



# Disability Today

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## MAKING PSRP INCLUSIVE: A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS IN CAMBODIA

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## MAKING PRSP INCLUSIVE: SITUATION

*Cambodia has started its national PRSP in 2000. It is imperative to note that about the PRSP processes. Therefore, the inclusion of disabilities issues in PRSP documents is not*

The history of Cambodia has left a huge number of people with disabilities. It is recognized that people with disabilities are one of the most vulnerable groups and live in extreme poverty. Until now, many Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) have been working for people with disabilities in rehabilitation and advocacy while a small number are working on effective poverty reduction aspects.

The PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) concept, initiated during the 90's, is today applied in many low-income countries. Cambodia is one of those countries, which started its national PRSP process in 2000. It is critical to note that the majority of DPOs in Cambodia are not aware of and well informed about the PRSP processes. The inclusion of disability issues in PRSP documents is definitely not remarkable and disability stakeholders are not aware of the few references which are made.

PRSP process intends to be developed transparently with the broad participation of various stakeholders such as civil society, government, and key donors. The basic principles of PRSP are characterized as country-driven and -owned, results-oriented, comprehensive, partnership-oriented, and with a medium- and long-term perspective. The PRSP is an ongoing learning process, consisting of three main phases such as formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

In Cambodia, the first PRSP is known as a "National Poverty Reduction Strategy" (NPRS: 2003-2005). The "National Strategic Development Plan" (NSDP: 2006-2010) is the second PRSP. The Government considers the NSDP as

the single, overarching development strategy for pursuing prioritized goals and actions for the period 2006-2010. Although many stakeholders have participated in both national PRSP processes, a number of negative aspects put critical questions on those processes.

With comparative aspects, the NSDP is viewed as a better plan in terms of stronger ownership, more effective participation in the implementation, evaluation and monitoring phase, appropriate and less ambitious result framework, less detailed but more current poverty diagnostics, and more comprehensive institutional arrangement.

In addition, the PRSP processes indicate the possible entry points for stakeholder's especially civil society organizations throughout the major PRSP phases including formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The most critical entry points for the current PRSP situation in Cambodia include participation in Technical Working Groups, involvement with NGO Forum, involvement in the monitoring and evaluation system, and demand for inclusion of disability into sectoral and sub-national plans.

People with disabilities in Cambodian societies are one of the most vulnerable group that face social and economic marginalization, and discrimination. They usually find their opportunities for full and equal participation limited. There are a limited number of disability stakeholders in both national and provincial levels.

Disability movement in Cambodia is still weak as it is blocked by and challenging with many problems and causes. It is imperative to recognize that CDPO, one of the key disability players, has



This disabled strike string of his fishing

been undergoing an extensive period of restructuring. Most disability organizations cannot represent a unified voice of PWDs and heterogeneity of disabilities due to limited number of DPOs and organizations working for PWDs, and limited capacity and resources. The working process and approaches of most disability organizations are definitely dependent on international organizations, donors and government.

In addition, the empowerment and enforcement of Government on disability sector remain limited. However, the legislation environment on disability seems to have improved since a specific national legislation called "Protection and Promotion of the Rights of People with Disabilities" is almost approved.

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS IN CAMBODIA

*That the majority of DPOs in Cambodia are not aware of and well informed about the PRSP, the situation is quite remarkable, and disability stakeholders are not aware of the few references which are being made.*



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The Cambodian PRSP documents generally present a limited number of disability issues across the main contents including key priority goals and targets, strategies and actions, and other national policies/strategies. The insufficient inclusion reflects the insufficient possibility for disability organizations and PWDs to participate in the process countrywide.

From the view point of participation, it is important to understand that there is a lack of information and knowledge of PRSP among PWDs and disability organizations, and in this case they themselves haven't claimed for any inclusion and participation. The disappearance of PWDs in most development targets in relation to poverty reduction activities also limits their participation.

However, NSDP, the latest PRSP, offers opportunities for civil society to claim for inclusion, participation, and integration in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.

The elaboration of the situation of disability and PRSP produces many critical aspects of the opportunities, limits, and challenges for the disability sector. These have determined the major factors influencing on the disability movement in the country and towards the PRSP processes.

The most important opportunities and limits are identified through a consideration on legislation and political environment, collaboration with partners and donors, capacity and resources, related issues, and sector involvements within the PRSP processes. In

addition, a number of challenges are significantly recognized as priorities for the disability sector that needs to overcome and ensure a success in long term.

According to the results of this situational analysis on PRSP and Disability, the NSDP Inclusive Committee established for the project called "Making PRSP Inclusive in Cambodia" has worked on the development of an action plan. This effort is to strengthen the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project, and also to achieve the main objectives.

The main activities of the proposed action plan as well as the specific objectives, results, deadlines, and responsibilities are agreed amongst the members and include:

1. Publication and dispatch of the situational analysis on PRSP and Disability;
2. Production of a statement to NGO Forum;
3. Presentation and dispatch of the statement to key disability players and donors involved in NSDP;
4. Mainstreaming of the Disability issue and PRSP by all committee members in their different activities (workshop, events, meetings,);
5. Organization of a micro-grant call for DPOs on poverty and disability theme;
6. Press, media, advertisements to inform about the effective progresses; and
7. Development of projects on DPOs empowerment and mainstreaming disability among development partners.

*Text by Handicap International-France  
Photo by: Disability Action Council*

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**Disability National**


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# Promoting Disability Sector Community-Based I

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) promotes collaboration among community leaders, people with disabilities, their families, and other concerned citizens to provide equal opportunities for all people with disabilities in the community. The CBR strategy, initiated two and a half decades ago, continues to promote the rights and participation of people with disabilities and to strengthen the role of their organizations (DPOs) in country.

In recognition of the importance of Community-Based Rehabilitation, the Disability Action Council [DAC] has jointly started with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation to establish a Project Steering Committee to coordinate and implement a one-year pilot program of the Community Based Rehabilitation program in the country. The committee is headed by H.E. Sem Sokha, Under Secretary of State of MoSVY, with technical assistance of DAC and involved NGOs, Funding Agency officer, and DPOs. The program, which gains financial support from UNICEF, has been in operation in 8 provinces throughout the country. These provinces are Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Svay Rieng, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, and Prey Veng.

The purpose of the project is to coordinate the community based rehabilitation, which is currently being implemented by the DPO implementers at the local levels, to make sure that persons with disabilities—women with disabilities, children with special needs, and marginalized groups of all ages have access to rehabilitation services, and increased equalization of opportunities as they are entitled to.

## CBR approach

It is noted that CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities themselves, their families, organizations and communities, and the relevant governmental and non-governmental health, education, vocational, social and other services. The major objectives of CBR are:

To ensure that people with disabilities are able to maximize their physical and mental abilities, to access regular services and opportunities, and to become active contributors to the community and society at large.

To activate communities to promote and protect the human rights of people with disabilities through changes within the community, for example, by removing barriers to participation.

## Disability and Rehabilitation

Disability is no longer viewed as merely the result of impairment. The social model of disability has increased awareness that environmental barriers to participation are major causes of disability. The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) includes body structure and function, but also focuses on 'activities' and 'participation' from both the individual and the societal perspective. The ICF also includes five environmental factors that can limit activities or restrict participation: products and technology, natural environment and human-made changes to it, support and relationships, attitudes, and services, systems and policies. No nation has eliminated all of the environmental barriers that contribute to disability.

Rehabilitation services should no longer be imposed without the consent and participation of people who are using the services.



Rehabilitation is now viewed as a process in which people with disabilities or their advocates make decisions about what services they need to enhance participation. Professionals who provide rehabilitation services have the responsibility to provide relevant information to people with disabilities so that they can make informed decisions regarding what is appropriate for them.

## Essential Elements of CBR

CBR requires community and DPO involvement. But communities and DPOs cannot work alone to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities. National policies, a management structure, and the support of different government ministries, NGOs and other stakeholders (multi-sectoral collaboration) are also needed.

Country approaches to implementing CBR vary a great deal, but they have some elements in common that contribute to the

# or in Rural Cambodia: Rehabilitation [CBR]



sustainability of their CBR Programs. *These include:*

1. National level support through policies, co-ordination and resource allocation.
2. Recognition of the need for CBR Programs to be based on a human rights approach.
3. The willingness of the community to respond to the needs of their members with disabilities.
4. The presence of motivated community workers.

### Allocation of Resources

National resources can be allocated to CBR in a variety of ways. One is the direct allocation of funds to support aspects of the CBR program, such as training or the strengthening of support services. Another method is to include a disability component in all developmental program initiatives especially in aiming at poverty reduction strategy Programmes. Government can also encourage NGOs, businesses and the media to support CBR.

### National Coordination of CBR

In Cambodia, the Project Steering Committee was established to take lead the Community Based Rehabilitation Program [CBR]. The Committee's members comprised the representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans, and Youth Rehabilitation [MoSVY], NGOs, DPOs, and National Semi-Autonomous Coordinating Body [DAC] and donors.

So far, this UNICEF-funded pilot program has been in operation in 8 provinces since June 2006 and it will end in July 31, 2007. Currently, Disability Action Council (DAC), Secretariat of the PSC, has actively been negotiating with the UNICEF to achieve financially funding support for the continuation and implementation of a new phase of the Community Based Rehabilitation in an expanded area all over the country.

### Recommendations

CBR will not work if the sectors mentioned above work in isolation. The following example illustrates the types of collaboration that can work well. Because CBR belongs to the community, representatives of the community must be involved in the planning, implementation and evaluation of CBR Programs.

The Collaboration among all of the sectors that support CBR is essential. This is particularly important at the intermediate/district level where referral services are provided in support of community efforts. It is very important for all ministries, as well as non-governmental organizations to work in partnership. Although one ministry provides the organizational structure, all sectors play an important role in ensuring that communities participating in the CBR program have access to

support services and resources.

There is also a need to expand CBR to areas to reach people with disabilities living in slums. New settings may also include locations where the community is not well developed. Even in these settings, community leaders may be identified and encouraged to make the needs of their groups known. These groups will include people with disabilities, who may be identified for rehabilitation services, but who are not sharing in other programs provided for refugees, such as skills training and placement Programs.

The support service that considers the holistic needs of the persons, and not just the focus of its own service, is more likely to collaborate with other services. The Collaboration with other resource groups in the community is necessary because government services alone cannot provide women and men with disabilities with employment or social inclusion.

*By Ham Hak*

*Reference: UN Joint Position Paper 2004*

## Disability International

### Autism Speaks

*Autism costs the nation over \$90 billion per year, a figure expected to double in the next decade. It is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S.*

*In addition, there is no medical detection or cure for autism. According to AutismSpeaks research, boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism.*

*In 2005, total budget for National Institutes of Health is \$29 billion. Of this, only \$100 million goes towards autism research. This represents only 0.3% of total NIH funding.*

### Did You Know?

*1 in 150 children are diagnosed with autism.  
1 in 94 boys are on the autism spectrum.  
67 children are diagnosed per day.*

*A new case is diagnosed almost every 20 minutes.  
More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.*

Source: [www.AutismSpeaks.org](http://www.AutismSpeaks.org)

## Disability Co

*The Second Annual International Forum for Children with Special Needs, held in April, 2007 with a call to use the UN Convention on the Rights of Children*

**Doha, Qatar-** A galaxy of dignitaries led by HH the Emir's wife HH Sheikha Mozah Nasser al-Misned, also the patron of the Forum, were present at the opening session of the three-day event which is being attended by 250 delegates from all over the world.

First Ladies Jeanette Kagame (Rwanda), Vivian Torrijos (Panama Republic), Dr Zorka Parvanova (Bulgaria), Dr Liri Berisha (Albania) and ED Commissioner's wife, Margarida Barroso were among the dignitaries.

Delivering the opening speech, ambassador Luis Gallegos of Ecuador described the Convention, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2006, as a milestone in the history of the UN and the first comprehensive human rights treaty of the 21st century.

Gallegos, also the chairman of the ad hoc committee to draft this Convention, urged that it should be used as an important tool in all aspects of policy-making, program development and research activities to provoke changes in society.

"It should not only be deployed to rectify past discrimination

against children with disabilities, but also to create a society, based on justice and equity, where differences among individuals, will not hinder their full enjoyment of universally recognized human rights," he said.

The Convention, through its 50 articles and the Optional Protocol, reaffirms that all persons with disabilities should enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms and codifies comprehensive sets of rights, ranging from civil and political to economic, social and cultural spheres.

"It specifically prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in all spheres of life, including employment, access to justice, the right to education, health services and access to information and communication technology, transportation and public spaces," Gallegos explained.

The Convention and its Optional Protocol require 20 ratifications to enter into force for States Parties to assume legal obligations to implement it. "It is expected that the Convention should meet the requirement very shortly for it to come into full force. The focus will then shift to the States

## A platform for activists

*THE Second Annual International Forum for Children with Special Needs, being hosted by the Shafallah Center, has brought together a group of activists who are campaigning for the rights of children with special needs.*

**Doha, Qatar-** Yulia Simonova (Russia), Azim Fazhul (Bangladesh), Maria (Argentina), and Gulam Nabi (Pakistan) are among these individuals who move around on wheelchairs or with the help of crutches.

Speaking *exclusively to Ham Hak* on the sidelines of the Forum, Russia's Public Society of Disabled People's co-ordinator, Simonova said that she found the event a platform to socialise and

exchange ideas.

"The misconceptions regarding children with special needs should be eliminated, and the participants of this programme should stay connected so that new decisions could be put into action," she said.

Fazhul remarked that media should play an important role in creating awareness about this topic. "The resolutions of this conference should be reached to the person who

can implement it, so that such a forum will be more productive," he said while stressing on the importance of commitment to do this.

Maria was of the opinion that the Forum was an ideal ground for people with special needs to interact, and share their experiences. She felt Qatar has developed in terms of the measures taken to bring up those with special needs and the Shafallah Center is a perfect example.

# Convention is the way forward

*Forum on Children with Special Needs began at the Shafallah Center, Doha, Qatar  
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a tool to provoke changes in the society.*

Parties and their national entities to fulfil their obligations,” he said.

Gallegos pointed out that Qatar’s Sheikha Hessa al-Thani, who is the second Special Rapporteur on Disability of the UN Commission for Social Development, has been charged with monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

“Bringing synergy with the anticipated implementation of the UN Disability Convention, she has been promoting the ‘complementary relationship’ between the Standard Rules and the newly adopted convention social development and human rights - to which the issue of persons with disabilities belongs,” he said.

The speaker went on to describe the new Disability Convention as the new ‘universal language’ for societies and individuals worldwide to discuss the way forward in realizing the human rights of all persons, including children with or without disabilities, in both developed and developing countries.

Gallegos highlighted the

need for an effective interfacing between the human rights norms articulated in the Convention and policy-making processes, institutions and mechanisms capable of effectively addressing the urgent needs of children and individuals with disabilities.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Shafallah Center Chairman Hassan Ali bin Ali stated that the institution was created with the aim of providing special needs children and their families with state of the art facilities, combined with the best practice methods in the delivery of care, treatment and education.

Currently Shafallah has 355 students and 294 special educators and experts. The number of students is increasing by approximately 40 per month.

The children are helped to develop their potential in every aspect of life and thereby engage fully in the wider society.

Referring to the results Shafallah is achieving, the official introduced Nayla al-Khalifa who was trained at the Center and now employed as an assistant teacher in the Vocational Unit. “Nayla is a highly valued member of our

staff and makes a positive contribution to the services we deliver. When I see Nayla working here and the progress being made by our wonderful children, I am truly inspired by what can be achieved,” he said.

Ali bin Ali also recalled that last year’s Forum allowed meaningful relationships to be formed and networks developed that have enabled knowledge and ideas to be shared. This year’s focus is on ‘Raising public awareness of disability across the world.’

British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s wife Cherie Blair, the Forum’s co-chair, is to deliver the keynote address for the forum.



Mr. Luis Gallegos

By Ham Hak

## *Rights of the disabled, in spite of their disabilities.*



Ms. Yulia Simonova

the rural areas.

Disabled Peoples’ Internationals’ vice chairman, Gulam Nabi from Karachi, pointed out that attention should also be given to children with special needs in

“Most of the international groups supporting these children, work only in the capital cities,” he maintained.

Nabi’s organisation, therefore caters to a wide range of places such as Asia Pacific, Europe, South East Asia and Africa. “The Shafallah Center can be a major hub in the Middle East for the welfare of children with special needs,” he suggested.

Networking should be

carried out among the participants and organisers so that the decisions are put into practice, he said.

Nabi, who was affected by polio at a tender age, believes that, “although these programmes do help people with disabilities, it is they themselves who should work for their self development, and independence.”

By Ham Hak

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**Global Campaign for Education**


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# GLOBAL CAMPAIGN

## *Action Week, Ap Education is a*

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE)'s message in 2007 is 'Join Up for Education Rights Now'. The theme was inspired by Nelson Mandela's words to young GCE campaigners in April 2006: Mr. Mandela was quoted as saying: "You might think that you are powerless, but if all the world's children join together, they can be more powerful than any government".

Across the world today, 80 million children are not in primary school. 1 in every 5 girls is missing out on education, and 800 million adults cannot read and write. Missing out on school isn't just missing out on the chance to learn to read and write, but also the chance to earn a living and participate in society, to protect one's family from illness and to follow one's dreams. During Global Action Week from April 23-29th, campaigners in 120



*Global Campaign for Education: Action Week was hosted in April 23-29, 2007 by way of the Independence Monument.*

countries came together to form the world's longest chain to remind the people and the government about their promise to guarantee free quality education to all children.

In Cambodia, GCE organization

members conducted campaign events in 9 provinces, including Phnom Penh municipality.

In Phnom Penh, a Big Hearing Campaign included a discussion on Family Radio and a

## **Education For All – Including Disabled Children in Mainstream Schools**

A workshop took place in Kampot in May for the finalisation of the National Education Policy for Children with Disabilities. The workshop was led by the Primary Education Department of the Ministry of Education Youth and Sports with financial support from Unicef and technical support from DAC. Participants worked on whether the content of policy reflects the current needs of schools and children or not and to agree the wording of the final policy document in Khmer.

The policy supports work towards Education For All goals

within the Child Friendly Schools framework. It focuses on children who are sight impaired or hearing impaired, and those who have mobility difficulties, setting out a plan to include them in mainstream schools. The policy advises that students with multiple or severe disabilities are placed in integrated classrooms attached to government primary schools. Key components of the policy include:

1. Enrolment campaign encouraging parents to enrol disabled children.
2. Early identification of children with disabilities.

3. Including disabled children in EMIS.

4. Braille and sign language training for teachers and children.

5. Promoting the enrolment of girls with disabilities in school.

6. Training all teachers in child-centre teaching methods.

7. Provision of supports and assistive devices.

8. Ensuring schools are accessible to disabled children.

It is hoped that the policy will be adopted and will be implemented shortly.

*By James Clarke and Vorn Sampors, DAC*

# FOR EDUCATION

April 23 – 29, 2007

## Human Right

roundtable TV Talk Show on TVK. More than 1500 people participated in the Big Hearing event on April 26th. Children marched from Wat Langka by way of the Independence Monument to an awareness-raising event at the National Institute of Education which featured HE Im Sethy, Secretary of State for MoEYS and others, forming a human chain to represent "joining up for education rights".

The events were held in approximately 42 schools during the Global Action Week with more than 15,000 participants. Most participants were children (both in and out of school), teachers, parents, local authorities, government officials, and other stakeholders.

A full report on all the GCE activities is available on request.

By Vorn Samphors, DAC



From right to left: Mrs. Norng Thouk, National TV of Kampuchea Moderator, H.E. Prum Sokha, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, H.E. Im Sethy, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Mr. Seng Hong, NGO Education Partnership (NEP), and Mr. Keo Sarat, Save the Children Norway

## UN Convention on the Rights of PWDs in Khmer Version To Avail of Shortly

In Cambodia, the Disability Action Council [DAC] has worked with Government, development partners and NGO members to translate the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities into Khmer. The Khmer version will be made available on the DAC website: [www.dac.org.kh](http://www.dac.org.kh) shortly.

The next step is to send the convention to the Royal Government of Cambodia to consider the possibility of signing.

It is important to note that the United Nations recently adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a vital new

instrument for the advancement of rights and opportunities for the more than 600 million people with disabilities globally.

The convention is the first global document in human history to affirm the rights of disabled people. It asserts that disabled people are recognized as having full rights and human dignity, like other members of our communities and should enjoy equal treatment and opportunities in



Wheelchair tournament for the disabled hosted at IDDP Day, Dec 3, 2006 at Hun Sen Park

society.

On March 30, 2007, in New York, 81 UN-member countries have signed up to the convention including Thailand, Indonesia.

By James Clarke and Vorn Samphors, DAC

## Vocational Training

### 1729 PWDs were graduated from various Vocational Training Centers

In 2006, 1,729 People with Disabilities graduated from the vocational training centers and training institution in Cambodia. It was reported as follow:

Skill/Course Title	Total	# of Female
▪ Sewing	221	201
▪ Motor Repair	183	-
▪ Car Repair	01	-
▪ Electronic	109	04
▪ Phone Repair	01	-
▪ Video Editing	01	-
▪ Agriculture	387	106
▪ Bag Making	17	12
▪ Carving	46	-
▪ Black Smiting	76	-
▪ Battery Repair	50	02
▪ Barbering	158	-
▪ Machine Repair	97	-
▪ Hair Dressing	86	86
▪ Beauty Salon	01	01
▪ Jams Making	11	07
▪ Food Making	01	-
▪ Bicycle Repair	154	-
▪ Carpentry	03	-
▪ Electrical	24	-
▪ Computer	14	05
▪ Computer Repair	01	-
▪ English	07	02
▪ Personal Development	76	16
▪ Business Administration	04	02

Total: 1,729 444

Graduated Reporting by Centers/Organization:

Name of Org./Center	Total	# of Female
▪ JSC-Banteay Preap/Ang Snuol-Kandal	74	14
▪ JCIA-Phnom Penh Thmei	70	27
▪ CWARS(B.Meanchey, Kg. Thom, Kratie, Pursat)	1,403	345
▪ RTC-Phnom Penh	11	07
▪ AAR-VTD/Kien Kleang-Phnom Penh	40	13
▪ RCC (Phnom Penh & Siem Reap)	16	07
▪ CVCD-Phnom Penh	21	07
▪ WVC/Bringing Hope Project-Phnom Penh	86	19
▪ Village Works-Phnom Penh	08	05
Total:	1,729	444

#### 1. A Workshop on Developing Quality Standards for Vocational Training in Rehabilitation Sector at AAR-VTD, Kien Kleang.

This workshop was organized by VT Committee in cooperation with MoVY with DAC-USAID support. His Excellency Ith Sam Heng Minister of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation was the guest of honor. The workshop considered the draft document containing the Quality Standards for Vocational Training in the Rehabilitation Sector and developed training curricula and certificates.

#### 2. Process of Submitting the Quality Standards to Get Approval from Minister of MoSVY

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2007, VT Committee sent the completed official documents-Quality Standards, Certificates and Priority Courses to MoSVY asking for approval. Seeing the importance of this document, we expect that MoSVY will make it the official Ministry Policy by July or August 2007. The draft Quality Standards for Vocational Training in the Rehabilitation Sector are available for reviewing on the DAC website [www.dac.org.kh](http://www.dac.org.kh).

#### 3. What Is Next?

A workshop to disseminate the Quality Standards for Vocational Training in the Rehabilitation Sector will be organized to present organizations (both in disability sector and outside), companies, institutions and government agencies with the Quality Standards for Vocational Training for people with disabilities. The workshop will highlight the draft Plan of Action of VTC and recommendations will be sought.

## Consultant for the Land Mine Victim Assistance Project on Board July 16, 2007

Ms. Mary Ryan who is currently working as a Consultant for a World Bank Project will join the Disability Action Council on July 16, 2007. She will coordinate and develop a Strategic Plan of Action for Land Mine Victim Assistance and other Persons with Disabilities in Cambodia.

The Consultant will work with the Landmine Victim Assistance Steering Committee in the development of the Strategic Plan of Action through a consultative process engaging the participation of relevant ministries, departments, UN agencies and NGO service providers.

To achieve these objectives, the consultant will:

1. Coordinate and oversee the revision of Cambodia's response to Victim Assistance questionnaire through the inclusion of all relevant government ministries and key actors in the health, disability and development sectors.

2. Facilitate awareness-raising activities aimed at gaining engagement and the cooperation from relevant ministries and implementing agencies to inform and promote ownership and responsibility for the end results and recommendations.

3. Assist with planning and facilitating a workshop to introduce a draft Strategic Plan in October 2007.

4. Consolidate all information and provide draft of a Strategic Plan to DAC and the Landmine Victim Assistance Steering Committee.

5. Work with DAC personnel to build up capacity to facilitate follow-up on implementation of the Strategic Plan after the end of the project.

6. Once finalized and approved, she will assist the Government of Cambodia in developing the presentation of the strategic plan for landmine victim assistance to the 8MSP, which is going to be hosted in Amman, Jordan in November 2007.

By Ham Hak, DAC

## Land Mine Victim Assistance

# UNMAT Updates on support to States Parties in the area of VASR

The United Nations Mine Action Team supports victim assistance initiatives in the context of national programs and facilities for all persons with disabilities, and advocates for increased resources and support to persons with disabilities. These are core activities of the UN Mine Action Strategy for 2006-2010.

“This year UNMAT has witnessed an event of unparalleled significance for mine and explosive remnants of war affected communities”, *Ilene Cohn said.*

On 30 March the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was opened for signature. “Over 80 states signed the Convention” he stressed. The United Nations Mine Action Team congratulates

all those States Parties, adding that UNMAT will be making a statement specifically on the Convention during this Standing Committee.

He added that UNMAT is pleased to report that programmatic victim assistance efforts increased during the reporting period, and cover a broad spectrum of activities. In some countries, UNMAT is still at the early stages of the support in this field - such as in Mauritania, where a victim needs assessment was completed in March 2007 with support from UNDP. The results will feed into the country’s priority setting and planning for assistance to landmine survivors.

*Ilene Cohn said* “The United Nations is undertaking advocacy, surveillance and data gathering on

Afghanistan’s estimated 60,000 surviving mine victims; assisting the Afghan Ministry of Public Health in drafting disability guidelines for its basic health package and developing a strategy for nationalization of victim assistance services”.

In Sudan, 1.6 million dollars from the UN Human Security Trust Fund are targeted for victim assistance and mine risk education under an integrated UNMAS, UNDP and UNICEF program. “The aim of the project is to assist Sudan, as one of the 24 States Parties with the largest numbers of survivors, in developing national capacity for sustainable victim assistance and socio-economic integration”, *Ilene Cohn maintained.*

*Source: UNMA 23-27/04/2007*

## GUIDE TO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO LAND MINE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

1. Designate an inter-sectoral group to oversee the process, including relevant government ministries, international agencies, non governmental organizations, associations of persons with disabilities, etc.
2. Assign responsibility for the process and to prepare a national plan of action.
3. Situation analysis □ look specifically at the current situation that may be relevant to landmine survivors, and the factors that favour or impede achieving the best possible quality of life *for* mine survivors and other persons with disabilities, including capacities and competencies, and training needs. Look at all the relevant initiatives, including health sector strategies, rehabilitation sector strategies, poverty reduction strategies, etc. Also analyze activities that are not part of an official national program, for example, initiatives of international agencies, national and international non governmental organizations, etc.
4. Review of situation analysis □ what does the State want the situation to be in 2009?
5. Objectives prepare a set of S.M.A.R.T. objectives that will improve/change the current situation by 2009 and lead to an improved quality of life for mine survivors and other persons with disabilities,

Objectives should be:

- **Specific:** the objective should describe a quantifiable change relative to the current situation.
  - **Measurable:** there should be or will be a system in place to measure progress towards the achievement of the objectives.
  - **Achievable:** it should be realistic that, with a reasonable amount of effort, the objective could be met by 2009.
  - **Relevant:** the objective should be important to achieve an improvement in the services available and/or the quality of life of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities.
  - **Time based:** the timeframe for reaching the desired objective should be no later than 2009.
6. National plan formulation □ develop a plan of action detailing the strategies and activities that will be undertaken to change the current situation to reach the stated objectives.
  7. Resource mobilization identifies the resources that are currently available to implement the national plan and assess the additional resources that are needed to fully implement the plan.

*Source: Standing Committee on VASR*

## Disability Action Council: Information Resource Center Update

During the past 5 months, DAC has conducted two successful Disability Sector Information Days-in February and May, 2007. 150 participants from a variety of organizations with an interest in disability attended. They included NGOs, INGOs, government ministries, and donors. DAC membership was well presented. Presentations were delivered on a range of disability topics.

450 copies of DAC's Newsletter were printed and distributed to all members. Recent surveys have shown that members enjoyed the Newsletter because it primarily provided up to date information on the disability sector-suggested improvements were made to meet the needs of those potential readers in the sector.

500 copies of DAC brochures were printed. Materials were disseminated to a range of audiences—at

the International Day of the Disabled Persons, International Human Rights Day, various DAC committee, sub-committee meetings, and conferences.

A database working group that aims to coordinate disability databases is to be set up in the near future. The Partnership and Communication Division of DAC is working closely with the leading disability organizations to establish the data base working group.

There are currently 954 books and a variety of documents in DAC Resource Center. Others are available for viewing/borrowing.

More significantly, DAC website was developed and re-launched in last November 2006. More pages and contents were attractively designed to the satisfaction of website visitors.

By Ang Narith

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Readers,*

*Would you like our DAC Newsletter to publish your ideas, opinions or editorials concerning disability? Please kindly send your requests, letters or articles to DAC.*

**Address:** No. 86, Street 99, Phsar Deom Thkov, Khan Chamcar Mon, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel. 855-23 215 341/218 797;  
Fax: 855-23 214 722

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF:**

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Email: hamhak@dac.org.kh

*DAC reserves the right to edit your articles prior to publication.*



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