Pupils and teacher of Ephphatha School for Deaf in Bujumbura present a classroom sketch at the launch of DDP’s report on deaf children in Burundi.

**DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

- Disability rights
- Mental health self help groups
- Deaf children’s right to education
- Disabled children and girls’ education
- Disabled people’s livelihoods

*Supported by The National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund*

**Funded by Comic Relief**

*medicor foundation*
BURUNDI

Burundi – DDP’s report on deaf children’s education and communications needs

What is it like to be a deaf child in Burundi or to be the parent of a deaf child? What do deaf children dream of doing? What is the government doing for deaf children? These are some of the questions we asked in a research project that began nearly 4 years ago when Chris Kubwimana, a Deaf Burundian, asked DDP for help to set up Aurora Deaf Aid Africa (ADAA).

There are only 2 schools for deaf children in Burundi, both privately run by churches and offering only primary education. Just 416 deaf children go to school in a country with a population of over ten million. Thousands of deaf children and youngsters have never been to school but the government takes no responsibility for deaf children’s education.

Communication is at the heart of deaf children’s education. Sign language in Burundi has not developed fully and needs to be standardised to reflect Burundian culture and tradition while being mindful that Burundi is part of the newly formed largely English speaking East African Community. There is also an urgent need for more teachers and support staff for deaf children and for professionals such as sign language interpreters, of whom there are only two in the country.

Our research project brought together for the first time deaf associations, schools, government representatives and, above all, deaf children and their parents. We interviewed all 416 pupils in the 2 schools and were not surprised to find they had similar aspirations to any child of a similar age, to complete their education and do something useful in their lives.

The report ‘Deaf children in Burundi – their education and communication needs’ was launched in Burundi in October 2011. The recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Education call for state support for deaf children’s education, development of a Burundian Sign Language and the training of more teachers for deaf children. An English version was launched on 3rd December in London.

We are grateful to ADAA, Ecole Ephphatha pour les Sourds; Centre d’Education Spécialisée pour Déficients Auditifs (CESDA), and the Burundian National Association of the Deaf for their help in this project and towards the next steps.

Funded by Comic Relief
ETHIOPIA

Education and Livelihoods for Girls and Women (ELGW), Hawassa, Ethiopia

The 12 kebeles of Tulla sub-city in Hawassa form the ELGW project area, where we are working with our partner Handicap National (HN) to improve education opportunities for girls, disabled children and other disadvantaged children and women who have missed out on formal schooling.

A survey of 12,426 households gave us up-to-date information on numbers of disabled children, literacy/numeracy levels, livelihoods data and children enrolled in school which confirmed our understanding that poverty is the main reason children never go to school or drop out of school.

The whole community’s involvement is required to improve basic education levels and make the school environment inclusive. HN uses the Ethiopian tradition of coffee ceremonies to get a community conversation going where field staff and community members share their thoughts, ideas and concerns.

The ELGW’s 19 member field team has reached out to communities and schools in every kebele, liaising with local administrators, education offices, community organisations and women’s groups to bring the message of education for all children and literacy/numeracy for adults who have missed out on schooling. The team’s direct practical work can also make a big change, e.g. the building of separate school toilets for girls and women teachers. Three village centres for ABE (Alternative Basic Education) and FAL (Functional Adult Literacy) have already been built with community members providing the land and materials, and attending classes.
The first recipients of seed money, 120 mothers of disabled children and women who have never been to school, have already started small scale, mainly agricultural enterprises.

An initiative welcomed by the teacher training college in Hawassa will enable trainee teacher placements in kebele schools where disabled children are enrolled so that they can get “hands on” special needs education experience.

Funded by Comic Relief

**Accessibility for all**

HN’s resource and rehabilitation centre, a multi-purpose building in Addis Ababa, has become fully accessible, with a ramp to all three floors and disabled friendly toilets. Services are continuing for all children currently registered at the centre, especially those suffering the effects of polio and who need calliper replacements and physical therapy. At weekends the building is fully used by children and youth groups to practise music and drama.

*Funded by Guernsey Overseas Aid Committee*

(top) Primary classroom in Tulla sub city;
(above) Women who have never been to school learn to read, write and count
CAPE VERDE

Candle makers of Cape Verde – an enterprise by disabled people

The second phase of DDP’s project with ACD, Cape Verde’s disabled people’s association, was concluded with the installation and operation of the candle making machine in new workshop premises. A simple production line has been set up to make and pack commercial candles, alongside separate work stations where individually crafted decorative candles are produced for special events and the tourist trade.

Eight disabled women and men are now employed in production, while a further 20 disabled people earn some income selling these candles in various locations across the archipelago’s main island, Santiago. With new investment from a US Foundation and a glossy sales catalogue in preparation, ACD hopes to make this initiative a profitable enterprise for years to come.

Funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

INDIA

Changing children’s lives in Chamrajnagar – a 5 year challenge

When DDP’s Education and Livelihood Opportunities programme (ELO) with Mobility India began, many parents in this relatively poor district of Karnataka State – especially parents of disabled children – did not send their children to school. This situation has now been completely reversed, with primary school enrolment rising from 74% to nearly 100%, and retention up from 66% to 90%.

With the whole community sensitised about the need for and value of education, government school teachers rarely go absent: 95% attendance is now the norm. Teachers have greater confidence in meeting disabled children’s needs in the classroom and know that all children can and should be educated. The project’s model Inclusive Education Resource Centre lends teaching and learning materials, games and toys to community education centres, parents, children and schools in the 76 villages covered by the project.

While ELO cannot unpick millennia of social stratification, it has provided “caste neutral spaces” – structured playtimes and annual summer camps – giving children freedom to express themselves and gain in confidence away from their parents.

Some 1,200 disabled adults and parents of disabled children joined 90 Self Help Groups (SHGs), continue their savings and loans activities, and also monitor and pay tutors in 35 community education centres. SHG federations at Gram Panchayat level have formed an autonomous apex body that will support member SHGs.

More than 2,000 people in the project area benefit from increased income for their families, through over £95,000 worth of small enterprise loans given through SHGs and ELO’s 7 auto
rickshaw co-operatives, which generate a healthy profit while also publicising the project and its achievements.

The strong relationships ELO has established with government and financial institutions are securing the work’s long-term viability and an ELO-type project continues in the remaining 3 hoblis of Chamrajnagar Taluk. A collaborating partner, Seva in Action, provided training for teachers and tutors and produced two manuals, an inclusive education manual for grassroots workers and a book ‘Understanding Inclusive Practices in Schools’ based on India-wide research which supports their campaign to get state education authorities to mainstream inclusion.

The ELO team (19 field workers and 35 CEC tutors) led by Programme Manager, Anand S.N., are continuing their excellent work in inclusive education and strengthening the SHG Federations in all 5 hoblis of Chamrajnagar Taluk.

Funded by the BIG Lottery Fund

When ELO began in 2006 there were no rehabilitation services at all for disabled children or adults in Chamrajnagar but it was vital that identification, assessment, provision of mobility aids and appliances, and referrals went hand in hand with education and livelihoods opportunities programmes. We had tremendous support from the Medicor Foundation for 3 years and then from the Vitol Charitable Foundation in the final year of ELO to put in place these services. To begin with, Mobility India’s Bangalore rehabilitation team provided the support and service. At the same time 10 rehabilitation therapists and orthotic technicians were trained and today a team comprising 6 rehab therapists and 3 orthotic technicians form part of the ELO programme’s legacy in Chamrajnagar by continuing rehabilitation services to over 2,000 disabled children and others in the community who seek their help. The tenth member of the team, Madesh from Chamrajnagar, is currently at university studying a degree course in prosthetics and orthotics.
Elsewhere in India

Hostel for Disabled schoolboys, Varanasi

Kiran Centre has been able to improve their hostel for disabled boys in Varanasi city by extending and refurbishing their existing building to accommodate 6 more boys and create better facilities to be enjoyed by all 24 residents. Accommodation in the city hostel allows boys to progress to secondary education in city schools after ‘graduating’ from Kiran’s inclusive elementary school, as well as boosting their chances of training and finding employment.

New funding in 2012 will enable Kiran to take rehabilitation services to villages that are far from the Centre so that disabled children can be identified earlier, assessed and a rehabilitation plan devised for them. Special educators and grassroots workers will also be trained as part of this project.

Funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Commission

(top left) Joyful after-school activities at Doddarayapete village CEC; (top right) Children learn about silkworm cultivation in Chamrajnagar, once a leading silk producing region; (above left) Bhuvanashree gets physical therapy at home; (above right) In residence at schoolboys’ hostel, Varanasi
DPAC makes headway in Nepal

Continuing delays by the Nepali Government to approve the country’s new constitution has not prevented Disabled People’s Advocacy for Change (DPAC) – our programme with Disabled Human Rights Centre-Nepal (DHCR-Nepal) – making headway towards securing the inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of civil society in Nepal.

This year DHRC-Nepal focussed on practical efforts to secure disabled people’s access to education and employment opportunities, and on defending disabled people, particularly women and children, against abuse and violence. A current test case concerns a disabled woman whose family has denied her rightful share of the family property and kept her isolated in a remote village house.

Government schooling in Nepal is free in principle for disabled children and young people, but not yet always so in practice: DHRC-Nepal makes local education authorities aware of their obligations and encourages schools to provide a more inclusive and accessible environment. Training opportunities for young disability activists are also provided directly through DHRC’s internship scheme. Sanju, DHRC’s first intern, now works as secretary of her local disabled people’s organisation, where she is also active in street theatre.

Nepal’s 2011 census was the first opportunity to get up-to-date disability data – vital information for lobbying and advocacy campaigns. DHRC-Nepal’s team led a group monitoring the census operation to ensure it was inclusive and accessible. Now full data is awaited. Most recently, DHRC-Nepal has launched a new national campaign to secure the rights of severely/multiply-disabled people.

We welcomed DHRC-Nepal’s director, Maheshwar Ghimire, to London for a 2 week summer school at Chickenshed, London’s inclusive theatre, where he learnt skills to lead DHRC’s disability awareness street theatre groups.

Funded by UKAid – DFID

Elsewhere in Nepal

A mental health first

Matrika Devkota is the driving force of KOSHISH (which means ‘making an effort’ in Nepali) and his mission to get rid of the stigma that attaches to mental ill health through example and user led campaigns. Matrika has spoken openly on national
TV about mis-diagnosis and the resulting wasted years. Later, with correct medical and therapeutic interventions, he decided to take up the challenge of giving sufferers a voice. With help on the ground from DHRC-Nepal, we have provided technical and practical support for KOSHISH to pilot Nepal’s first mental health drop-in centre where people experiencing mental illness and their families can come for daily counselling and therapy sessions and be helped in their long journeys back to mental health.

_Funded by Jersey Overseas Aid Commission_
In its third year, the Integração programme continues to press for disabled people’s inclusion in government policies and HIV & AIDS services – both HIV prevention and AIDS mitigation. In HIV prevention it is not often acknowledged that disabled people are vulnerable – a myth Integração and our partners, Miracles in Mozambique, (MIM, youth led NGO) and ADEMO (the national association of disabled people) have helped to dispel.

Disabled people were trained to become HIV & AIDS trainers in mainstream NGOs and agencies so that disabled people’s needs are not forgotten. HIV & AIDS voluntary counselling and testing centres have been made more accessible by the provision of Braille information materials and sign language training for staff at centres in Maputo and the wider dissemination of disability appropriate HIV & AIDS prevention and information materials in 11 districts of Sofala and Maputo Provinces.

A survey among 4,000 disabled people was carried out – the first on such a scale in Mozambique – and found that 75% of disabled people could now tell the difference between HIV and AIDS. Only 16% knew this during the research that led to Integração. We found also that nearly 80% could name at least one means of HIV transmission, when at the beginning of the project only 30% could do so.

The Mozambique government’s AIDS strategic plan has officially acknowledged disabled people’s vulnerability due partly to advocacy by Integração. The lobbying of government officials to fulfil their commitments continues. The plan is widely publicised so that disabled people are informed about HIV & AIDS policy and how this may affect them.

Funded by the BIG Lottery Fund

Livelihood opportunities reach more disabled people

Over 900 people in Maputo and Sofala provinces now benefit from the livelihood opportunities and enterprise training for people with disabilities (LOPD) project. Our partner, ADEMO, has selected disabled individuals who have the potential to benefit from enterprise and skills training, and with start up grants and materials have set up small enterprises ranging from mobile phone top-up stalls...
to buying tools for cultivating their *mashambas* (allotments). All these activities have led to increased family income and wellbeing.

The project co-ordinator in Maputo has initiated small co-operative ventures so that resources can go further, whilst the Sofala co-ordinator, a young woman wheelchair user, has battled with mobility and transport limitations to reach disabled people in more remote districts and include them in mainstream government enterprise training initiatives.

*Funded by Medicor Foundation*
Thank You

Your help counts even more than ever this year, so thank you to everyone who has given money, help or time to DDP and DDP partners over this last year. We are grateful to everyone who has given money and time over this last year and particular thanks goes to:

- BIG (the Big Lottery Fund),
- Comic Relief, Guernsey and Jersey Overseas Aid, Medicor Foundation,
- UKAid (DFID), the Valentine Charitable Trust, Vitol Charitable Foundation and to individual donors, charitable trusts, friends, volunteers and trustees.

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DDP relies on you to continue our work – to see how you can help, go to http://www.ddpuk.org/support.html

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DDP’s Income and Expenditure

Expenditure 2010-2011: £643,527

- Programmes & Projects: £617,544 (96%)
- Management & Administration: £16,748 (3%)
- Fundraising & Publicity: £9,235 (1%)

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