



Development Aid for People with Disabilities

How to include vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities into development programmes?

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Development Partnership

Why important?

- 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide
- 98% of children with disabilities out of school
- 2-3% PWDs get access to health and other services
- One of the poorest and most invisible groups
- Lack of knowledge, evidence – the last ones to benefit



Why important?

- In Myanmar only one national research focusing on persons with disabilities
- Lack of awareness on disability at every level
- Only a few special schools in the biggest towns, hardly any access to mainstream school and hardly any services available in rural areas
- Lack of funding and only a few international donors focusing on disability issues



What can be done?

- UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified in December 2011
- Disability law
- There are 9 DPOs at national level but mainly based in Yangon
- Important issues for PWDs at the moment: Disability law approval, need for advocacy and awareness raising, capacity building of PWDs and DPOs, access to mainstream education, decent employment opportunities...



What can be done?

- The Finnish Government's Development Policy Programme (2012) requires that a human rights-based approach be implemented in all development policy and development cooperation with a particular -
focus on vulnerable groups
- Twin track approach needed (mainstreaming and disability specific projects)



Supporting the grassroots level organisations

**Rea Konttinen
Project Coordinator
Abilis Foundation**

Supporting the grassroots: Abilis Foundation

- Small grants for real disability organisations
- Big things can be done with small amounts of money
 - Empowerment, Participation, Ownership and trust
- Fund mostly IGA, vocational training, but also promotion of human rights
- Abilis has opened office (one person) in Yangon, need for local facilitation
 - First 2 grants: National Autism day and seminar on disability and responsible business organised By Myanmar Deaf community development association.
- Added value of Abilis' work:
 - Abilis reaches grassroots groups
 - Abilis empowers Persons With Disabilities to work for their rights and conditions
 - Abilis acts as a bridge between the disability movement in the Global South and the Global North

Supporting the grassroots

Why and how?



Development Aid for People with Disabilities

Why?

- Empowerment of individuals and small organisations
- Can't expect real change if only working in main cities
- Strengthening of civil society, disability organisations as part of the civil society

How?

- Support bigger organisations to build/strengthen their network and capacity and to start activities in the rural areas. Then only possible to support the grassroots directly.
- Small funding e.g. Abilis → possibility to practice project/money management
- Mainstreaming

What could/should be done?

- **Identification of persons with disabilities**
- **Real meaningful participation** e.g. country analysis
- **Twin track approach needed** – support the grassroot and at the same time support to government in policy making and implementation of laws e.g. disability law
- **Strengthening of national organisations and movements** e.g. disability movement, gender issues, ethnic minorities → strong movement important for future advocacy work
- **Human rights based approach**, disability inclusion is a good indicator of how well we are doing.