**DISABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

*Working with disabled people and their organisations in developing countries*

- Strengthening partner organisations
- Disabled children and girls’ education
- Disabled people’s rights
- Mental health self help groups
- Deaf children’s education
- Disabled people’s livelihoods

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Mesker Eshetu (far left) and Mekdes Mesfin (third from right) teachers at Negest Fura Primary School in Hawassa, Ethiopia with pupils from the special education class. The teachers’ in-service training was designed and delivered by Bangalore based Seva-in-Action.
MOZAMBIQUE

AJODEMO – the Mozambican Association of Disabled Young People (Associação dos Jovens Deficientes de Moçambique) has continued to implement three integrated projects on disability and human rights, skills training and livelihoods reaching over 600 hundred disabled young adults of all disabilities. With funding from the Commonwealth Foundation, States of Jersey Overseas Aid and the Medicor Foundation, activities are being carried out in the 6 provincial capitals and 12 districts of Maputo, Gaza, Tete, Manica, Sofala, and Zambesia provinces of the southern and central regions.

The Boane district group outside of Maputo city was formed as part of the project funded by the Commonwealth Foundation and has been meeting and sharing their experiences for many months and have a good rapport with the social affairs department worker based at the health centre where the meetings are held. One of their group is Raul, pictured below, getting his first wheelchair which was donated by AJODEMO’s Italian supporters. Raul’s health was fine until he contracted some kind of tuberculosis which has left him semi paralysed and also unable to continue his college studies. The past 3 years have been very isolating for him as he did not even have a wheelchair to get around but he is ever hopeful of rejoining college as soon as term starts to continue his interest in horticulture.
No access to rehabilitation services

Cantol Pondja seen in photo above, the president of AJODEMO, walks with the aid of callipers and two elbow crutches, but when in late 2015 the joints broke he was unable to get them fixed. The rehabilitation workshop in Maputo said they did not have the parts. This is a common experience of many disabled people throughout Mozambique, whose daily lives are a misery because simple repairs or replacement assistive devices cannot be had. We are working with AJODEMO to set up a workshop where disabled people can get frontline and urgent repairs done for their callipers and wheelchairs and where simple assistive devices such as crutches and wheelchair cushions can be produced and stocked. We are happy to say Cantol’s callipers were repaired, with emergency parts flown in from DDP’s partner in India.

Felix, pictured above, being interviewed by Tete FM Radio. He is a member of an enterprise association with 5 other people of different disabilities. Together they run a grocery stall in Tete city’s municipal market. This is thanks to the Medicor Foundation which is supporting human rights, enterprise skills training and business set up for 192 young disabled people in Tete, Sofala, Manica and Zambezia provinces.
ETHIOPIA

DDP’s growing partnerships in Ethiopia share a focus on empowering vulnerable people, but each project targets different groups. In Tulla sub-city of Hawassa, southern Ethiopia, our lead partner Berhan Lehetsanat (BL) continues the four year programme From Childhood to Livelihood (FCTL) which started in May 2013 with funding from the BIG Lottery. FCTL provides high quality and appropriate vocational training to disabled young people so that they can make the transition from school to the world of work. In parallel to this direct support, the project is also changing the educational environment for young people with special needs more widely by the successful introduction of a mandatory special needs education module in the teacher training curriculum at Hawassa College of Teacher Education. The first cohort of trainees who have passed the module are now entering the teaching profession, bringing with them their new practical perspective on inclusion (see cover photo). Also in Tulla sub-city, BL launched our new 3-year UKAID funded project to reduce the prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting and other harmful traditional practices, and so to improve girls’ lives and their maternal health.

Raising achievements at Tulla High School (THS)

Last year 59 students from THS passed university entrance exams and were admitted to universities across Ethiopia and with this THS celebrates a nearly 100% grade 12 pass rate with girls making up 50% of the passes. This is a first for any school in the southern states region and an outstanding achievement, the result of a dramatic fall in the dropout rate from 35% to zero accompanied by a massive improvement in the learning environment.

Senit, a young woman with a physical impairment caused by polio as a child, was supported with vocational skills training, and with resources to establish a shoe repair business. Before the training Senit was isolated at home and struggled to earn a living. With support from project staff, she now runs a successful business. Senit now hopes to inspire young people with disabilities to engage in similar activities. She says “If you can think, then you can work. There is no connection between disability and inability.”

One hundred and four street sweepers employed by Tulla sub-city municipality are attending literacy and numeracy classes at the Women & Girls Centre. A day’s work for these women means getting up at 4 am and seeing to their children before starting work to clean the streets of Tulla sub-city. After their day’s work is over, they come for classes to learn to write, read and count. For all 104 women taking part, this is a life-changing experience; they are going to ‘school’ for the first time ever in their lives, and are getting a chance to share the same experience as their school-going children. This is just one of the activities hosted at the centre which serves as a focal point for all girls and women in the sub-city and where girls get extra tuition and for the UK Aid funded project with BL, which aims to tackle the causes of harmful traditional practices such as FGM and at the same time uplift women from illiteracy and dependence.
and ethos at the school. It can be directly attributable to the building of a new 8 room classroom block, laboratory and copying facilities and library improvements, and the strengthening of school clubs and the parents association. The Women and Girls Centre adjacent to THS is significant for after school activities and tutorials for girls and a dedicated space for their wellbeing and all round growth. This work has been in progress for over 4 years with support from the Band Aid Charitable Trust and JOA.

DDIA – leading the way for deaf people

DDP’s other Ethiopian partner Deaf Development and Information Association (DDIA) also tackles barriers to employment and inclusion but DDIA’s focus is on deaf and hearing disabled young people. Two interlinked projects funded by the Medicor Foundation and JOA provide vocational skills training and livelihood support while also enabling young deaf people to be role models as they engage with their communities in Addis Ababa and beyond.

DDIA is on the path to creating great role models of and for deaf people in Ethiopia thanks to grants from the Medicor Foundation and JOA. The photo above is of some of the 127 young deaf graduates of barber and hairdressing training. They are going to set up 28 barber shops and hairdressing salons as group enterprises in Addis Ababa, four nearby towns of Adama, Sebeta, Bishoftu and Hawassa and further afield in Dessie (Amhara region), Mekele (Tigray region), Arba Minch (South region) and Dire Dawa (Oromia region). Some of these groups have already negotiated low cost business premises with their local municipalities.
INDIA

In India we continue working in Uttar Pradesh with the Kiran Society, which celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, on the 4-year Health Awareness and Livelihoods project, funded by the Big Lottery. HAL, as its name implies, tackles poor development outcomes for mothers and infants in poor families in rural villages through immediate and practical support for the most at risk, together with wider awareness raising about health and nutrition combined with self help groups savings and livelihoods to improve women and babies’ longer term prospects. Far to the south we have continued to support vocational computer training courses run by the Srivilliputhur Development and Education Trust (SDET) in Tamil Nadu, which provide a gateway for disadvantaged young people to enter the modern world of work.

Health Awareness and Livelihoods project goes from strength to strength

The second year of this project saw activities extend into all 54 target villages and the number of self help groups (SHGs) doubled to 125 with 1644 members, all women and all saving money regularly. The SHGs have facilitated a total of 270 different loans between members for new enterprises and to meet urgent family and social needs. The scale of the project is impressive with over 28,000 women and young girls now engaged in a range of activities – hygiene awareness and practical sanitation, supplementary feeding for infants and mothers, skills training, livelihoods and enterprise set up, and networking for women-led campaigns – while HAL continues to make allies of all the primary health care workers, policy makers and officials in the district who are collaborating to make this project a success. One of the newest villages to join the project is Khaira village, a small roadside hamlet of some 200 very poor and deprived Mussar people, with no access to clean water and 3 kilometres from the nearest school. An initial survey found that 30 of the 56 babies and young children were malnourished and ailing and so the first step was to supplement their food, while setting up a mother and baby group to tackle the linked problems of poor ante-natal care attendance, inadequate sanitation and lack of sexual and
reproductive health knowledge among young women and girls – all underpinned by grinding poverty.

HAL field worker Pramila (pictured above) makes nearly daily visits to Khaira village, where she has already helped to form 2 SHGs and is encouraging other women to start more. Through women joining SHGs to support each other and from HAL's network of primary health workers, the feeding programme and greater awareness about hygiene and health, she hopes to ensure that babies and infants of this village can thrive and be healthy.

Preeti, HAL's CBR field worker (in red sari top right) talks to children in Kushaha village in Sikhar block, Mirzapur District about the excitement of going to school, but it's also an opportunity for children to learn the first basics of hygiene and health. The same message is reinforced with parents via SHG meetings, health camps and other public events such as International Children and Women's Days and Girl Child Day.

**IT training for jobs**

57 young trainees (24 men and 33 women) all from disadvantaged backgrounds completed IT courses this year at the Vocational Computer Training Centre run by Srivilliputhur Development and Education Trust (SDET) in Tamil Nadu, with the support of Logica CMG Staff Project and the North South Development Trust. With their new skills IT graduates like Barath Kumar (pictured below) are able to get decent jobs and a step up for their families. He comes from a very poor family and being selected for the training was a success in itself but he has successfully completed it and has found work as a computer operator and is also editing wedding videos.
NEPAL

The twin impact of Nepal’s earthquake disaster and a debilitating 5 month economic blockade have challenged our partners, but each has responded by doing their best to deliver our projects in very difficult circumstances while also continuing to advocate for disabled people’s full inclusion.

We thank all who contributed to DDP’s Nepal Earthquake Appeal. The majority of funds was used by our lead partner Nepal Disabled Human Rights Centre (DHRC-Nepal) to provide basic necessities such as winter clothes and bedding to over 100 disabled people in Sindupalchowk district (the earthquake’s epicentre) and Kathmandu. Other partners, SHRUTI and KOSHISH (see back page), received funds to help their constituent groups – hard of hearing people and those suffering the effects of mental illness, respectively.

Despite the challenges in Nepal, our three year project to alleviate poverty among disabled people in four districts of Western Nepal with local partners in Bardiya, Dang, Surkhet and Tanahun districts, under DFID/UK Aid’s Global Poverty Alleviation Programme, completed its second year on track and on target. With DHRC-Nepal’s support, 865 disabled people and parents of disabled children have started new livelihood activities, 740 joined self help groups, 198 accessed new skills and enterprise training and 202 were helped to get assistive devices.

A woman’s place is in the driving seat

As a young child, the severe effects of Bhuma’s polio kept her quietly at home at her parents’ café in Ghorahi town, Dang district, learning from her older siblings as best she could. Thanks to her and her parents’ determination she slowly gained more mobility through operations and physiotherapy. By the time she was 7 she was able to start school on track at grade 2, getting there on her dad’s bicycle, but she still kept very much to herself.

It wasn’t until her school leaver certificate year (16) that a chance meeting got her involved in Nepal’s disability movement, becoming first a volunteer, then a board member of our local partner Forum for Human Rights of Disabled (FHRD) in Dang District of western Nepal. Once that door was opened, her commitment and her enthusiasm grew. Now she is proud to have achieved a BA in Sociology at Ghorahi College, as well as marrying and becoming the mother of a young son. Bhuma worked first as FHRD’s livelihood officer for our poverty alleviation project, but has now been promoted to be the local programme coordinator, while also continuing senior volunteer roles with the National Federation of Disabled People Nepal.
and Nepal’s Women’s Rights Network. Bhuma (pictured opposite) whizzes around on her mobility scooter, which has been cleverly adapted with removable stabiliser wheels. For long trips her husband drives and she rides pillion, but for every day, she is firmly in the driving seat.

**SHRUTI celebrates 4th birthday and a new project**

The National Association for the Hard of Hearing and Deafened Nepal – SHRUTI – celebrates its 4th anniversary this year. Since being introduced to SHRUTI’s founder Neeta Bhattarai by our lead partner DHRC-Nepal we have been delighted to work with her to develop ideas, to advocate and network and then on SHRUTI’s first substantial project – a pilot survey of school children’s ear health in Kathmandu. This year, with the support of the British Foreign Schools Society (BFSS), sees the launch of the next phase – a demonstration model for the inclusion of children with hearing disabilities in two schools in Dhading district. Over 450 primary school age children’s hearing and ear health are being tested and the needs of any with hearing disabilities met, while parents and teachers alike learn about the importance of tackling this barrier to learning and educational attainment and this project’s practical lesson is shared with 13 other schools and the district’s education officers.

**A new partnership with GMSP in Sindhupalchowk district.**

Nani Maya Thapa (pictured below) is founder and director of GMSP – Gramin Mahila Sriajanshil Pariwar – the Women’s Creative Forum, a well established rural women’s community development group in Sindupalchowk district. Since meeting her through DHRC-Nepal, when she coordinated our JOA funded relief for people affected by the Jure landslide, DDP has been keen to build a new partnership to help GMSP to make their organisation and projects inclusive of disabled women. This year we took a step forward, by signing a partnership agreement and developing a small project to set up disabled women’s self help groups, provide disability awareness training and make GMSP’s temporary (post earthquake) premises more accessible.
Twunganire Abahungutse (TA – Everyone supports returnees) is our main project with local partner ACPDH – the Association for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights – which started in 2014 with a grant from the Baring Foundation. TA is helping returnees, former refugees and displaced people to know their entitlements, and is providing sustainable practical assistance for livelihoods, legal advice and a programme to get children their birth certificates, which are crucial for health services and to enrol in school. These activities are complemented by ongoing strategic advocacy by ACPDH with various government institutions to ensure returnees’ rights remain on the agenda. The TA project won the 2015 Ockenden International Prize and the prize money has enabled us to

Louisiana Iragendanwa, a 60 year old widow from Gitega, lived for 23 years in the home she had made in Mutambara camp, in Kayange in Rumonge province. But in 2012 she was made homeless again when the camp burnt down. She now lives with her two grown up daughters and their 5 children in the Gahore site for former refugees and IDPs. She says she hates war because it has destabilised and destroyed her family and she had to work very hard to keep them together. In the 3 years she has been in Gahore she has made a living cultivating vegetables and buying and selling avocados and just about managing to make enough to feed her family. The 2015 Ockenden Prize for the TA project is just for people like Louisiana who, as one of the first beneficiaries of the project in Rumonge province, is now well on the way to building a future for herself and her family. She had always wanted to keep goats and so was overjoyed at receiving a goat which she hopes will multiply into a herd. ACPDH’s focal point in Rumonge, Vidy, is on hand to help and advise Louisiana and other vulnerable families like her in their chosen livelihoods, and hopefully to get a sense of belonging.
extend the project’s activities to returnee communities in Rumonge province. DDP’s second partner in Burundi is Ecole Ephphatha pour les Sourds (EES) – the school for deaf children where a programme to improve teaching methods has been running alongside major building and renovation works.

**Improving deaf children’s education and learning environment**

For many years most children attending Ecole Ephphatha Pour les Sourds (EES) which is residential in term time had to sleep head to toe in shared bunk beds, with the smaller children sometimes three to a bunk. With the completion of a second new dormitory block, thanks to support from Guernsey Overseas Aid Development Commission last year, nearly all children have their own bunk. The school compound was landscaped and had proper drainage put in and along with other major repairs and improvements to all school buildings has made for a comfortable and safe learning environment. Since 2012, DDP has supported EES to make practical and educational improvements – sign language training for teachers and parents, setting up an IT training unit, football tournaments and boosting the school’s income generation schemes. Key support was given to the parents association, which, alongside the school’s governors, has successfully lobbied the ministry of education to take notice of deaf children’s education. For the first time the ministry has started paying some EES teachers’ salaries, thus recognising the importance of deaf children’s education.

The TA project team is particularly mindful of supporting orphans as a most vulnerable group among displaced people. Lionel, Gyslaine and Claudine are three orphans in Mutimbuzi commune who have come to the notice of the TA team. Here they have been given school materials so they do not miss out on going to school.

Proscovia Nantongo (centre), a lecturer from Kyambogo University, Uganda, conducted a special needs education course at EES for teachers, sign language interpreters, IT trainers and parents. Maurice Murishi (in black and white check shirt) is EES’s head teacher.

The renovated classroom blocks at EES, dormitories in the background.
Matrika Devkoka, founder and chairperson of KOSHISH, the Nepalese self help association for people with mental illness, has been made an Ashoka Fellow in recognition of his tireless and brave campaign for rights, better services and to end the stigma attached to mental illness. In true ASHOKA principle Matrika is a changemaker and by using his personal experience to campaign he has helped changed many lives and national policy on mental illness. With funding from the Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity and the Evan Cornish Foundation, we continued to support KOSHISH’s transit centre where women and girls with mental illness have a chance to recover and if possible reintegrate with their families and communities – a place needed more than ever after the trauma of last year’s earthquake.

30 student activists (including 15 students with disabilities) from Ponta-Gea Secondary School in Beira, Mozambique, took part in HIV & AIDS awareness and data collection training. The students, supported by the local AJODEMO group shared their findings and important messages about HIV and sexual reproductive health through community round table discussions and street theatre. This project was supported by the Mercury Phoenix Trust.

**Expenditure 2015-2016: £654,047**

**Income 2015-2016: £671,230**

**Programmes & Projects:** £630,450 (96%)

**Management & Administration:** £16,277 (3%)

**Fundraising & Publicity:** £7,370 (1%)

**Grants:** £636,123 (95%)

**Voluntary Income:** £34,302 (5%)

**Other (Interest):** £805 (<1%)

**Please get in touch to support our work**

404 Camden Road, London N7 0SJ, UK
Tel +44 20 7700 7298
mail@ddpuk.org
www.ddpuk.org

UK Registered Charity No 1046001