

Technical Issue Note

Inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities

“Nothing about us without us”

The motto above refers to the fundamental principle of participation, which signifies a major shift away from charity as the mode of addressing disability and towards the recognition of disabled people’s agency and resources. The motto has been used by Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) for many years as part of the global movement to achieve the full participation and equalization of opportunities for, by and with persons with disabilities. The signposts of this approach are outlined in [The United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm), 1993 (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm>)

Since 2001 an Ad Hoc Committee under the United Nations’ General Assembly has worked to develop an [International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/adhoccom.htm). (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/adhoccom.htm>) The active involvement of persons with disabilities in the ongoing elaboration of this convention has proved to be an excellent example of how the principle of full participation can be put into practice and how it can contribute to the development of inclusive societies.

Many activities for, by and with persons with disabilities also take place at national and community level. Danish DPOs are among the most successful NGOs implementing the Danish Civil Society Strategy in their support to the capacity building of local disability organisations.

1. Good Practice Case Stories supported by Danida

Danida mainly supports the inclusion of people with disabilities through embassy grants and support to Danish NGOs and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) who collaborate with local organisations. The case stories below are all examples of activities implemented by Danish NGOs and DPOs in collaboration with local organisations.

- [Supporting policy and organisational development in Kosovo](http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210700)
(<http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210700>)
- [Supporting the establishment of district based disability organisations in Uganda](http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210702)
(<http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210702>)
- [Strengthening representation of persons with disabilities in local councils in South Africa](http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210701)
(<http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210701>)

Recent support from Danish embassies have included allocations to ensure that persons with disabilities were include in a population census in India in 2001, that the rights of disabled persons were included in new labour market legislation in Egypt in 2002, and that voters with disabilities were mobilised for national elections in Zambia in 2001.

The development of the Technical Issue Note and the Good Practice Case Stories

For the purpose of this web-site a good practice case story is understood as a concrete example of how disability has been addressed successfully in Danish development co-operation. The identification of good practice case stories on disability in development took a starting point in the summary of disability specific

activities annexed to the review report on [The Inclusion of Disability Aspects in Danish Development Co-operation](http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210707) from November 2004. (<http://www.governance.dccd.cursum.net/default.aspx?ActiveCAID=210707>)

Good Practice Case Stories on disability in development are included in the Tool Box and Good Practices section of several networks at [Danida Professional Networks](http://www.danida-networks.dk). (www.danida-networks.dk)

Criteria and selection of cases were discussed with staff of Danida's Technical Advisory Services and representatives from Danish disabled people's organisations. Good practice case stories in this collection were chosen if they met at least two of the following criteria:

- The intervention is generally perceived as successful by donors, implementers and end-users in the sense that it has led to visible or measurable change in the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities.
- The intervention involved Danish and/or local Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)
- The intervention was effective, ethically sound, relevant, and sustainable.
- The intervention is judged replicable in other settings by donors and implementers.

2. Danish policies on inclusion and participation of people with disabilities

In Danida's overriding policy paper, Partnership 2000, people with disabilities are mentioned among those particularly vulnerable to poverty (p. 22, Analysis Paper) and having unequal access to education (p. 34, Analysis Paper). Denmark will involve the disabled, among other marginalised groups, in development cooperation to reduce poverty (p. 26, Strategy Paper)

Partnership 2000, Strategy

(http://amg.um.dk/NR/rdonlyres/8C1E6A52-3F33-49D4-9302-3BE1C2A5F3AF/0/denmarks_development_policy_strategi.pdf)

- [Section on poverty reduction through growth and innovation, p. 26](#)

To reach the objectives for poverty reduction Denmark will

- involve ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups, such as the disabled and the elderly, in development work.

- [Section on children and young people – a resource in the development process, p. 48](#)

In order to give children and young people in developing countries opportunities for a brighter future and to acknowledge the rights of children and young people and their importance as the core resource in any country, Denmark's development policy will

- contribute to support for children and young people in particularly difficult circumstances, for example, disabled children and children orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic or in consequence of armed conflict. Both bilaterally and through the international organisations Denmark will support programmes that protect and improve the situation of these children. It must be ensured that they have the opportunity to grow up in surroundings that offer them health, socialisation and care.

Partnerskab 2000, Analyse

(http://amg.um.dk/NR/rdonlyres/19BDFB70-A4AF-4624-BE53-5413D3890D69/0/denmarks_development_policy.pdf)

- [The Nature of Poverty, p. 22](#)

Similarly, there is the intergenerational aspect of poverty that renders children and the elderly especially vulnerable. This applies not least in countries where the HIV/AIDS epidemic has hit hardest, and where it is predominantly the productive age-groups that are swept away, leaving a growing number of young and elderly persons without means of support. Disabled persons also represent a group at risk.

- [Social characteristics, p. 34](#)

Better education and broader access to it are vital to the realisation of a sustainable and socially and economically more equitable development in Africa. Today access to education is very unequally distributed. Enrolment in primary school is lowest among girls, the poorest children, children in rural areas and the disabled.

- The cross-cutting issues, p. 51

In development policy debate there will occasionally be proposals or insistence that other areas are also of such fundamental importance to development efforts that they should therefore be incorporated as cross-cutting issues. In particular attention has been called to the need to incorporate the conditions faced by vulnerable groups, notably the elderly and the disabled. However, it is important to underscore the importance of the three cross-cutting issues (gender equality, environment, human rights and democracy) in order to be able to achieve the overriding objective of poverty reduction. The position adopted is that concern for the condition of a specific population group, for example, is not of the same fundamental nature as the broader issues. At the same time, it must be strongly emphasised that this position does not mean that the conditions of particularly vulnerable groups, and especially those of the disabled and the elderly, will not be included in the design of Denmark's development assistance activities.

- New priorities in development assistance, p. 66

A special effort must be made to support children and young people in particularly difficult circumstances, for example, disabled children and children orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic or from other causes, so that these children are also given the opportunity to develop their resources and contribute to the development of society. Such activities can be supported both bilaterally, for example, in connection with the sector programmes, and through the international organisations.

- Strategic priorities, p. 68

Particularly vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, the disabled and the elderly must continue to receive special attention in Denmark's development policy, but will not be included as cross-cutting issues.

Danida Support to Good Governance (2004)

(<http://amg.um.dk/en/menu/PoliciesAndStrategies/Cross-Cutting+Issues/HumanRights/HumanRightsDemocracyPage.htm>)

- Section 3. Evolution of general Danida GG policies; Footnote 5, p.7

Footnote 5: In "Partnership 2000" it was explicitly emphasized, e.g., that "Denmark's development policy seeks to reduce poverty by -promoting sustainable development through broad-based, pro-poor economic growth with equal participation by men and women; - promoting human development through expansion of the social sectors, including education and health; - promoting democratisation and popular participation in the development process, the establishment of a rule of law and good governance as prerequisite for the stability of economic, social and political progress. In order to implement these objectives for poverty reduction Denmark will (...) - support the development of a public administration that is effective, accountable and characterised by openness; - contribute to the development of a sustainable financial basis for the public sector by supporting socially equitable policies for increasing public revenue and tax reforms. This will provide a better basis on which the public sector can perform its tasks and pursue a distribution policy that will benefit the poor; (...) - involve ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups, such as the disabled and the elderly, in development cooperation (...)"

Country and Regional Strategies Africa – Development and Security (2005)

(<http://amg.um.dk/en/menu/PoliciesAndStrategies/CountryRegionalStrategies/RegionalStrategies/Africa.htm>)

- Section VI. Bringing human development into focus, p. 28

The Government will work for:

Increased focus on vulnerable groups. On the basis of the experience of the last ten years with integration of vulnerable groups, for example children with learning disabilities, Denmark will work for

systematised dissemination of the practice that has been termed "inclusive education". Moreover – based on experience from Kenya, Uganda and Zambia – Denmark will further develop specific efforts for the most vulnerable groups, including the handicapped.

Ghana (2004)

(<http://amg.um.dk/NR/rdonlyres/8B2275C0-D52A-4930-8288-3AC00F410763/0/GhanaDenmarkPartnership.pdf>)

- **Section 4. Focal Sectors and Thematic Issues, p. 24**

At a high level dialogue with the government and other partners, Denmark will actively promote the role of civil society and parliament in governing the GPRS process and will work to ensure that GPRS implementation effectively targets the needs of the poor. Specifically, Denmark will engage in dialogue with GOG on increasing public spending and decentralising management of funds in benefit of the poor (in northern regions, subsistence farmers, women, disabled, etc.).

Tanzania (2002)

(<http://amg.um.dk/en/menu/PoliciesAndStrategies/CountryRegionalStrategies/ProgrammeCountries/Tanzania.htm>)

- **Section 4.5.3. Gender aspects, p. 38**

Danish support to limiting female genital mutilation is expected to continue. With regard to human rights, several women's NGOs offering legal aid to the disadvantaged are being supported. In the Human Rights Commission, currently being prepared with Danish support, a standing committee for protecting the rights of women, children and the disabled is expected to be established.

3. International conventions and declarations

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948](http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm) (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/lang/eng.htm>)

[The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1991](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm) (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/k2crc.htm>)

[Biwako Millennium Framework for Action towards an Inclusive, Barrier-Free and Rights-Based Society for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and The Pacific, 2003](http://www.worldenable.net/bangkok2003/biwako1.htm)
(<http://www.worldenable.net/bangkok2003/biwako1.htm>)

4. Other resources

[From Charity towards Inclusion: The Way Forward for Disability Support through Danish NGOs, Danida, 2000](http://www.disability.dk/site/viewdoc.php?doc_id=932) (http://www.disability.dk/site/viewdoc.php?doc_id=932)

[About the International Convention to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities](http://www.disability.dk/site/viewdoc.php?doc_id=762)
The Danish Disability Council
(http://www.disability.dk/site/viewdoc.php?doc_id=762)

[World Bank web-site on disability](http://web.worldbank.org/disability)
(<http://web.worldbank.org/disability>)

[Disability kar – Knowledge and Research \(Funded by Dfid\)](http://www.disabilitykar.net/index.html)
(<http://www.disabilitykar.net/index.html>)

[Disability, Poverty and Development, Dfid 2000](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/disability.pdf)
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pubs/files/disability.pdf>)

[Danish Disability Council](http://www.disability.dk)
(<http://www.disability.dk>)

[Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development \(DCDD\)](http://www.dcdd.nl/default.asp)

(<http://www.dcdd.nl/default.asp>)

[UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities Online Support](http://www.worldenable.net/rights/)

(<http://www.worldenable.net/rights/>)

[Building an Inclusive Development Community. A Manual on Including People with Disabilities in International Development Programs. A Mobility International USA Publication sponsored by USAID](http://www.miusa.org/publications/books/inclusivedevelopment) (<http://www.miusa.org/publications/books/inclusivedevelopment>)

[Disability and conflict](http://www.disabilitykar.net/resources)

(<http://www.disabilitykar.net/resources>)