

DisabilityKaReport

Newsletter of the **Disability Knowledge and Research Programme** Issue 2 Summer 2004

The second issue of the Disability KaR Programme newsletter explores mainstreaming disability in development – the key issues, current practice and recent initiatives. It also gives updates on programme developments and activities.

Addressing disability is key to achieving the goals of development agencies in poverty reduction. Success, however, will depend on ensuring that the voice and experience of disabled people, in particular those in the South, are articulated and acted on. This is the aim of the Disability KaR Programme's series of roundtable meetings, which will provide a space for disabled people from the South to engage with policy makers, international institutions and development agencies.

This is all the more urgent; as articles in this newsletter reveal, there is still a huge gap between the rhetoric and the reality. Disability largely remains locked within specific projects and programmes delivered via civil society organisations and has yet to be recognised in the mainstream aid modalities of Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes and Sector-Wide Approaches.

Mainstreaming disability in development therefore presents an enormous challenge. It requires change at the institutional level, in development agencies, and genuine commitment to the equalisation of opportunities of disabled people at international and country levels. Knowledge initiatives like the roundtables, that examine the dynamics of disability and poverty, highlight successful models and develop tools for implementation and evaluation, will be crucial.

The Disability KaR Programme is part of DFID's broader programme to eliminate poverty in poor countries. The Overseas Development Group at the University of East Anglia, UK, and Healthlink Worldwide are managing the programme in partnership.

Disability KaR
Knowledge and Research

DFID

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Mapping DFID and disability

‘What is DFID doing on disability?’ This was the question at the heart of a recently completed ‘mapping’ exercise by Disability Policy Officer Philippa Thomas. The findings form a report, the first output of the Disability Policy Project.

The DFID and disability mapping exercise was an unprecedented opportunity to look at what DFID is currently doing on disability. It has produced a valuable ‘snapshot’ in the resultant report, *DFID and disability: a mapping of the Department for International Development and disability issues*.

Approaching the task

Mapping DFID’s disability-related activities was not an easy task – there were issues around defining disability and what constitute ‘disability activities’. The lack of a complete, centralised database put the onus on DFID staff – who already have heavy workloads – as key sources of information.

The criteria for selection of activities were based on the social model of disability. The focus was on activities where disabled people are the target beneficiaries or are specifically mentioned among the beneficiaries. This meant that programmes and projects aimed at the prevention of disabling diseases, such as polio, or mine action programmes, except where they included a rehabilitation component, were excluded because these activities are not so much disability-focused but impairment-focused. Only current activities were included.

Information was gathered from: DFID’s Performance Reporting Information System for

Management (PRISM); responses received to a questionnaire sent to all social development, education and health and population advisors; interviews with staff, and literature- and web-based searches.

PRISM does not have a disability marker, as it does for gender. This proved a hindrance as projects/programmes had to be found by scanning through lists of all projects/programmes and chosen on the basis of the project title and purpose description.

Furthermore PRISM is far from complete: there are no records of activities supported under the

Small Grants Scheme and many activities funded through accountable grants from DFID country offices or departments are not

recorded. Therefore it is likely that some disability-focused projects/programmes will have been missed.

In addition, the current aid modalities of direct budgetary support, support to national poverty reduction plans, and Sector-Wide Approaches make it difficult to quantify how disabled people will benefit specifically. For example, DFID’s extensive support to education in developing

countries should benefit disabled people and children directly and indirectly, but unless education sector plans specifically identify disabled children and outline a strategy to address their special educational needs, they have not been included in the mapping.

Findings

In its 2000 Issues Paper *Disability, poverty and development*, DFID outlined a twin-track approach to disability and development focusing on ‘addressing inequalities between disabled and non-disabled persons in all strategic areas of

“What emerges is a solid bedrock of disability-specific activities delivered through non-government organisations and civil society organisations, but limited evidence of disability mainstreaming.”

[its] work’ and ‘supporting specific initiatives to enhance the empowerment of people with disabilities’ (p. 11). What emerges from

the mapping is a solid bedrock of disability-specific activities delivered primarily through non-government organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) but limited evidence of disability mainstreaming.

Support to disability via civil society organisations

The Civil Society Challenge Fund (CSCF) supports UK-based organisations working with

Southern partners to implement rights-based initiatives aimed at empowering poor people. Disability is one of the criteria that must be addressed in all successful proposals. The mapping identified 23 disability-specific projects that DFID is currently supporting under the CSCF (see Table 1).

DFID also has Partnership Programme Agreements (PPAs) with 15 UK-based international NGOs. PPAs provide long-term support (typically five years) to organisations that have a proven track record in international development and the ability to make a significant contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through closer working with DFID around an agreed set of outcomes. All but one of the NGOs with PPAs support some disability-specific activities, while others, such as Save the Children, VSO, HelpAge and International Service, have a strong disability focus.

In 2002, DFID established a PPA with Action on Disability in Development (ADD), the only disability-specific organisation with a PPA (see box 1). ADD is a unique UK NGO whose work focuses on supporting and developing the capacity of Southern disabled people's organisations (DPOs) rather than on service delivery. ADD itself is not a disabled persons' organisation, but it has a target of half of its workforce being disabled people.

The implicit aim of the ADD PPA is to link DFID's work at the national and international levels with ADD's interventions and activities at the grassroots, as well as its wider human-rights approach to disability and development. The PPA details outcomes and actions to be taken by both DFID and ADD to achieve these outcomes. It is grounded on a social model understanding of

Table 1. Current Civil Society Challenge Fund disability-specific projects

UK organisation	Country	Project title and description
Motivation	Nicaragua and Honduras	Motivation in Central America – capacity-building to DPOs: training, wheelchairs and support
Just World Partners	Vanuatu	Youth at Risk – reducing morbidity and social exclusion among young people with depression and related mental health problems
Leprosy Mission	India	Enhanced Access to Health Services
Nepal Leprosy Trust	Nepal	Promote Community Development by Addressing Problems of Stigma due to Leprosy
Handicap International	Nepal	Community Approach to Handicap in Development
Healthlink Worldwide	India	Strengthening the Voice of Vulnerable Groups in India
Healthlink Worldwide	West Bank and Gaza	Information for Mental Health – Influencing Policy and Practice
Leprosy India Mission	India	Community Based Rehabilitation
ITDG	Sri Lanka	Developing Opportunities/Capacity-Building for Participation of Disabled People in Development
Landmine Disability	Cambodia	Disability Rights, Awareness Support and Sustainable Livelihoods, Kompong Chhnang
Sense International	India	NGOs Learning From Each Other – deaf-blind network and capacity-building of organisations working with deaf-blind people
LEPRA	Brazil	Improving poor people's ability to access leprosy and other services
Healthlink Worldwide	Various, Asia and Africa	Inclusive Communication on Disability: Strengthening South-South Communication
BasicNeeds UK Trust	Sri Lanka	Mental Health Development Programme
Cambodia Trust	Cambodia	Poverty and Social Exclusion Reduction – inclusion of disabled people in education and training
Leonard Cheshire Foundation	South Africa	Training and Development Programme – full participation of disabled people in development activities
BasicNeeds UK Trust	Uganda	Integrating Mental Health and Development
Handicap International	Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia	Self-Help and Advocacy for Rights and Equal Opportunities
Motivation Charitable Trust	Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe	Promoting and Co-ordination of the Rights of Wheelchair Users in Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
Handicap International	Bangladesh	Promoting the rights of Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh
POWER	Laos PDR	Programme to Advance the Cause of Disability
Sense International	Bolivia, Brazil, Columbia	Combating the Exclusion of Deaf-Blind People in Latin America
Leprosy Mission England and Wales	India	Communities Catching Up: Belgaum and Miraj-Kolhapur, India

disability and the rights-based approach is explicitly present in the strategic objectives against which the success of the PPA is to be measured. This PPA represents a significant commitment from DFID to addressing disability issues.

DFID's support to disability issues delivered through CSOs is quite extensive and varied.

However, development assistance through CSOs in all sectors represents only a very small part of DFID's overall aid programme.

Disability and DFID bilateral aid

DFID's bilateral assistance has in recent years shifted away from project-based aid towards direct budgetary assistance to national governments to support national

Box 1. DFID's PPA with Action on Disability and Development (ADD)

The goal of ADD's PPA is 'to contribute to the reduction of poverty through ensuring equality of rights and opportunities for disabled people and maximising disabled people's contribution to society.' (ADD PPA 2002:4)

ADD works first by supporting disabled people at grassroots level to come together and form self-help groups. The organisation encourages these groups to grow, unite with others and ultimately function independently. Simultaneously, ADD supports the disability movement at the national level and promotes the human rights aspects of disability and development, nationally and internationally.

The strategic objectives of the PPA are:

- to secure the adoption by national governments of significant policies and practices that ensure the equality of rights and opportunities of disabled people in five countries where ADD works;
- to incorporate and address disability issues in legislation in five countries where ADD works;
- to influence the European Union, the World Bank, UNICEF and UNESCO to adopt policies and practices to

support the equality of rights and opportunities of disabled people.

Outcomes of ADD support to date include:

- Ghana: disability policy in place.
- Mali: legislation covering employment rights and access to public building for disabled people enacted.
- Bangladesh: Lobbying successful in persuading government to revise Disability Act. Transport policy now recognises equality of rights of disabled people and provides for reserved seating.
- Cambodia: Disability Act drafted and awaiting submission to Council of Ministers.
- Zambia: Disability Act translated into two local languages.
- Uganda: Local Government Amendment Act implemented and disabled people in some districts appointed to Statutory Boards as prescribed in the Act. Disability Council Act passed.
- Issuing of EU Guidance Note on Disability and Development for EU Delegations and Services by the European Commission.

plans such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Plans (PRSPs) and multi-donor support to sectors such as health and education through Sector-Wide Approaches. These current aid modalities have resulted in reduced space for disability. Disability is rarely explicitly mentioned in national plans and thus in DFID's Country Assistance Plans (CAPs), which broadly reflect national priorities.

However, the mapping did uncover some examples of innovative work by DFID country offices including disability sub-components within larger mainstream programmes. In most cases, DFID has drawn directly on the expertise of CSOs, both organisations of and for disabled people, to assist in design and implementation of activities. See Box 2, page 5, for examples.

DFID and disability research

DFID's biggest commitment to research on disability is the Disability KaR Programme itself (£1.4 million), but DFID is also supporting other research outputs. The need for research on mental health issues has recently been highlighted in DFID's new draft research strategy.

DFID Central Research Department is supporting the following disability-focused research:

Disability Knowledge and Research Programme: Disability equality training; research into links between poverty and disability; provision of technical advice on disability to DFID; six disability projects in the South (see www.disabilitykar.net/projects/projectintro.html).

Enhanced Accessibility for Disabled People Living in Urban Areas: Production of a compendium of guidelines on accessibility for transport and other services.

Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation Access and Use by Physically Disabled People: Field work in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Uganda. Examples of low-cost technologies collected and developed to improve accessibility.

Learning from Difference: Understanding Community Initiatives to Improve Access to Education: Participatory action research with communities on their experience of Inclusive Education.

Conclusion

This was the first time that DFID's disability activities had been mapped. The exercise revealed a much wider range of activities than had been anticipated – but these have been largely hidden and activities are often isolated and uncoordinated. The mapping process also revealed that many DFID staff have considerable interest in and knowledge of disability issues. These staff recognise the relevance of disability to DFID's poverty reduction agenda and its work on human rights and social exclusion. The challenge for DFID is to build on existing activities so that disability issues are addressed strategically and effectively mainstreamed within DFID's wider work.

Disability is one of the specific responsibilities of a new team – Exclusion, Rights and Justice – within Policy Division. DFID has also just launched its Diversity Strategy, in which disability is seen as a particular priority. These developments present real opportunities for DFID to finally realise the twin-track approach outlined in *Disability, poverty and development*.

Box 2. Examples of how DFID is supporting disability within mainstream bilateral aid programmes**Asia Division: focus on tackling social exclusion****India**

- Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme – DFID working with VSO and DPOs.
- Andhra Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme – element of enabling economic opportunities for disabled people.
- District Primary Education Programme – inclusive education approach.
- Disability included in the logframes of the government of India's Education for All and Reproductive and Child Health programmes.
- New Civil Society Cooperation Programme now recognises disability issues.
- Discussions taking place with VSO, which has been supporting Indian DPOs, on developing a Strategic Partnership Agreement focusing on disability.

Nepal

- Community Support Programme – targets vulnerable people affected by conflict.

China

- Poor Rural Communities Development Project –

planned piloting of disability and poverty component within this programme in Yuexi County, Sichuan Province.

Africa Division**Ghana**

- Imfundo, DFID team working to develop ICT solutions to support Universal primary education, working on solutions for children with special needs, especially the visually impaired. Part of DFID's wider support to the education sector.

Europe, Middle East and Americas Division**Bosnia**

- Supporting grassroots CSOs to deliver local community services through Community Action projects as part of DFID's wider support to social protection. 16 disability-focused Community Action Projects.

Russia

- A number of small disability-focused projects funded under Health and Social Care Partnerships Scheme.

To read Philippa Thomas's full report, *DFID and disability: a mapping of the Department for International Development and disability*, visit the www.disabilitykar.net website.

Putting Disability KaR into context

Independent consultant Isabel Ortiz was commissioned in 2004 to examine how the work of the Disability KaR Programme fits within the Department for International Development's overall poverty agenda. Ben Simms of the Programme Advisory Group looks at her report.

Isabel Ortiz's report *Assessing connections to DFID's poverty agenda* ripples with compelling statistics, quotes, concepts and ideas about mainstreaming disability in development. It is both a 'call to arms' – demonstrating how nascent a field disability is within DFID thinking – and a *tour d'horizons*, presenting lessons that can be learned from other agencies, notably the World Bank.

The statistics alone are compelling. According to the UN, two-thirds of the world's population of disabled people live below the poverty line; DFID itself states that one in five of the world's poor is disabled.

The story so far

Ortiz credits the disability-related work DFID has done to date, in particular the publication of the *Disability, poverty and development* Issues Paper in 2000, the Partnership Programme Agreement signed with Action on Disability and Development in 2002, the funding of the Disability KaR Programme, and the numerous micro-grants given to disability projects. Ortiz stresses that this work fits well with DFID's existing pro-poor, rights-based, Millennium Development Goal-aligned agenda. In fact, this agenda provides fertile ground for work of this nature.

Shortcomings in DFID's work are also highlighted. Many non-DFID people (and some, perhaps, from within) will agree that mainstreaming disability 'will require efforts to redress some of the current activities, to ensure that they bring disability to the forefront of the development agenda.' Many, too, will agree with the description of the Issues Paper as a 'first attempt to introduce disability to DFID' and the call to convert this into a Strategy or Policy paper – something that would carry greater authority within DFID thinking, not least by providing more guidance on how disability can be mainstreamed in its work.

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The mainstreaming challenge

The Ortiz report is at its best in providing practical ideas about how such mainstreaming can be achieved. Proposals are made across four main areas:

- At the country level, there is a need to prioritise disabled people's own voices within aid instruments such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers and Comprehensive Development Frameworks, and a need to make explicit references to disabled people in Country Strategy Programmes. The piloting of mainstreaming initiatives within specific countries is suggested.
- At the level of development interventions, DFID could continue its own 'twin-track' approach, as outlined in its Issues Paper, using its influence to address inequalities between disabled people and non-disabled people on the one hand, and to support specific initiatives to enhance the empowerment of disabled people on the other.
- At the institutional level, DFID

could consider strategies used by other agencies, such as the World Bank's appointment of a Disability Advisor, and think about how more disabled people can be recruited to work inside DFID.

- Finally, at the level of knowledge initiatives, the Disability KaR Programme could be further shaped to assist DFID in achieving its goal of mainstreaming disability.

In addition, the report analyses the relevance of disability to a number of development aid instruments and proposes the KIPAF (Knowledge, Inclusiveness, Participation, Access and Fulfilling Obligation) framework as a way of assessing the relevance of specific projects to a broader poverty reduction agenda.

These proposals are by no means exhaustive; they leave space for further suggestions. And there are certain gaps in the references made – for example, to the European Union's guidelines on disability, and to the work of the Norwegian Agency for Development

Cooperation. Some of these ideas are picked up in the KaR mapping report by Philippa Thomas (see page 2).

Looking to the future

Overall, *Assessing connections to DFID's poverty agenda* is a positive, forward-looking document (particularly valuable if read in conjunction with the mapping report). It will give DFID staff an opportunity to take stock of the place of disability within DFID's priorities and to consider how these issues might be taken further. This process might then enable DFID to formulate a clearer policy statement on disability and practical guidance on how to mainstream disability into development activities.

Ben Simms is Programmes Development Manager at Sense International, and represents the BOND Disability and Development Group on the KaR Programme Advisory Group.

Assessing connections to DFID's poverty agenda can be read in full at www.disabilitykar.net/resources

Is disability *really* on the development agenda?

Bill Albert and Michael Turner conducted a review of the official disability policies of major governmental and international development agencies for the Disability KaR Programme. Below are the main findings.

The adoption by the United Nations in 1993 of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities was an important official international recognition of the need to address the social and economic exclusion of disabled people. Rule 21 specifically refers to international cooperation and obliges States to ensure that measures to achieve

the equalisation of opportunities of disabled people are fully integrated into general development programmes.

However, disability is not specifically mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Perversely, this omission may have served as a catalyst for many people and organisations to affirm or reaffirm the links between disability and poverty.

Of course, such concerns, together with the argument that disability is essentially a human rights issue, have been around for some time and these form the principles of the international disability movement, whose lobbying has helped move disability up the development agenda.

In recent years, a number of development agencies have

produced statements and policy documents about disability and development, the World Bank, the EU, UK and Italy among them. It is important to consider if these pronouncements, or indeed the basic tenets of the Standard Rules, are reflected in the official policies adopted by the leading development agencies.

Approaching the research

Finding out about existing official policies was not an easy task. Websites were consulted, followed up with emails, letters and/or telephone calls, with mixed success. While some organisations had disability policies, many had either never been implemented or had never made it to project level. Another difficulty was that many agencies have produced documents on disability and development, the status of which was unclear. The existence of documents is not necessarily evidence of official policies, let alone action.

Conversely, not having an official policy does not mean that an agency is necessarily ignoring disability issues entirely. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) is an example of this. Its 2000 Issues Paper *Disability, poverty and development*, which seems to have become better known outside than inside DFID, is not a policy statement. However, DFID funds a variety of disability activities (see pages 3 and 5).

The research sought answers to the following:

1. How is disability defined?
2. What is the approach employed to tackle disability once it is defined?
3. How is disability seen with respect to the MDGs?
4. How is disability seen in terms of the process of multilateral development i.e. Poverty Reduction Strategy Processes (PRSPs) and Sector Wide-Approaches (SWAPs)?

5. Is disability mainstreamed?

6. What is the view of the role of disabled people's organisations (DPOs) in terms of policy formation and/or project development?

Unfortunately, due to gaps in the information available, it was not possible to tabulate findings in a comparative manner across the entire range of issues. However, a simplified table was produced in the full article at www.disabilitykar.net, looking mainly at whether selected agencies have an official disability policy and offering a brief comment on that policy.

How is disability defined?

A clear definition of disability would seem to be central to designing a disability policy or strategy. If disability is seen essentially as a health issue the solutions will be quite different from an understanding of disability that highlights human rights, discrimination and exclusion. It was, therefore, surprising to find so little serious attention paid to this question. Attempts at a definition mostly consisted of a compromise between the different, quite opposed, social and medical models of disability.

The new International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) seems set to become the gold standard for defining disability. It is referred to by the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank also appears to be taking it on board.

However, the ICF is not unproblematic; even though disability ('disablement' is the word used in the ICF) is viewed as arising from the negative impact of the environment in its broadest sense, the minute classifications of health and functioning remain central. Many critics have argued that the ICF represents medical model thinking clothed in watered-

down social model language. It is doubtful whether it will overturn deeply-held medical assumptions about the nature of disability. Because such assumptions tend to inform action, there is the strong possibility that in practice international development agencies will default to a health-centred understanding of disability. The only way this will be avoided is by retaining an ongoing, critical awareness of the contradictions inherent in the ICF together with a vigorous commitment to human rights supported by clear practical guidance for implementation.

Approach to disability issues

The majority of agencies that have policy statements advocate a human rights approach. The increasing focus on this agenda follows decades of lobbying by disabled people, the lead given by the UN, particularly since the Standard Rules of 1993, and the more recent negotiations on an International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The commitment to a human rights approach is also prominent in the policy statements of Scandinavian countries.

Scandinavian DPOs and their countries have played a leading role in putting human rights at the heart of disability and development. In 2000 in Copenhagen, the Nordic ministers for development cooperation declared to: 'Recognise and promote the UN Standard Rules [...] and to assure that special measures are taken to create accessibility and participation in development society for persons with disabilities in order to strengthen their possibilities to exercise their human rights.'

However, there has been criticism that, with the exception of Norway, there has been a failure overall to establish national

strategies for inclusion of the disability dimension in the development cooperation. Denmark decided not to make mainstreaming disability a priority.

Outside Scandinavia, a number of European countries have indicated that they are considering disability and development policies, but only Italy has produced one. The Italian guidelines are comprehensive, if at times eclectic. They begin with strong statements on the centrality of human rights and then detail how disability needs to be twin-tracked – both mainstreamed into overall policy and supported through disability-specific projects.

In the United States, USAID's policy is set in the traditional anti-discrimination mode which characterises the Americans with Disabilities Act and other civil rights legislation in the country. The definition of disability is, however, strictly medical.

Policies into practice

Effective implementation is required if good disability policies are to become more than empty rhetoric and a substitute for action. At the moment, with a few notable exceptions, the latter appears to be the reality.

One of the clearest examples is that of USAID, which since 1996 has been trying to develop a more inclusive approach to disability issues. However, a series of reports highlight the limited impact its policy has had on the operation of its missions, which continue broadly to support specific disability projects in traditional social welfare areas rather than through mainstreaming.

A 2003 report by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs also highlighted that in Finland most of the assistance was given via NGOs in disability-specific projects and that disability had not been mainstreamed. In particular there

had not been enough attention to adjusting policy in line with the shift to a human rights approach and the overall policy had to be overhauled to take into account the new international aid instruments (PRSPs and SWAPS).

The World Bank website reveals that in almost all PRSPs there is no mention of disability; if it is mentioned, the reference is to 'the disabled' within a list of vulnerable groups and/or either social welfare or health. According to the International Labour Organisation (2002): 'An examination of all 29 currently available African Interim PRSPs shows that – with [notable exceptions] – [disabled people] have again been either "forgotten" or treated in a way that does not correspond to their aspirations to socio-economic integration.'

A 2002 baseline assessment of the Bank's activities relating to disability concluded that few of its current activities 'include disability in any meaningful way.' Perhaps this should not come as a surprise when gender, a much more prominent cross-cutting issue than disability, has also not been well served by PRSPs.

However, the Bank's efforts were given new impetus in 2002 by the appointment of Judith Heumann as its first Advisor on Disability and Development. The Bank is also seeking to develop a Global Partnership on Disability and Development (see p.11).

Conclusion

Is disability really on the official development agenda? Well, some of the main players are talking about the issues in some way.

However, if we are concerned about real changes being put in motion, the most optimistic answer would be "not yet".

Of course, there have been many disability-focused development projects, many of which have delivered positive results for disabled people, but to a large extent they remain locked within a traditional social welfare paradigm with limited value for mainstreaming disability in development and delivering a wider human-rights agenda.

What is called for from international aid agencies, besides a far stronger, clearer commitment, is a genuine understanding that disability is a social issue that cannot be addressed without bringing DPOs, Southern and Northern, into the heart of the process (see Box 1). Disability needs to be mainstreamed and promoted explicitly and officially as a cross-cutting issue, as gender has been. Above all, we must not let good intentions or declarations about human rights be a substitute for action that addresses the social exclusion, grinding poverty and human rights abuses that continue to blight the lives of disabled people worldwide.

Dr. Bill Albert is a member of the International Committee of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP), and a researcher on disability and development. Michael Turner is a writer and researcher on disability issues.

For references, see page 12. View [Is disability really on the development agenda?](#) and the full table of findings at www.disabilitykar.net

Box 1. Development agencies need...

- ◆ A clearer understanding of the social model of disability and how this relates to effective human rights policy and practice
- ◆ A stronger commitment to involve DPOs from both North and South at every level of development work
- ◆ To promote disability explicitly and officially as a crosscutting issue on a par with gender
- ◆ To look for practical and measurable ways to implement this mainstreaming policy
- ◆ To learn disability-relevant lessons from their experience of work on gender

Introducing... the Programme Advisory Group

The primary function of the Programme Advisory Group (PAG) is to provide strategic direction and critical advice on policy issues associated with the Disability KaR Programme and maintain the quality and rigour of all the activities and outputs, as well as ensuring that the programme is at the cutting edge of policy development.

This involves four main roles:

1. Approval of the overall strategic direction of the programme, and of significant changes to its aims and objectives.
2. Assistance as required in reviewing management reports and peer review papers.
3. Ensuring that outputs reflect the needs of disabled people in the South and have the backing of disabled people, particularly those living in the South.

4. Monitoring of programme implementation and provision of quality assurance.

The process to appoint members is ongoing, and it is proposed that the full PAG will consist of:

- Two disabled people from the South (one Activist and one Technical Advisor; see below)
- Two disabled people from the UK (one Activist and one Technical Advisor)
- A senior person from DFID who is involved with the KaR Programme
- One member of an NGO working in the field of disability and development.
- A committed senior academic, with a development studies background.

Below are profiles of two of the members, who describe their hopes for the PAG.



AK Dube

Disabled himself from the age of two years, new Programme Advisory Group (PAG) member **Andrew "AK" Dube** (pictured) has proved disability does not mean inability by establishing a successful consulting business, Samaita

Associates, that has assisted governments, disabled people's organisations, and other organisations in and outside South Africa. He has more than 16 years' experience in fields that include human rights and development work in the disability sector.

"For me," says AK, "being a member of the PAG presents an opportunity to ensure that issues related to disability in the South are adequately articulated, using my experience of working with the disability movement in Africa. We, as the PAG, have an opportunity to positively influence research agenda, knowledge generation and bilateral funding policy in favour of disabled people in the South."

AK feels that the Disability KaR Programme has a very useful role to play in supporting disability and human rights initiatives in the South. He believes that the active involvement of Southern disabled activists and technical expertise is crucial to the programme's success. "Such success should be determined on the basis of actionable, sustainable and relevant outcomes that enhance and improve the quality of life of ordinary disabled people in the South," he adds.

AK has just completed various assignments on behalf of the Africa Decade of Disabled People Secretariat. Other involvements include a key role in the establishment and strengthening of disabled people's organisations in the Southern African Development Community countries, and giving input to South Africa's Integrated National Disability Strategy (INDS).
Contact AK Dube at: akdube@iafrica.com

Setareki Macanawai

Setareki Seru Macanawai is Head Teacher of the Fiji School for the Blind and will soon assume his new position as Executive Director of the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons. He has been blind since 1981, and advocating for the fair treatment, greater recognition, equal opportunity and better quality of life for disabled people in Fiji and the Pacific Islands since 1989, serving in national, regional and international disability organisations.

As a new member of the Disability KaR Programme Advisory Group, he acknowledges the necessity to include capable representatives of disabled peoples' organisations from the South in the programme. "It is an honour for me to serve as a member of PAG and I will draw on my experience, knowledge, network and skills to ensure that the voice, concerns and aspirations of disabled persons in developing countries are accurately expressed and properly reflected." Setareki also agrees that representatives of disabled peoples' organisations from the North have an important role to play in the PAG.

Among Setareki's achievements are his contribution to the establishment of national DPOs in Vanuatu, PNG, Cook Islands, Samoa and Kiribati. In 2002 he received the 6th Kazuo Itoga award in Japan for outstanding leadership and contribution to the disability field in the Asia/Pacific Region.

Setareki believes his experience has given him a better understanding of different disability issues and how they can be addressed, enabling him to become an effective advocate for disabled people.

He concludes: "Hopefully I will become a good role model, showing disabled people they can rise above their disabling conditions and live a successful, prosperous and dignified life just like anyone else."
Contact Setareki Macanawai at: macanawai@connect.com.fj

Competition projects Update

www.disabilitykar.net/projects/projectintro.html

Accessible information on public transport, CSIR Transportek, South Africa

www.csir.co.za/transportek

A literature review of knowledge on low-cost/appropriate technologies for accessible information on public transport is complete and was presented at a workshop in Pretoria, along with proposals for demonstration projects in India and South Africa. The project in South Africa will take place in Gauteng Province, with minibus taxis, and concentrate on formalising signals and signs, training taxi staff on the importance of assisting disabled people to use public transport, and visible technology (destination boards). Initial work will take place in a high-density suburban area with a school of the deaf and blind. The project in India will be with the Pune bus industry and inputs include installation of a voice-integrated electronic route-destination display system.

Wheelchair design in Africa, Motivation, UK

Work has been completed on the simplified three-wheel wheelchair for use in a rural environment and the design will be introduced to the Wheelchair Technologists Training Course (WTTC) in October 2004. Production of the wheelchair technology guidebook is progressing well and a first draft will be produced ahead of schedule in August 2004.

TATCOT, Motivation and the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya have been sharing their experiences and knowledge to develop a new design of hand-propelled tricycle, which is now being tested. Terms of reference for a feasibility trip to El Salvador in October 2004 have also been drawn up. This will further research the possibility of 'exporting' the WTTC course to an accredited training centre in a low-income country.

Improving access to disability information, Handicap International UK and Source International Information Support Centre, UK

www.handicap-international.org.uk

www.asksource.info

The first quarter of the year has seen the strengthening of the database, providing access to over 3,400 disability resources, including 400 organisations working in the field of disability. A more dynamic design has improved the interface to help users, and recommendations resulting from the database needs assessment will follow shortly. Disability-related information continues to be added to the database by Source, which is also working to improve links with other disability-related organisations, in particular to improve access to unpublished ('grey') literature from the field. Work has also begun on reviewing the accessibility of the Source website for people with visual impairments.

A visit by the Disability Information Officer to Handicap International's headquarters in Lyon, France, provided the opportunity to collaborate with country officers for West Africa, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America, including linking with disability resource centres at field level.

Membership system for disability organisations, POWER – The International Limb Project, UK www.power4limbs.org

Laos Disabled People's Association (LDPA) now has over 1,500 registered members and the database is complete. A Database Operation Manual has been produced and disseminated to all Provincial Branch Secretaries (PBS). A database manager has been employed by COPE to work full-time with the project for the next two-and-a-half years.

Training on database entry and analysis has been given to PBS in Luang Phrabang and Xayabouri Provincial Offices. Training to LPDA Head Quarters staff in database management is ongoing. It has proved difficult applying Lao Script onto the databases, and some activities have been affected by the departure of the outreach officer responsible for liaison between LDPA HQ and Provincial Branches, but both these issues are being addressed.

Healthcare technology management guides, Ziken Consultants, UK

Teams of reviewers from nine countries have now completed a comprehensive review of the six healthcare manuals – on medical equipment management procedures for the developing world – and their comments are being incorporated. One of the manuals is ready for desk-top publishing and work is progressing on editing and drafting the other five. All planned work should be completed by December 2004.

Health information systems research, Baobab Health Partnership, USA

www.baobabhealth.org

Initial meetings at Lilongwe Central Hospital, Malawi, laid the foundations of the project and established the need for a dedicated information systems department (ISD) to develop and manage the systems. Space to house the new ISD has been identified and is currently being renovated.

Computer hardware purchases are complete and the majority of the equipment is already on site. Workstation deployment in the laboratory and X-ray departments commenced in June. Expansion of the network infrastructure is ongoing. To date the hospital pharmacy has been connected to the network, and adult patients can now be registered there as well as in the outpatient department. Over 30,500 adult patients have been registered so far, in addition to the 86,700+ children registered since the pilot project started in the paediatric department in May 2001.



Roundtable themes identified

Plans for three Disability KaR regional roundtable meetings are taking shape. The purpose of the roundtables in this phase of the programme is to enable the voice of disabled people in the South to be heard and provide a platform for engagement between a wide range of stakeholders from the South and North.

The roundtables, to take place from Autumn 2004 to Spring 2005 in Africa and Asia, will have a practical focus, looking at how to move forward on linking disability policy and practice. Healthlink Worldwide is organising the roundtables, in collaboration with southern-based disabled people's organisations. They will focus on three different but interlinked themes:

1. Disability, poverty and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

To highlight the links between poverty and disability and the relevance of disability to achieving the MDGs. It will build on the African Decade of the Disabled 2000–2009.

2. Mainstreaming disability in development

To explore how to mainstream disability in development,

building on the experience of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) decade of the disabled and the Biwako framework for an inclusive, barrier-free and rights-based society for people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. The focus will be a 'how to' discussion on planning for mainstreaming in development.

3. Disability mainstreaming in practice:

To focus on the example of disability mainstreaming in education. Building on the UNESCO regional conference celebrating 10 years since the Salamanca Statement, it will look at inclusive education, allowing lessons from the Lao PDR to be shared with recent initiatives in Cambodia and Vietnam.

The roundtables will provide an arena for reflection, exchange of experiences, learning and ideas, and discussion of current issues with policy-makers and donors. They will seek to bridge the communication gap between disabled people, disabled people's organisations, other organisations and institutions working in disability practice on the ground, and policy makers.

For more information about the roundtables, contact Alison Sizer at Healthlink Worldwide. Tel +44 (0)20 7539 1570
Email sizer.a@healthlink.org.uk For updates on locations and dates, go to www.disabilitykar.net/events/eventsintro.html

Global Partnership for Disability and Development launched at World Bank meeting

A meeting in Rome in December 2003 launched the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD) initiative, which the World Bank has been promoting as an idea for two years. The GPDD is led by Judy Heumann, Advisor on Disability and Development and is strongly supported by James Wolfensohn, the World Bank's president. The objective of the partnership is to provide a forum for governments and civil society to take forward the agenda on disability and development.

At the meeting, which was well attended by donors and civil society, it was agreed that a Trust Fund would be established with the funds already committed by Italy and with pledges from Norway and Finland. Initial funding would be used for information exchange, data collection and workshops. DFID at this time made no commitment other than to remain as part of the partnership.

The meeting also reported on the achievements to date of the World Bank Trust Fund for Disability, set up in 2001 with US\$500,000. This had been focusing on providing advocacy within World Bank operations and resulted in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) toolkits, conferences and workshops.

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics also outlined how it is working to develop small set(s) of general disability measures to provide information on disability worldwide, recommending extended sets of items to measure disability as components of population surveys/supplements, and addressing methodological issues associated with disability measurement. This could be quite useful, especially in the context of the negotiations for the Disability Convention.

In working group discussions it emerged that disability is largely seen as an issue of social protection, rather than empowerment, in PRSPs. Agreeing on a common approach to disability poses a challenge for participants in the partnership. Another challenge lies in effecting change in the Bank and other partners' development procedures and practices.

Philippa Thomas, Disability KaR Policy Officer

Web reference: <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/EXTDISABILITY/0,,contentMDK:20226537~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282699,00.html>

Includes GPDD reports and other relevant materials.

Resources

A selection of resources themed on disability mainstreaming and policies. For further resources, including a 'Quick List' on mainstreaming disability, visit the Source International Information Centre website: www.asksource.info

Printed resources

- Atlas Alliance (et al) *Inclusion of the disability dimension in Nordic development cooperation* (Conference Copenhagen November 2000.) DSI Denmark, 2000 35 p. Available in Braille and audio, on request. Available from: DSI Denmark, PeopleKloverprisvej 10 B, 2650 Hvidovre, Denmark E-mail: abj@handicap.dk Fax: +45 3675 1403. Available online at www.disability.dk/attachments/1006794750_Conference_report.doc

- Bury, M. 'A comment on the ICIDH2', *Disability and Society*, Vol. 15, No. 7, 2000, pp.1073–1077
An example from the extensive literature on the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.

- Heinicke-Motsch, K. and Sygall, S., *Building an inclusive development community: a manual on including people with disabilities in international development programs*, Mobility USA, 2004 658 p.

Includes techniques and guidelines, resource lists and examples of best practice from around the world.
Price: US\$40 + US\$10 per copy outside the USA + US\$12 shipping/handling. Available from: Mobility International USA (MIUSA) Publications Order, PO Box 10767, Eugene, OR 97440 USA Fax: +1 541 343 6812 E-mail: info@miusa.org
Website: www.miusa.org

- International Labour Office, *Disability and poverty reduction strategies: how to ensure that access of persons with disabilities to decent and productive work is part of the PRSP process*, 2002 23 p.
ISBN 922. Available from: ILO, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22 Switzerland Tel: +41 22 7996111 Fax: +41 22 79 88685 E-mail: ilo@ilo.org Available online at: www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/disability/download/discpaper.pdf

- Jones, H. 'Integrating a disability perspective into mainstream development programmes: examples from Save the Children (UK) in East Asia' in Stone, E. (Ed) *Disability and development: learning from action and research on disability in the majority world*, Leeds: Disability Press, 1999, 294 p.

ISBN 0 9528450 3 2. Price: £15.99 plus £1.50 p&p.

Available from: Disability Press, Disability Research Unit, School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK

- Swain, J. et al, *Disabling Barriers, Enabling Environments* (2nd Ed.), Sage Publications, 2004 320 p. Revised and updated edition with new section on international issues. Available from: Sage Publications UK, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, UK E-mail: orders@sagepub.co.uk
Website: www.sagepub.co.uk

Web-based resources

- www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm

Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. United Nations, New York, 1993. See Rule 21, which obliges States to ensure that measures to achieve the equalisation of opportunities of disabled people are fully integrated into general development programmes.

- http://global.finland.fi/txt/uutiset/teksti_popup_txt.php?id=2304

Label us able, STAKES for the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2003

Evaluation of ten years' of Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs development policies for disabled people.

- <http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm>

International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health

- <http://poverty.worldbank.org/prsp/docs/3477/>

World Bank online library of PRSPs

- www.oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/issues/democracy_rights/bp51_prsp.htm

'Donorship' to ownership? Moving towards PRSP round two. Oxfam briefing paper 51, Jan 2004

- www.iddc.org.uk

International Disability and Development Consortium website. Has links to documents on donor policy and practice, and mainstreaming disability and development.

- www.adb.org/documents/events/2002/disability_development/ortiz_edmonds.pdf

Draft recommendations on disability from the Regional Workshop on Disability and Development Manila, Philippines 2-4 October 2002 by Isabel Ortiz and Lorna Jean Edmonds.

Note: web references correct at 28/07/04

REVIEW Disablism: how to tackle the last prejudice by Miller, P., Parker, S. and Gillinson, S. Demos, 2004 81p

Disablism – 'discriminatory, oppressive or abusive behaviour arising from the belief that disabled people are inferior to others' – is a reality for many disabled people and 'blights our society' says this report, produced by independent think-tank Demos. It reveals the impact of disablism on the lives of disabled people in the UK in stories and statistics.

The report describes problems as messes and difficulties: 'In a mess, unlike a difficulty, there is little agreement about what a solution would look like, or how it would be achieved [...] Disability debates are [therefore] messes rather than difficulties.' Clearing up the mess requires new models of collaboration between diverse and sometimes opposed entities.

The report discusses 'trading zones' where individuals can move forward from traditional 'silo mentalities' by acknowledging difference and identifying opportunities for shared benefits and outcomes. The concept of trading zones has widespread potential. Mainstreaming disability in development will only be realised when all stakeholders agree on a set of principles, respect each other's expertise, and acknowledge that cooperation is the way forward.

ISBN 1 84180 124 0. Price: £10. Available from: Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN, UK. Tel: +44 (0)20 8986 5488 E-mail: mo@centralbooks.com Available free online at: www.demos.co.uk/catalogue/disablism