Development Cooperation" and provided the basis for the development of training tools.

Karin Kortmann, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), opened the workshop and presented the first German policy paper on "Disability and Development". The paper is available upon request (in English or German).

Mainstreaming Disability in Development – The PRSP Way

Initial mapping report results from the UK, Germany, Denmark, and Finland concerning the mainstreaming of disability issues into development cooperation were presented and discussed. Other presentations included the handbook "Making PRSP Inclusive" (Stefanie Ziegler, Handicap International), "Achievements, challenges and perspectives of PRSP" (Brian Ngo, World Bank), and "GPDD – Global Partnership on Disability and Development" (Ronald Wiman, STAKES Finland).

35 to 50 representatives from NGOs, governments and DPOs from Europe and Africa participated and shared their experiences. Among the participating organisations were BMZ, gtz, DFID, World Bank, GPDD, VENRO, Handicap International, DSI, SHIA, STAKES, DPOs from the North (Lebenshilfe) and South (African Decade, ICD, Tanzania, DOLASED, Tanzania, Ethiopian Federation of Persons with Disabilities, and Uganda National Action on Physical Disability), Bread for the World, AWO International, Caritas International and Kinder-nothilfe.

Workshop documentation will be produced, and more information will soon be available at: www.make-development-inclusive.org.