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Disability Action Council (DAC) is the national coordination and advisory mechanism on disability issues

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Disability Action Council

MoSVY - Building #788, Monivong Blvd, Boengtrabek, Chamcarmon
P.O.Box 115, Tel: +855 17 55 56 53
Email: dac@dac.org.kh, Website: www.dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



The IDPD celebrated for the promoting the rights of persons with disabilities



IDPD is the day for People with Disabilities that always enjoy promoting their rights of participation in society. December 03, 2009 at the National Institute of Education in Phnom Penh, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and Disability Action Council (DAC), in collaboration with CDPO, Epic Arts, NCDP and other relevant organizations celebrated the wonderful day with its theme is **“We all participate in the enforcement of the Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”**. The event was presided over by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Pade Techo Hun Sen Prime Minister of Cambodia**

Senior officials from ministries such as Deputy Prime Ministers, Senior Ministers, Ministers, Members of the National Assembly, Senators, Ambassadors, Development Partners, UN agencies, NGOs and students, and persons with disabilities and their family members, participated in the event with a total amount of 4000 participants. Participants enjoyed the sports, exhibitions, sign language, dance, drum performing, and concert.

In the event, the Prime Minister, strongly encouraged to draw attention on integration of disability in all aspects of the political, social, economic and cultural life in communities and also mobilize action to achieve the goals of full and equal enjoyment of human rights and their participation in society.

The main aims of the event were to promote the public understanding of disability, to declare the rights of persons with disabilities, to mobilize support for the dignity, right and well-being of persons with disabilities and to promote the implementation of the Disability Law and the UNCRPD.

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities and Cambodia Day for Persons with Disabilities was also celebrated in some provinces such as Takeo, Prey Veng Kampong Speu, Siem Reap, Kep and Banteay Mean Chey province.



Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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Disability Sector included into National Strategic Development Plan 2009-2013

In late 2009, MoSVY and DAC in collaboration with Inclusive Committee (IC) members and funded by HIF conducted a national consultative workshop and some meetings with line ministries, development partners, NGOs, and individual experts in order to get inputs to include into disability recommendation for submitting to the line ministries including Ministry of Education Youth and Sport, Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Ministry of Public Works and Transport. As a result, the disability issues have been highlighted in the first draft of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) updated 2009-2013.



Under coordination of the DAC, the Inclusive Committee (IC); consultations, discussions and produced recommendation, statements and NGO position paper on disability were produced for submitting to the Government-Development Partners Coordination Committee (GDCC), Cambodia Development Co-

operation Forum (CDCF), and for presenting and sharing among the sectoral NGOs and development partners. In late 2009, DAC had co-organized five meetings to have further discussion on lobbying and advocacy for the inclusion of disability into the national and development partners' development plans.

The IC is comprised of; the Disability Action Council (DAC), Cambodian Disabled Person's Organization (CDPO), National Centre of Disabled Persons (NCDP), Action on Disability and Development (ADD), Association of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC),

Handicap International (HIF), and Deaf Development Program (DDP).

18 February 2009, the statement on disability was completed, after had been finalized by the Inclusive Committee, for submitting to the GDCC Meeting, by the NGO Forum Cambodia, a mem-

bership organization for local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Cambodia.

15 March 2010, the first draft of the NGOs Position Paper on Disability Sector was completed, after had been finalized by the IC, for submitting to the 3rd CDCF Meeting, by the Cooperation Committee of Cambodia (CCC), a pre-eminent membership organization of the non-government sector in Cambodia, after the whole position paper had been finalized by the Inclusive Committee.



Due to a large number of sectoral NGOs position papers that will be sent to the CDCF meeting in 2010, It's agreed among the coordinating committee to share coordination responsibility with sectoral NGOs to CCC, MEDiCAM and NGO Forum, for consolidating/compiling them together.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The visit of a United Kingdom Member of Parliament to exchange experiences on the rights of PwDs



September 2009, The Right Honorable Sharon Hodgson, UK Member of Parliament, Director of DAC and Director of VSO had meetings with Cambodian Ministers; H.E Ith Sam Heng, Minister of MoSVY, H.E Prak Sokhonn, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, H.E Im Sethy, Minister of MoEYS and H.E Chhum Bun Rong, Secretary General of CMAA. The meeting aimed to promote the integration of persons with disabilities into mainstream development programs to ensure the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, advocate and lobby for ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and also to promote the implementation of the disability law and national plan of action for persons with disabilities including landmine survivors.

The overall purpose of the visit was a part of a global advocacy strategy campaign of Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), whereby UK Members of Parliament, visited various organizations working in developing countries for two weeks each year. In 2008, MP Angus MacNeill worked with NEP and DAC, to advocate to the Minister of Education, Youth and Sport, using the Valuing Teachers report, and also worked with DAC members, towards developing an advocacy strategy for the sector.

The 14th Monday 2009, Sharon Hodgson, shared experiences on Disability Sector in UK, to members of Disability Action Council (DAC), the agenda on effectively and fully participate in political and public life on equal basis, welfare system and social participation for person with disabilities.

During her visit to Cambodia, media agents; Cambodian TVs, newspapers and radios, presented and broadcasted of the meetings of Sharon Hodgson, UK Member of Parliament, with senior officials of Cambodia, to the public, thereby, raising the awareness of potential donors, development partners, Sectorial NGOs and stakeholders about disability issues.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The National Workshop of Dissemination on the Master Plan on the Policy on Education for Children with Disabilities

February 17-19, 2010, Kampong Chhnang province, the National Workshop on the Dissemination on the Master Plan on the Policy on Education for ChwDs and disability awareness-raising was organized by the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS), funded by UNICEF and with technical and coordination support from DAC. The workshop was highly presided over by H.E. Im Sethy, Minister of MoEYS, and there were around 120 participants including relevant ministries from MoP, MoLVT, MoSVY, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Ministry of Information, DAC, and other relevant I/NGOs in the disability sector.

Mr. York Sovan, Director of Primary Education Department of MoEYS, reported about the outcome of the implemented work of the Special Education Office of MoEYS on the statistics of children with disabilities, the master plan on the policy on education for children with disabilities preparation of training materials for implementing the policy, preparation of material mapping, training teachers on special education and organizing the workshop for awareness raising on disability and rights of children to educational officers, commune councils in provinces.

The first day (17 Feb 2010) of the workshop, a lot of activities were done by MoEYS such as presentations about the policy on ECWD, Master Plan on ECWD, Concepts of Inclusion, Disability Checklist and the roles of UNICEF, FTI, and DAC in implementing the Master Plan.

The second day (18 Feb 2010), the relevant ministries (MoSVY, MoLVT, MoP) made presentations about what each individual ministry was able to contribute to the implementation of the Master Plan, showed a video on disability and education, and participated in group discussions and plenary presentations about what should be done among relevant stakeholders at all levels from national to commune level in contribution to the implementation of the Master Plan on ECWD.

The third day (19 Feb 2010), the communication strategy was presented and then group discussions were conducted on how to raise awareness on disabilities among different target audience, and finally, the inputs were collected for developing communication strategy.



The workshop aimed to raise awareness and disseminate key information about the ECWD policy and master plan, with specific emphasis on the 12 major implementation strategies, identifying next steps for implementation with agencies responsible, and developing a communication strategy to identify target audiences, key messages and modes of dissemination.

H.E. Im Sethy said that, education is one of the four components of the rectangular strategy of the Government; therefore, we have to find out the key problems and solutions in order to provide educational opportunities to the indigenous children, children with poverty and children with disabilities and change the sense of discrimination. Few of these children can access education, hence the need to promote inclusive education.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Article 14
The State shall develop programmes for physical and mental rehabilitation aiming at enabling persons with disabilities to fulfil their potential and to fully exercise their capacities and talents in society.

Disability **Mainstreamed** into **Employment and Health Sector**



November 17th, 2009, the Disability Action Council (DAC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and Handicap International, co-organized a national workshop on Disability Mainstreaming into Employment and Health Sector, at the Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The workshop was highly presided over by H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY, and comprise of 80 participants who were representatives of line ministries, local, international organization and media agents.

This workshop aimed to lobby government ministries, development partners and entrepreneurs for including disability into employment and healthcare policies and how to implement the law on the protection and the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Thong Vinal, DAC Executive Director, said that, to mainstream disability into employment and health is the crucial procedure of poverty reduction in Cambodia,

by doing this, the protection the rights and benefit, discrimination reduction and ensuring the possibility to fully participate and getting equal rights in society, for persons with disabilities, will get better.

H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY, expressed that, disability is a cross-cutting issue, causes poverty and makes difficulties, therefore, to ensure effective participation on equal basis and poverty reduction, it is required to have involvement from all stakeholders; government ministries, NGOs, and persons with disabilities themselves, to put efforts, in order to create special services and include disability into the existing services provision.



During the workshop, participants were divided into two groups; health and employment, and each group, was divided into two groups; health service providers and health service receivers, and employment providers and employment re-

ceivers. As a result, participants found out the barriers of getting health services and employment, e.g the flow of information from national level is limited and the hospital and health care center does not have reasonable accommodation and sufficient skills to provide health care services to persons with disabilities, whereas in employment sector, people with disabilities are facing with three main barriers, attitudinal, institutional and environmental barriers resulting in self-discrimination, give up opportunity, lost self-confidence and depression.

Furthermore, the participants come up with numbers of recommendations; e.g persons with disabilities must improve the capacity by increasing knowledge and experiences that meet to the job requirement. The government should consult with employers to set the minimal criteria concerning to law enforcement. In health sector the government should allocate sufficient budget for health care services and the flow of information between the national level and grassroots level is interrelated to ensure that persons with disabilities can access the services provision.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The 9th National Physiotherapy Congress, held in Sihanouk province

The 9th National Physiotherapy Congress was joint organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, Cambodian Physiotherapy Association and Disability Action Council, in December 10-11, 2009, Garden Hill Hotel, Sihanouk province. The congress

was highly presided over by H.E Sem Sokha, MoSVY Secretary of State and H.E. Meas Vuthy, Deputy Governor of Sihanouk province. There were 76 professional physiotherapists from both the disabilities and health sectors, and national and international guests,

attended this congress. The congress aimed to focus on upgrading the skills and knowledge and sharing best practices among national and international physiotherapist and to improve the overall quality of physiotherapy services provision.



Mr. Ung Sambath, President of CPTA, said that the physiotherapy field was settled as a paramedical or medical aid profession through an effort of Handicap International Organization in 1987. The PT curriculum was integrated into the Technical School for Medical Care (TSMC), training program and a special promotion was organized to train PT trainers. Presently, there are 19 batches with the sum of 293 PTs graduated from TSMC. Historically, the association was formed in 1994 and recognized from the Min-

istry of Interior in 1997. The qualified physiotherapists are now working in different field as a professional practitioner and policy maker such as in disability and health sector within public, private as well as with non-governmental organization at both center and community level, he added.

H.E. Meas Vuthy, Deputy Governor of Sihanouk province, said that, physiotherapy is a very important profession in health science and this technique helps to treat a variety of pathologies.

H.E. Sem Sokha, the Secretary of State of MoSVY, said that, the physiotherapy services are very helpful for persons with disabilities as well as acute and chronic patients and he also encouraged and advised the physiotherapists to keep improving their knowledge and skills, in order to professionally serve the society.

The congress also included presentations on; the Law of the Protection and the

Promotion of the Rights of PWDs, the Fracture Rehabilitation Protocol, the House Adaptation for Persons Living after a Stroke, the CBR guideline and the Dynamic Stability of the Lumbar Spine.

The following were the impression of the participants on the congress, "it was a wonderful sharing experience for me as a physiotherapist working in the health and disabilities sector; It allowed me to learn to the most current research while refreshing my knowledge in all areas; It was also interesting to see the displays showing the developments in medicine and technology; the lectures and discussion were well organized and interesting, and participants were very approachable."

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
 Email: dac@dac.org.kh
 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Communication Tools for Government, Development Partner and NGOs Policy Makers

October 9, 2009, Disability Action Council, in getting financial support, from Handicap International-France, produced communication tools for policy makers comprising 9,459 folders, 1000 brochures and 300 Notebooks. The aims of producing communication tools: to produce attractive and informative material with the aim of sensitizing and influencing on disabilities facts and obligations, to sensitize and influence policy, program designers and decision makers, program implement-

ers and service providers on their role and responsibility toward disabilities issues, through improving communications on disability and raising awareness, and to enable them to understand better about the disability context in Cambodia, existing legal frameworks and their responsibilities in becoming key agents in mainstreaming disabilities.

The thematic communication tools were very important for influencing policy,

program designers and decision makers to generate more attention and support for acceptance and inclusion of disability issue into national development plans.

Key Messages were used for compiling into communication tools; a message of the Cambodian Prime Minister, and quotations from the law on the protection and the promotion on the rights of persons with disabilities, UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, Education Policy and Master Plan on Education of Children with Disabilities and they facts on disability and definition of disability terminologies.

The produced communication tools were distributed to policy makers including; the cabinet of the Prime Minister, senators, members of the parliament, ministers of all ministries, development partners and members. These were the first but not last, communication tools were produced and disseminated by the Disability Action Council (DAC), to the top national institutions, therefore, making the disability sector more widely heard to senior government policy makers and development partners.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
 Email: dac@dac.org.kh
 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The building capacity on the Proposal Writing for DAC NGO Members

The capacity development is one of the prioritized actions of Disability Action Council (DAC), therefore DAC has conducted diverse capacity development trainings; so far, two capacity developments were conducted; report writing and monitoring and evaluation. All trainings were facilitated by VSO advisors to DAC.

Jan 5-12, 2010, the capacity development on the Proposal Preparation Writing, was conducted by Disability Action Council (DAC). The training aimed to provide DAC staff and NGO Members a basic understanding of preparing and drafting a funding proposal to donors. Proposal formats from the ARC-managed 'Land Mine Survivor Assistance Fund' and EU's 'Health for All' were used as guides during the training because both funds provide financial assistance to the disability sector in Cambodia and are potential funding sources for DAC member organizations.



The training schedule included classroom presentations in the morning followed by practical implementation of the theory in the afternoon. The training was based on a log frame approach which provides a commonsense methodology for drafting funding proposals. Through discussions with beneficiary groups, activities with potentially the greatest impact on target groups, the means of implementation, indicators for monitoring and assumptions that need to be considered during implementation, can all be selected.

Training Day I

Training commenced with the fundamental questions a proposal is trying to answer:

- ✦ What is the problem being addressed?
- ✦ Why is the problem important and interesting?

- ✦ What will you do to address the problem?
- ✦ Do you have the resources necessary to complete the work?

There is a need for NGOs to demonstrate in their proposals an integrated approach to project implementation. A proposal needs to demonstrate how their proposed activities complements the work of other implementing partners working with the same target groups; how the proposal aligns with provincial and national government strategies and policies in the sector; how the proposal supports the donor strategy for Cambodia; and ultimately, how the proposal integrates with supranational goals such as the UN's Millennium Development Goals and Aid Effectiveness strategies. Next, there was discussion of the different vocabularies used by different donors in development assistance work.

This creates confusion with resulting incoherent responses by Cambodian NGOs in their proposals. We addressed this problem as a project hierarchy (pyramid) with NGO inputs required for project activities at the base produces outputs. Several outputs achieve project outcomes, with a number of outcomes providing impact on a project's purpose and goal. Various other words are used by different donors to describe this hierarchy in a project, and NGOs must use the donor's vocabulary as stated in their proposal formats. It was also stressed that NGOs are responsible for activities, outputs and outcomes from their project; however, they only contribute to the project's goal and purpose. Some discussion followed on possible different sources of funding for NGOs apart from the donors present in Cambodia.

This included civil society organizations, philanthropists, private sector and Cambodian expatriate communities abroad. The final topic introduced was log frames and the activities required to build a log frame. This introduced the afternoon practical session. The group was divided into three different problems afflicting disabled people in Cambodia regarding their health, education and livelihood. Each group was directed to build

their Problem Tree around their core problem (trunk), with each person encouraged to write as many causes of that problem as possible and paste them under the core problem (tree roots). Unfortunately, due to time constraints we did not bother with the effects of the core problem (tree branches). This allows each person to perceive and prioritize the problems according to their own opinions. A problem is never an isolated negative situation, but related to other problems. Each stated problem is preceded by the problem(s) which cause(s) it, and followed by the problem it causes itself. After a common understanding of the problems is reached, they then group the causal problems into similar categories. They then convert the negative problems of the Problem Tree into positive statements e.g. disabled people lack access to adequate health services; disabled people access adequate health services. Thus each group was able to decide on an appropriate set of outcomes and outputs for their project proposal.

Training Day II

Working with the log frames started on Day 1, this training session discussed indicators, means of verification and assumptions in the log frame. The use of SMART indicators and risks vs. indicators provided plenty of discussion. Other topics covered included the annual work plan, budgets, cross-cutting issues and monitoring and evaluation. Throughout the discussion it was emphasized that the development of the log frame needed to include extensive discussions with beneficiaries in order to provide realistic indicators and assumptions, and the means to measure these indicators during project implementation.

A basic introduction to monitoring and evaluation was provided: monitoring to provide information for judging the quality of implementation, to identify and solve problems early and thus improve quality. Evaluation is an objective, periodic assessment of a project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. Project implementers needed to measure various indicators at each level of the project hierarchy in order to assess the project's progress. During the afternoon, the three groups worked to complete their log frames – indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

The proposed methodology for drafting a proposal i.e. the Log frame approach, focused on a results-based approach to project implementation. Flexibility and creativity are needed when using the log frame approach as a methodology that to help formulate and design a project in collaboration with the proposed beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries know what activities will have the greatest impact on their daily lives and what can realistically be achieved during a project. Therefore, they also need to be involved from the start and have ownership of the project and help with project implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The training helped participants understand the different language to address the funding proposal criteria used by donors, and the need to use the same language in a project proposal application. The training also helped participants understand the hierarchy in a project and the interlinking of goal, purpose, objectives, outcomes, outputs, activities etc. The need to address increasing complexity, more assumptions and higher risk as we move up the project hierarchy was also stressed during the training. While the language of different donors can be confusing, funding agencies are basically asking the same questions in their proposal formats. Finally, the only way to become a proficient proposal drafter is through knowledge and practice. This training course was principally aimed to provide confidence for participants and to provide a basis for organizations to approach the task of proposal drafting.



Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Pedagogy Skill for Trainers of Vocational Training Centers

To strengthen the implementation of the circular on improving the quality of vocational training for persons with disabilities; the vocational training, income generation and job-placement committee, conducted monitoring and evaluation, of five Vocational Training Centers. As a result, the committee found out the positive points and some gaps regarding the quality standard. One of the most important things that all Vocational Training Centers are facing is the capacity of trainers in transferring the knowledge to trainees, including teaching methodology, lesson plan preparation and the role of teacher. Therefore, the Disability Action Council (DAC), Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and NGO members reached a consensus to organize pedagogy training to upgrade pedagogy skills for trainers from all vocational training Centers .

Thus, the five day training on the pedagogy skills for trainers from diverse vocational training centers in Cambodia was co-organized by Disability Action Council (DAC), in collaboration with, the Ministry

of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) and the National Technical Training Institute (NTTI)/ Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training and NGO members. The opening session was highly presided over by H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY, December 28, 2009-January 1, 2010, at the National Technical Training Institute (NTTI), and February 8-12, 2010, at the National Borei Infants and Children.

The training was divided into two phases. The first session was held from December 28-January 1, 2009, at the NTTI. There were 29 trainees attended the training and they were the representatives from, JSC, AAR-VTD, YODIFEE, WAC, CVCD, CHRYSALIS, HI-F, OEC and PSE.

The second session was organized from February 8-10, 2010, at the National Borei Infants and Children. There were 34 trainees attended the training and they were the representatives from, JSC, CWARS, JCIA, WAC, KPF and YODIFEE.

The contents of training were carefully designed; role of teacher, how to identify objectives of lessons through practicing in groups, how to develop curriculum and lesson planning through practicing, personal development, concept of disability action equality training in social and medical model through group discussion.

Pedagogy skills were facilitated by M. Chhar Khemarin, Mr. Tun Sophorn, and Ms. Hem Sokchan who are professors of NTTI. Personal Development was facilitated by Mr. Ou Sokhim Inclusive Education Coordinator of DAC and Mr. Oum Raksme, External Training and Scholarship Program Officer of PSE, and Disability Equality Training was facilitated by Ms. Tith Hieng Seka Livelihood Program Coordinator of DAC.

During the training, all trainees were required to practise identifying the objectives of session and lesson, prepare a lesson plan to practise teaching the real class through feedback from facilitators and class, discuss in the group about questions on the topics of personal development and Disability and Equality Training



Whereas participants from CHRYSA-LIS reflected about its objective compared to what they learnt from pedagogy training. Similarly, representatives from HI-F and OEC Battambang and CVCD reported that they have conducted one day sharing about pedagogy skills to community facilitators.

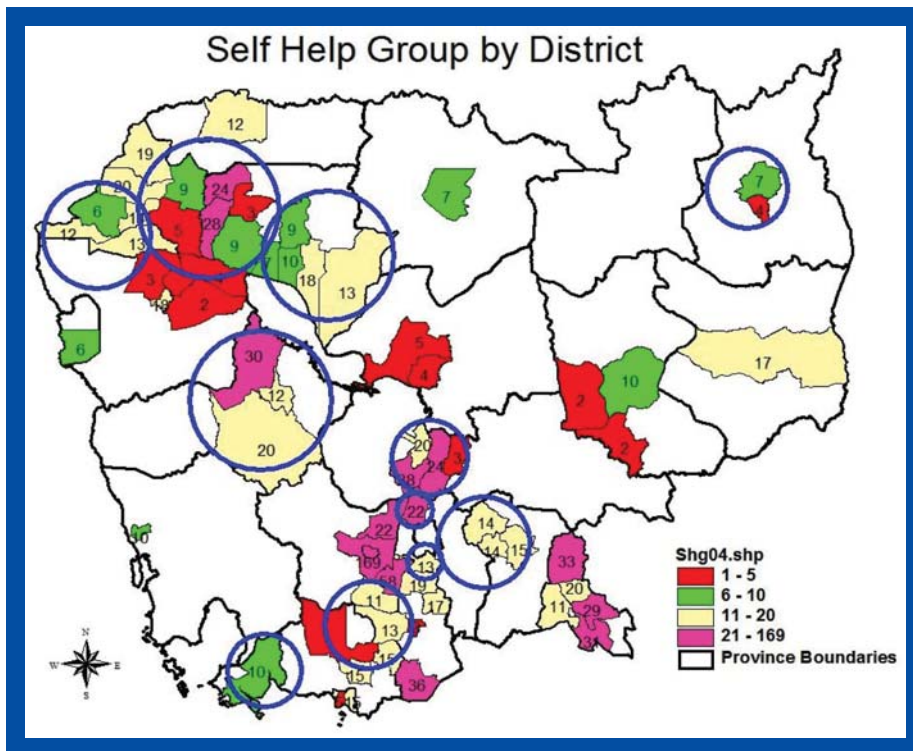
After the training was completely finished, a Vocational Training, Income Generation and Job-Placement Committee meeting reflection was conducted. The trainees from JSC came up with new ideas in developing objectives of curriculum and lessons. Furthermore, a teacher from JSC rose that he was very excited to get to know about role of teacher that never known before.



Article 10
The State shall give due attention, as appropriate, to promoting livelihoods for persons with disabilities in conformity with the national economic situation.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Disability Mobilization Mapping Database



The Cambodia disability sector consists of more than 50 International and Local NGOs/DPOs. Each organization maintains specific activities and working areas. Within this complicated sector it is difficult for individual persons with disability and their family members to be aware of the services which may be available to them. Similarly, local and international organi-

zations are often unaware of the services already being provided in certain working areas. This situation can result in a lack of efficiency in meeting the needs of persons with disability in Cambodia. Potential problems include; overlapping Service Provision in some Geographic Areas, lack of Service Provision in some Geographic Areas, missed Opportunities

for Partnership Development and Synergy Among Sector Stakeholders and damaged Relationships Among Sector Stakeholders Due to Unnecessary Competition in some Geographic Areas.

In response to these concerns, Handicap International Belgium has created the Disability Mobilization Mapping Database. The aim of this initiative is to create a simple mapping output to be shared with the larger disability sector in order to create interest within the sector and encourage full participation in more complex mapping not only of the organizations representing persons with disability, but also of service providers. A second aim of this initiative is to create a visual reference that can be provided to mainstream service providers as part of a larger campaign for mainstreaming disability and development.

Handicap international Belgium has created a database of organizations representing persons with disability at all levels of Cambodian society (including self help groups, federations, and provincial DPOs). As a result of this initiative, we have discovered that there are currently 1203 identified Self Help-Groups of people with disability in Cambodia, 29 Federations and 2 Provincial Disabled Person's Organizations - located in Kampong Spue and Svay Rieng Provinces.

HIB has also used a professional Geographic Information System (GIS) to analyze the database and map the data. Through this GIS we can display specifically where SHGs, Federations, district or provincial level disabled people's organizations already exist and display by color or other visual imagery additional details about each organization. All of this data is displayed on a Cambodian map so that it is easy for NGOs, government service providers, and other disability movement stakeholders to know about the location, size and activities of organizations representing persons with disability in Cambodia.

Currently, 1203 SHGs, 29 Federations, and 2 Provincial Disabled Persons Organizations have entered their information into the HIB database. This is a first result, and we expect that there are many other SHGs that have not yet submitted their information to us. HIB will continue to update every year together with NGOs working in facilitation group of people with disability and also happy to share or contribute this resource to relevant stakeholders.

Contact Address:
Handicap International Belgium
Email: cheng.chandy@hib-cambodia.org
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Article 21
 All public places shall be made accessible for persons with all types of disabilities for instance: ramps, accessory rails in bathrooms and signs.

Article 27
 All pupils and students with disabilities have the right to enrolment in public and private educational establishments and also have the same right to receive scholarships as other pupils and students unless other contrary provisions apply.

Community Forum on inclusion of disability into commune investment development plan



On 15 January 2009 a Community forum seminar focused on 1- building partnership, linkages and support to the participation of grassroots DPOs in the whole Commune Investment Plan process; 2-facilitating dialogue and interactions amongst DPOs and local policy makers, planners and stakeholders; and 3-sharing knowledge, priorities, challenges and concerns pertaining to disability, was organized in Kampong Speu provincial office. It was presided over by Her Excellency TIM SAVAT, Deputy Governor of the Governor Board of Kampong Speu province and Director of Local Administration, Mr. SOEU SOKNAL; and HIF Mainstreaming Manager, Mr. Ung Sophea.

This event was facilitated by HIF in collaboration with the Local Administration in Kampong Speu, within the project funding of AusAID, Human Rights Small Grant Scheme. 126 participants ranging from heads of departments, district governors, commune chiefs, head of NGOs and DPO representatives from Kampong Speu, Svay Rieng, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng attended. During the meeting good practices were shared to find common ways forward for effective mainstreaming disability into commune development plans with budget allocation for real implementation and benefit for persons with disabilities.

Mainstreaming disability into commune plans is rather new and hence necessitates increased exchanges.

1. As result, the disability integration into the Prioritized Areas of Commune Investment Plan (CIP) for year 2011 gained support
2. The Local Administration Director asked for support from all the communes in Kampong Speu to pay more attention on persons with disabilities and push to fight against all kinds of discriminations against persons with disabilities
3. The Local Administration Director asked for more involvement of persons with disabilities in the development process of community.
4. Once again, both the state-owned and private institution was clearly encouraged by The Local Administration Director to recruit persons with disabilities without discrimination.
5. Commune Councils were asked to provide more opportunities to persons with disabilities to participate in CIP and especially all other development actors to keep supporting community development actions.

6. Disability mainstreaming and inclusion into Commune Investment Programs (CIP), was widely seen as the positive change, which could benefit persons with disabilities. By doing this, first, the view on disability issues were required to widely be understood among the grass- root policy makers especially commune councils.

Local Administration Director said “The provincial administrative department is a door of development programs, thus commune, district and other provincial department heads especially the Department of Social Affairs, Veterans, Youth Rehabilitation (DoSVY), should come to collaborate.

The Local Administration Director is strongly committed and encouraged all participants to work closely for

giving inputs on disability into commune development plans for year 2011 in Kampong Speu as a model province. All DPO representatives appreciated the seminars’ results. Furthermore, after the forum participants expressed to have better understood the following:

1. Disability and needs of PWD;
2. Process of involvement in Commune Investment Planning and the roles of key players on how do what;
3. How to develop strategies and mechanism to collect disability data, prioritize and include into CIP at all levels
4. Information and coordination regarded as crucial to success in order to overcome the obstacle that disability was not included or included in prioritized plan for funding support.

Contact Address:
Handicap International – France
Email: lmo-prsp@hicambodia.org
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Article 36

Legal entities shall regularly report to the Ministries in charge of Social Affairs and Labour the total number of their workers/employees and workers/employees with disabilities in accordance with the appropriate set quota.

The First Meeting of the National Disability Coordination Committee (NDCC)

The first meeting of the NDCC was conducted on March 4th, 2010 at Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY) under chairmanship of H.E Ith Sam Heng, Minister of MoSVY and the president of the National Disability Coordination Committee (NDCC). The meeting was coordinated by DAC. There were 20 participants including Secretary General of CMAA, Secretary of State, Under Secretary of State from MoSVY, MoLVT, MoH, MoWA, MoEYS, MoP, MoPWT and Directors of DPOs and INGOs, and Representatives from AusAID, ARC, UNICEF and disability advisor attended this meeting. The meeting aimed to let the NDCC members understand the mandate of the committee, to promote the implementation of National Plan of Action for PWDs and the disability law and also to identify the six technical sub-committees.

The agenda of the meeting

- ✦ Announcement of Government Decisions on the Creation and Composition of NDCC and on the Implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disability including Landmine and ERW Survivors, read by H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY
- ✦ Brief presentation on the process, ra-



tionale and content of the National Plan of Action and NDCC development, presented by Mr. Thong Vinal, Executive Director of DAC

- ✦ Discuss and identify the creation of 6 NDCC sub-committees, facilitated by Chairperson of NDCC, H.E Ith Sam Heng, Minister of MoSVY

H.E Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY, and Deputy Chair of the NDCC,

read the Announcement of Government Decisions on the creation and composition of the NDCC and the implementation of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disability including Landmine and ERW Survivors (NPA-PWD) to the participants. The Government has taken three decisions in this matter including:

1. Adoption of the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities including Landmine/ ERW Survivors adopted and

signed by the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, August 5, 2009

2. Creation of a key coordination body (following on from the Landmine Victim Assistance Steering Committee), the National Disability Coordination Committee (NDCC), signed by the Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, August 5, 2009

3. Structure and composition for the National Disability Coordination Committee (NDCC), signed by the Minister of Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation

Mr. Thong Vinal, Executive Director of the Disability Action Council (DAC), presented briefly on the process and the rationale of the National Plan of Action and the NDCC development. He said that the NPA-PWD has a long process of development with up to 11 drafts. He also presented the varied sources of statistic for disability in Cambodia, (NIS and CMVIS), as follows:

- ✦ 1.4% of the total population- about 187,500 persons with disabilities (General Population Census of Cambodia 2008)
- ✦ 4% of the total population about 500,000 persons with disabilities (Cambodian Socio Economic Survey 2007)
- ✦ 4% of the total population (Cambodian Socio Economic Survey 2004)
- ✦ Landmine a/ERW Victims 63,515 including 19,502 deaths (reported from CMVIS in December 2009), males over 18 years is 51,640 and females is 4,663, and males under 18 years 5,758 and females 1,311

Mr. Thong Vinal then presented the 6 key parts of NPA-PWD such as (1) Understanding the extent of the challenge faced, (2) Emergency and Ongoing medical care, (3) Physical rehabilitation, (4) Psychological support and social reintegration, (5) Economic reintegration and (6) Laws and public policies.

H.E Ith Sam Heng, Minister of MoSVY, briefed some significant achievements of the disability sector and the good collaboration with development partners and NGOs/IOs through technical and financial support. He also noted that legislation on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had also been adopted by National Assembly and signed by the King of Cambodia on July 3, 2009 for promulgation. The technical working group of MoSVY and DAC has been working hard to draft sup-legislations to regulate the implementation of the law.

The following sub-decrees and Prakas have been drafted:

- ✦ Sub-decree on Organization and Functioning of the Disability Action Councils
- ✦ Sub-decree on Organization and Functioning of the Persons with Disability Fund
- ✦ Sub-decree on Employment Rate for persons with disabilities
- ✦ Prakas on the Disability Rights Administration

He also mentioned that the NPA-PWD is a national plan so it will be responsible by all involved ministries not only MoSVY and CMAA.

H.E Minister and the chair of the meeting opened to the members and resource persons of NDCC for active participation to discuss and identify the title of the six technical sub-committees.

After having actively discussed, the meeting decided to establish six technical sub-committees as follow:

1. Understanding the extent of the challenge faced
2. Emergency and ongoing medical care
3. Physical rehabilitation
4. Psychological support and social reintegration

5. Economic reintegration
6. Laws and public policies

Next Step:

- ✦ Mr. Thong Vinal was assigned by the minister and chairperson of the meeting to draft the Royal Government Decision on Establishment of the six sub-committees.
- ✦ The next NDCC meeting will be organized to finalize the decision for adoption from the chairperson of the NDCC.

Conclusion of the meeting

His Excellency Minister and the chairperson profound thanks the participants for their active participations and a very fruitful meeting. He also added that the participants' inputs and sharing experiences are very useful for the disability sector. His Excellency Minister encouraged the members to attend this meeting regularly so that updated information and lesson learnt will be shared and challenges will be addressed.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Article 42
The State shall encourage persons with disabilities who own individual, family, collective, occupations, businesses and craft-workshops through the provision of tax reductions and other legal incentives.

Article 43
The State shall provide tax and other legal incentives, to employers, educational, training, technical and vocational establishments who employ or accept, at an appropriate set quota or above, persons with disabilities as stated in Chapter 7 of this law.

The TV spot on the IDPD and Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

November-December 2009, DAC developed 13 minutes TV spot to highlight the strategies of the RGC to address disability issues and important messages from the King, Prime Minister and Ministers, which emphasized about services for persons with disabilities and the briefed the contents of the Cambodian Disability Law and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, regarding the elimination of all kinds of discrimination, rights to access health care, rights to edu-

cation, rights to engage in the development plans, policies, full inclusion and employment in both public and private sector. The process of development of the TV spot was consulted with MoSVY, HIF and the Disability Awareness Working, and also got approval from minister of MoSVY.

The spot was widely broadcasted in Cambodian TV channel as follow: Broadcasted 2 times on National TV

Khmer (TVK), Broadcasted 2 times on Cambodia TV Network (CTN), Broadcasted 2 times on Apsara TV, Broadcasted 2 times on Bayon TV, Broadcasted 2 times on TV 5, Broadcasted 2 times on Phnom Penh TV (TV 3) and Broadcasted 2 times on South East Asia TV (SEATV).

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The establishment of the leaflets on the identifying the ChwDs developed

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The leaflets were developed in consultation with relevant experts and the CWD Committee and developed by DAC and VSO. They were approved by the Minister of MoEYS on 24 November 2009 for dissemination and use throughout the country. As a result, 3500 sets of leaflets were printed, which accounts for 17500 leaflets.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Monitoring visit to five Vocational Training Centers



The Vocational Training, Income Generation and Job-Placement Committee, DAC in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and DAC NGOs members co-organized monitoring and evaluation to the 5 vocational training Centers for persons with disabilities.

The field visit aimed:

It aimed to find out what each center has achieved and what are the gaps to be complemented based on the Circular on Improving the Quality of Vocational Training for People with Disabilities, and to share best practices and challenges to each other.

The Vocational Training, Income Generation and job-placement working group comprised of the 3-7 representatives from: DAC, MoSVY, Vocational Training Centres, and NGOs members visited:

1. CWARS Vocation Training Center, Banteay Meanchey, January 2, 2009
2. CWARS Vocation Training Center, Kratie, June 25, 2009
3. Banteay Preap Vocational Training Center, February 13, 2009
4. Kein Kleang Vocational Training Center, April 23, 2009
5. Phnom Penh Themy Vocational Training, July 29, 2009

During each visit, there were two main activities:

Firstly, a meeting was basically conducted among the working group, center manager and related staff, for asking general information based on questionnaires on circular on quality standard of improving quality of vocational training centres.

Secondly, the working group observed the external and internal environment of vocational training centres. Importantly, external environment mainly focused on accessibility, accommodation, and centre decoration and so on, where as internal environment, the class room management, numbers of students in each class, materials, and numbers of teachers, lesson preparation and teaching methodology

At the end of each visit, there was a short reflection meeting about the result of the visit which included best practises and challenges of circular implementation. Finally, through the consultative discussion with working group, some positive points and points to be improved were found out as following:



Positive point:

- ✦ The environment of all centers is good for trainees
- ✦ Most centers has good management structure
- ✦ Most centers provide the skills training based on local labor market
- ✦ All centers provide additional techniques for poor trainees during the training who get stuck on their own business after graduation
- ✦ Most Centers provided emotional support and help those trainees with disabilities to solve problems through group meeting
- ✦ 90% of trainees in each center followed the internal guideline during training Most centers provided primary health care to trainees during training
- ✦ Most centers apply the new format of certificate based on the circular of the Ministry of Social Affairs, veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)

- ✦ All centers provide materials, grant or loan to start their own business and financial education to run their own business

Gaps

- ✦ The trainers in some center do not have appropriate methodologies and standard of lesson plan preparation to transfer knowledge to trainees
- ✦ Some centers do not have capacity to offer material sufficiently for trainees during training
- ✦ Follow up schedule of some centers to the graduated trainees is not specific
- ✦ Some centers do not have literacy program
- ✦ Most trainers from all Vocational Training Centers do not attend the pedagogy training at the institution that is recognized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)
- ✦ The accessibilities and assistive devices in some centers is still limited

Then, this recommendation was shared to all Vocational Training Centers to reflect about their implementation based on Circular on Improving the Quality of Vocational Training Centers for People with Disabilities to ensure that trainees with disabilities has strong capacity to be employed and self-employed to sustain their life.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
 Email: dac@dac.org.kh
 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

- SEO will monitor the effectiveness of the leaflet at the end of the school year (e.g. did teachers use it to help them identify CWD/use the teaching tips/refer children for appropriate services)

On Wednesday 4th March 2010

This training was repeated in the Provincial Education Office in Sen Monorom, Mondulkiri to a total of 22 staff from DoEs, School Directors and teachers from selected schools in 2 districts.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
 Email: dac@dac.org.kh
 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Disability Identification Training to teachers in Ratanakiri & Mondulkiri

On Tuesday 2nd March 2010, two staff from the DAC Education Programme and three staff from the Special Education Office of MoEYS, conducted a half a day training on how to use the Disability Identification leaflets developed by DAC/VSO to 19 education staff at the Provincial Education Office in Bantlung Ratanakiri. The participants were DOE staff, School Directors and teachers from selected schools in three districts. The purpose of the training session, supported by VSO, was to train DoE staff, School Directors and teachers from selected schools, supported by VSO volunteers, in how to use the leaflets to identify children with disabilities in the classroom and help them to better access basic education.

At present, teachers need to record children with disabilities in the school register, choosing from different columns including those titled; strange behaviour, orphan and malnutrition. At DAC we have developed a set of five colour coded leaflets for five main areas of disability: visual, hearing, speaking, motor and intellectual.

The function of the sets of leaflets is that teachers can use them for help with identifying children with disabilities in the classroom, use the

teaching tips included to support the children's learning experience, and refer children for appropriate services where relevant, within the resources available.

Content of training session

The participants were asked prepared questions about education for children with disabilities in order to gauge their own knowledge and attitudes and to provide an opportunity for discussion. Simulation exercises were conducted which gave the participants an insight into how it might feel to be excluded from a group or denied access to information. Presentations were given on the Policy on Education for Children with Disabilities, the advantages of an inclusive approach to education and the challenges and achievements possible for people with disabilities. Sets of leaflets were distributed for use within the selected schools, together with posters, and copies of the master plan on the Policy on Education for Children with Disabilities.

Follow up plans

- Existing VSO volunteers will support teaching staff in using the leaflets when filling in the school register, promote its use, assess its usefulness and suggest any amendments



Study Visit to Epic Arts in Kampot by DAC Education Programme

On 11th-12th March 2010, two staff members from the Education Programme at DAC visited the NGO Epic Arts in Kampot. The UK based organization moved into a new arts centre last year where they hold dance and theatre classes for people with disabilities and take many performances out into the community in order to raise awareness about the potential and capacity of persons with disabilities.

During their work in the community, the Community Outreach Team identified 15 young people with a range of intellectual disabilities, including Downe's Syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy. As in other provinces, there are no services for children with these disabilities and they and their families face many hardships and discrimination.

Since last August, the Peace Class has been set up, which offers weekly classes called 'Activities of Daily Living' whose topics range from cooking to dance, art and drama.

There are separate classes for younger and older children and parents are invited and encouraged to attend, join in and interact with other families in the class and this provides some much needed support. These classes are also supported and facilitated by a VSO Education volunteer.

The DAC staff met members of the Epic Arts team in Kampot on the first afternoon and learned about how the Peace Class was established to meet the needs of young people with intellectual disabilities in the local community. In particular, one young man called Chok was well known in the town but had faced much discrimination and unkindness from local people who did not understand that people with Downe's Syndrome are usually very friendly and affectionate. Since spending every day at the arts centre, Chok has learned much about how to interact appropriately with people in the community, meanwhile attitudes in the

community are slowly changing and he and his family face less discrimination than before.

On the second morning, the DAC staff attended the Peace Class and enjoyed observing the wonderful teacher who encouraged all the young people in the class to participate in the activities, joined in with making paper caterpillars, helped them to prepare a delicious noodle salad and enjoyed a lively music and dance session.

The classes, and the arts centre, are a fine model of a community based project which has had a dramatic impact on the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of that community.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Utilizing POPO Walker: monitoring of effectiveness

Physical rehabilitation in Cambodia is within the auspices of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY) and currently is predominantly provided by international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). Physical rehabilitation is defined as non-medical follow-up interventions that prevent impairment from becoming a severe disability. Specifically this includes physiotherapy, prosthetics and orthotics, and provision of mobility aids.

The 2004 CSES estimated the disability rate of Cambodia at 4.7 percent. Applying this rate to the 2006 population results in around 664 000 Cambodians having a disability, of which 153 203 have a mobility difficulty. Those served by the PRCs primarily correspond to those with mobility difficulties.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), persons with physical disabilities in developing countries

who have a need for assistive devices, primarily prosthetic/orthotic devices and related rehabilitation services, represent 0.5 percent of the population. Applied to Cambodia's 2006 population, this would suggest 69 981 people with physical disabilities require assistive devices and related rehabilitation. However, assuming that the total number of people with mobility difficulties in Cambodia (153 203 people, based on the 2004 CSES) require the above mentioned services; the percentage is much higher at 1.1 percent.

Currently, there are 12 rehabilitation centers is under direct and indirect supervising of Department of Rehabilitation of MoSVY, Cambodia.

1. National (Physical and Medical) Rehabilitation Center Kien Khleang, Phnom Penh

2. Physical Rehabilitation Clinic of Cambodian School for Prosthetics & Orthotics, Phnom Penh
3. Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center, Battambang Province
4. Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center, Kampong Speu Province
5. Regional Physical Rehabilitation Center, Siem Reap Province
6. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Takeo Province
7. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Kampong Cham Province
8. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Prey Veng Province
9. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Kratie Province
10. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Preah Sihanouk Province
11. Provincial Physical Rehabilitation Center, Kampong Chhnang Province
12. Spinal Cord Injury (Physical and Medical Rehabilitation) Center, Battambang Province

N°	Center	Received	Using					In stock
			In center	Community	Hospital	PoSVY	Broken	
1	Kratie	12	0	1	0	0	0	11
2	Takeo	12	1	7	2	1	0	1
3	Siem Reap	25	2	3	0	0	0	20
4	Prey Veng	15	2	5	0	0	0	8
5	Kampong Chhnang	15	1	6	0	0	0	8
6	Phnom Penh	10	0	5	0	0	0	5
7	Kien Khleang	30	1	4	0	0	0	25
8	Battambang	25	5	0	0	0	0	20
9	Kampong Speu	20	1	5	0	0	0	14
10	Sihanouk Ville	12	1	7	0	0	0	4
11	Kampong Cham	15	2	0	0	0	0	13
12	SCI	20	13	0	0	0	0	7
13	MoSVY (Store)	25	0	3	0	0	0	22
Total		236	29	46	2	1	0	158

There are 236 walkers donated by PH-J Foundation for the purpose of improving daily activities of persons with disabilities through mobility training. These walkers were used in early May 2009 for a period of eight months. The centers were advised on the importance of the rigorous identification and the assessment of the potential uses. However, due to problems with effective distribution only 80 out of 236 of the walkers were used.

30 walkers were used for the purpose of rehabilitation training in the center and 47 walkers have been lent to 47 persons with disabilities using at their community. 2 walkers have been given free to a hospital while another one was given to Provincial Office of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. Thus, 68.22 % of the walkers were not used in 2009.

0.84% of the walkers were broken especially the front wheel. The recommendation of users is mostly for some spare part such as front wheel, inner tube and suggestions for future height adjustment as well as stability.

Contact Address:
Disability Action Council
Email: dac@dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

New Humanity Commitment for a better inclusion of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

Phnom Penh, March 19, 2010. New Humanity, a Catholic international NGO, is working in the sector of Mental and Intellectual Disability since 2001. Last year, in 2009, we have started a new program called CAPABILITIES (Care, Advocacy and Prevention for People with Disabilities). This program is divided in three sectors (Community Based Rehabilitation / Advocacy for the Rights of People with Disabilities / Prevention and Early Detection of Disability) but until now only the rehabilitation and advocacy components have been implemented.

The main purpose of our action is to create in the society propitious conditions to the recognition that each Disabled, especially with mental problem, has to be fully integrated in the community. Through the rehabilitation activities we

aim to facilitate the full inclusion and involvement of people with disability in the community's social life, giving them sufficient self-esteem, self monitoring and independence. We also seek to promote the Rights of People with Disabilities, especially children, at local and national level, in order to improve their access to education and their living conditions.

Our activities are implemented through 5 Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) centers located in 2 provinces (Kompong Chhnang and Kandal) and distributed in 3 districts (Boribor, Kampong Chhnang and Kandal Stung).

We have 29 staffs, with 4 centers supervisors and 17 Special Needs Teachers, to take care of a total of 96

People with Disabilities. Most of these beneficiaries are aged from a few months to 20 years and the most of them have mental or intellectual impairment. Among these 96 beneficiaries, 65 are coming on daily basis to our CBR centers, 29 are part of the Home Based Care (HBC) activities and 2 have been sent to programs run by other NGOs.



Province	District	Location's name	N° of areas concerned	N° of PWD		
				CBR	HBC	Other
Kompog Chhnang	Boribor	1.Popel	8	14	0	0
		2.Chak	8	12	9	0
		3.Anchanh Rung	3	8	9	0
	Kg. Chhnang	4.Kg. Chhnang	11	17	10	0
Kandal	KandalStung	5.Kandaok	7	14	1	2
Total			34	65	29	2

From Monday to Friday, we teach basics of Khmer language, mathematics, life skills and dynamics for social skills. All these activities are adapted to the needs and capacities of each of our beneficiary. Basic physiotherapy exercises for People with physical Disabilities are also conducted regularly by our special needs teachers, all of them being local people trained by NH (with the support of foreign physiotherapist) or its partners. Most of our beneficiaries have made significant progress, improving their physical autonomy, their personal hygiene and health status as well as their social integration.

Furthermore, one psychologist provides counseling service not only for People with Disabilities (mainly youth and adults) but also for their parents and our staffs in direct contact with the beneficiaries. Indeed many parents are challenged by the impairment of their children and caregivers have to deal with a certain fatigue in front of such demanding daily tasks. Therefore, psychotherapy's activities are implemented with the aim to support them by giving them the possibility to release accumulated tension. The encouragement and accompaniment provided to

parents has also increased the number of parents involved in our activities. Regarding education, we sent 12 Children with Disabilities to public school where they spend half a day. Then, after school, they come to our CBR centers in order to join activities with the others. Also, coming from our center based in Kandal Stung, one boy with visual impairment is learning Braille in Krousar Thmey organization and another one is attending vocational training in Yodiffee organization.

Capacity building for our staff has also been in the core of our concern. Besides internal and external trainings and/or workshops, we arranged monthly meetings in order to find concrete solutions to the daily problems encountered, taking into account comments and experiences of each staff. Some of our staff members have also been invited and sent to various exchange visits and study tour in other organizations in order to share results of activities, and learn new skills/experiences.

Through this ongoing training, we have noticed manifested improvement in the frame of caring services as well as a-

greater effectiveness of the different therapies delivered to the People with Disabilities.

Working with People with Disabilities requires commitment, flexibility, patience and a lot of love. You have to be ready to accept huge challenges, and above all, acceptance towards the fact that you cannot always be successful, at least as you would like to be. Some of our beneficiaries will never experienced significant changes, or maybe it is better to say that they will not show measurable improvement.

However, through daily dedication and cares, you can feel tremendous growth inside the heart and the soul of each of them. These changes will also give more energy to the Special Needs Teachers and will have an effect on the parents' wellbeing and the way they consider their children. Finally, we do believe that the full integration of People with Disabilities will bring harmony and peace for the whole society.

Contact Address:
New Humanity Cambodia
Email: officepnp@newhum.org

Higher Education: beyond the MDG (research from the Cambodia Trust)

Like many organizations working for and on behalf of people with disabilities ('PWD'), CT operates a program supporting young clients into school. Our program has been running for several years and has supported in excess of 600 clients during this period. Last year we had a total of 457 clients in school.

I am sure many are familiar with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports' 'Education of Children with Disabilities' master plan, and the Millennium Development Goal for the education of children, which are important steps in the right direction for PWD. However, in a country like Cambodia where the

numbers of people in higher education are rising rapidly, I respectfully suggest that we run the risk of PWD continuing to fall behind in the education system if we do not focus on getting PWD to succeed at the highest levels.

According to figures from the Department of Higher Education; in 2003/4 there were approximately 58,000 students in the Cambodian higher education system. By 2008/9 that figure had risen by 228% to just under 132,000. We are undertaking some research to estimate the prevalence of PWD within the Cambodian higher education and early indications suggest, not many!

Last year CT made its first foray into the higher education system when, with the support of the Nippon Foundation, we enrolled three students at the Royal University of Law and Economics in Phnom Penh and seven into two universities in Prey Veng. This year we hope to support a further 20 clients to go to university.

However, finding young PWD for last year's intake proved quite challenging. Firstly we had to identify candidates who wanted to go to university, who believed in themselves enough and their right to go to university and thereafter, for them to get the necessary grades to do so. Alas, for many, these were challenges they could not overcome.

As a consequence of struggling to find a dozen young PWD to support through university, it has prompted us to start reevaluating our own schools support program by asking ourselves: are our clients progressing within the education system at a satisfactory rate and if not, why not? What are the reasons why clients are dropping out of school and, is there anything we as an organization could and should be doing to assist our young clients?

There are a plethora of reasons why young PWD are not completing high school: some we know, some we can guess and maybe others we have yet to discover. But if getting PWD to go to university is going to be a future challenge, then it seems to us that working on those inhibitor elements which are preventing young PWD from succeeding at high school is as crucial to the process as it will be to work with higher education institutions to make them 'accessible' in every sense of the word.

Having conducted some research at two universities in the UK last year, Cambodian institutions will have a lot of work to do to become more 'accessible' to PWD. We know this and for now, it will be a case of looking for and offering simple solutions to the challenges faced by PWD wanting to go to university. However, having only had minimal contact with some Cambodian universities thus far, it is noticeable that their overtures and interests have been positive. Equally, we have also shared thoughts with another NGO who are supporting PWD into university and it is hoped that future collaboration between us and any other organizations working with PWD in higher education can provide more support to clients aspiring to go to university as those already at that level.

The advantage of having more PWD in the higher education system and hopefully, in employment positions of more status is obvious.

Many will be aware that the government is looking to set the figure of PWD to be employed in organizations in accordance with the Cambodian Disability Law and so if we want to see our clients have meaningful employment beyond that of being mere 'quota fillers' then being well educated is going to become more important.

This is especially so in a country like Cambodia, which has a very young population and should it follow the trend in other nations of increasing numbers of graduates looking for employment, then both we as organizations within the disability sector and PWD themselves are going to have start addressing the issue of educational achievement beyond the target set by the millennium development goal sooner rather than later.

Several months into our program, we have been delighted by the responses from our clients whose progress and experiences thus far, have been nothing but positive, which is hopefully a good omen for us all going forward.

Contact Address:
The Cambodia Trust
Email: jhonney@cambodiatrust.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

International Deaf Day Celebration

October 22, 2009, Phnom Penh, the Deaf Development Program co-organized the International Deaf Day Celebration, with Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), Disability Action Council (DAC), and Cambodian Disabled People's Organization. The celebration day was highly presided over by H.E. Sem Sokha, Secretary of State of MoSVY.

The aims of the International Deaf Day celebrations this year were to publicly promote Cambodian Sign Language, deaf awareness and to help develop a broader

link between deaf world and hearing world through; together with NGO partners, help deaf people to fully participate in social events, encouraging hearing people to learn Cambodian Sign Language, providing interpreting service to help deaf people access to public services, providing an opportunity for deaf people to come together to communicate and enjoy the celebration together, and the MoSVY will pay more attention to the rights of deaf and disabled people. The theme for this year was "Deaf People need Sign Language".

This was chosen to celebrate Cambodian Sign Language as the natural language of deaf people in Cambodia. The aim was to use this theme to promote Cambodian Sign Language and to raise awareness.

The honorable guests were invited to take a tour of the Deaf Community Centre and had the opportunity to participate in a basic Cambodian Sign Language class. During this time, on the main stage, there was a dance competition and fashion show on the stage for deaf participants. The afternoon session was for playing different games and continuation of the basic Cam-

bodian Sign Language class for the public. The International Deaf Day is celebrated for deaf people to know and meet each other and to raise the deaf awareness to hearing people. Main activities of the events this year included:

Performance and entertainment

This included a dance competition for both deaf men and women, showing a variety of different dance styles, both modern and traditional. There was also a fashion show for deaf men and women to show their clothes and ability to be a super model. The final entertainment piece was a performance by residents of the Deaf Development Programme House, who showed a short story about good behavior and equality for deaf people.

Cambodian Sign Language short class

The guest of honor and staff from participating Disabled People's Organisations were invited to participate in a short Cambodian Sign Language class within the Community Centre building. The class was about 20 minutes long and was repeated throughout the day for other interested hearing people from the public to participate in. The participants learnt basic signs for general communication with deaf people.

Exhibition

The Deaf Development Programme set up an exhibition with leaflets and information about deafness and deaf people near the entrance to the Deaf Community Centre and handed out this information to anyone who was interested.

Broadcasting through TV, radio and newspaper

The event was covered by some media, mainly TV and some radio stations. The media only covered the main formal ceremony in the morning.

Cambodian Sign Language Interpreters

The Deaf Development Programme provided a team of Cambodian Sign Language interpreters for the formal ceremony and for the remainder of the day to help communication between deaf and hearing people.

There were about 200 participants for this Deaf Day celebrations. Most of the

participants were deaf people from Phnom Penh, but Action on Disability and Development was able to bring about 25 deaf people from Kampong Speu province to participate in the formal ceremony in the morning. The Deaf Development Programme estimates that more than 100 deaf people participated in this event.

There were representatives from many NGOs and DPOs present at the formal ceremony too. This is a satisfactory number of participants for a small ceremony, and the Deaf Development Programme was pleased that a large number of deaf people participated with support from other people with disabilities and organizations.

The results of the International Deaf Day celebrations this year are as follows:

Deaf people fully participate in social events

Deaf people were able to participate in this social event, although there were only a few deaf participants from the provinces, there was a large total number of deaf participants for this small celebration. This celebration achieved the aim of providing an opportunity for deaf people to come together and enjoy themselves with their old and new friends. This is vital toward the development of the deaf community in Cambodia.

More and more hearing people are aware of deafness and sign language

Through the use of the radio and TV stations broadcasting about International Deaf Day celebrations, we were able to spread more information and raise awareness about deafness and Cambodian Sign Language. Hearing people were able to learn basic Cambodian Sign Language to communicate with deaf people. People in the surrounding area of the Deaf Community Centre were able to understand about deafness and sign language and to see the exhibition and celebrations.

More people know about sign language interpreting services

All participants, deaf and hearing, were

able to see Cambodian Sign Language interpreters providing their services throughout the day. This achieved the result of showing participants that deaf people can access information equally through the use of an interpreter, and raised awareness of the interpreting service at the Deaf Development Programme.

The MoSVY will pay more attention to the rights for deaf people

The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veteran and Youth and Rehabilitation have supported the development of services for deaf people and we are happy to see this. However, we still need more attention from the Ministry because services for deaf people in Cambodia are still limited and still need to be improved. Deaf people all over Cambodia face discrimination and isolation from society, through a lack of understanding and awareness within society about deafness. The Government and Ministries need to understand the situation for deaf people and collaborate with deaf and disability NGOs to improve the status of deaf people in Cambodia,

**Contact Address:
Deaf Development Program
Email: justin@ddp-cambodia.org**

Article 33
Persons with disabilities who have the required qualifications and competence to carry out the duties, role and responsibilities of a particular position have the right to be employed without discrimination, including employment as civil servants, workers, employees, apprentices or interns.

Article 41
The educational, training, technical, and vocational establishments of state, private or other organizations shall have a formal detailed training curriculum and will then disseminate to persons with disabilities in advance. The curriculum shall be submitted to the competent institution to ensure effective implementation.

PHOTO GALLERY







Photos:
DAC Partners

The theme of IDPD 2009 (Cambodia)

“We all participate in the enforcement of the Law on the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”



Disability Action Council

MoSVY - Building #788, Monivong Blvd, Boengtrabek, Chamcarmon
P.O.Box 115, Tel: +855 17 55 56 53
Email: dac@dac.org.kh, Website: www.dac.org.kh
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

