



Newsletter Enablement No 10,  
December 2009

## **10 year Enablement**

### **Introduction**

The year 2009 has been a year with many challenges; new ideas; great opportunities and a year in which Enablement celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. For many people though 2009 was a difficult year; a year which will be remembered as a year of economic crisis; a year with continued war and conflict and many parts of this world; a year where people with disabilities worldwide were longing for hope and a better life. The euphoria of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD), although still in the minds of many people, may in quite a number of situations be fainting... Signing and ratifying conventions was in some instances not a great deal; implementing them is however another story altogether. While reviewing the list of signatories one cannot deny that a number of the countries who signed the CRPD are corrupt; have dictatorial regimes or are just extremely poor and as such one can only expect lip service to be paid, but... is it so different from what happens in more affluent and democratic societies?

It is the participants of the various CBR courses who work at the grassroots level who are often more realistic than some of the disabled leadership as they do work in the harsh realities of war and conflict in Afghanistan or the draught-stricken areas of Ethiopia; the inaccessible mountain villages of Nepal and the desert in Sudan. They do realize that we are living in a cruel society which is far from inclusive; far from ensuring equal access and opportunities. They may even live and work in situations whereby livestock is more important than disabled relatives who form a burden to the family as they wander in the wilderness. Try to implement in such 'survival of the fittest' situations comprehensive rehabilitation for persons with disabilities! This is certainly a bigger challenge than

inaccessible hotels and beaches. Barriers which one won't overcome with the CRPD or the new CBR Guidelines..!

Amid these thoughts while writing this newsletter, it is motivating to see that still so many people are willing and prepared to work in such circumstances; sometimes because they are part and parcel of that culture; sometimes because they feel obliged and compassionate to work alongside local people in ensuring that disabled people and their families get a better quality of life.

Both the needs of disabled people and the determination of so many people gives the Enablement team – which is expanding and certainly will expand in 2010 – the courage and motivation to continue with their work.

Enablement will open its new office in January at the Anthonie van Leeuwenhoekweg, Lions-Gate office complex. As mentioned in the previous newsletter: a spacious office; modern and with all necessary facilities available that will enable Enablement to work more efficiently with more people in order to become more involved in more projects.

## **Mail from India**

From the mountainous and beautiful area of Kullu, Northern India, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Evert Veldman, I'm an occupational therapist. In 2008 I've completed the "Community Health"-education, as well as Enablement's "International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation". Here in India I am finally able to put the knowledge I've gained into practice in the Handimachal-project, which is a joint venture of the Indian NGO HPVHA and the French NGO La Maison des Himalayas (MdH) -contact: Dominique Dufau, email: [domidufau@free.fr](mailto:domidufau@free.fr).

In March 2009 a small therapy unit has been set up for the differently abled children of Kullu-area, Himachal Pradesh and I am lucky enough to be able to join for 6 months. An occupational therapist's aim is to make people fulfill their activities of daily life in the most satisfying way. In the Netherlands we would say, "independent", but independence doesn't have the same value here in India, where it is much more important to gain a position in the (joint) family and within the community. For this purpose, rather than only focusing on

individual treatments, our key activity is to inform parents about the medical status of their child and to provide them with exercises that they can do with their child at home. Often the people from the villages still relate disability only to religious factors. By organizing awareness camps once a month in another valley we hope to increase the people's understanding of the concepts of health and disability. Many life-long disabilities, like visual and hearing disabilities, can be prevented with basic medical care, if not to speak about the hygienic circumstances and proper assistance during delivery. There is still a long way to go to prevent disability where possible, and to improve the living conditions of children with disabilities. That is why I consider it of utmost importance to find partners in the existing organizations working in the field of disability. Weekly I spend at least one afternoon in the NAB-school for the blind here in Kullu, where I advise the teachers about their support for some children with multiple disabilities. What I have experienced so far is that nothing can be organized in the speed and in the structured manner that we are familiar with in Europe. That means that I have to rely on the local way of acting, while on the other hand people expect me to fulfill an expert role, just because I am from the Netherlands. What is happening at an individual level might be similar at the organizational level. MdH has performed a catalyst role in the initial stage of the project. It is not impossible, but it will be a challenge to hand over the responsibility over the project to the local government or a local NGO, which is planned for the end of 2012. As a foreign NGO one has to carefully consider on forehand which kind of service one should render, by means of knowledge, finances or actual organization on the location, in order to guarantee a sustainable project. To learn more about the project, visit the webpage in English:

[http://www.maisondeshimalayas.org/english\\_page.html#handi](http://www.maisondeshimalayas.org/english_page.html#handi), or my own weblog: [www.everest2india.web-log.nl](http://www.everest2india.web-log.nl).

## **Developments in Ghana**

As stated in the last newsletter; Enablement is partner with the University of Applied Sciences of Leiden and the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in a capacity building project at the Kwame Nkrumah University (KNUST) in Ghana. This year was marked with the start of the MSc in Disability & Rehabilitation with a group of 20 participants and representing a wide variety of disciplines. Besides, in August this year a first national conference was held with a focus on capacity building for rehabilitation; a great success and

attended by over 250 people, many of them having a disability. An exciting activity was formed by the 3-day disability awareness for university lecturers: confronting people with own norms and values, opinions and attitudes and building a team of people who will play a leading role in the training of MSc and BSc students in the field of disability and development.

Next year will focus on the development and introduction of a BSc in Rehabilitation Management; the involvement of students in research in the field of disability and development as well as capacity building of DPOs. The project team will temporarily be extended with Toni Kofi (Enablement associate) and Roos de Groot (Master in International Public Health)

### **Developments in Nigeria (NLR project)**

Prior to the disability study which was executed in January/February training took place of 13 interviewers (all qualified sociologists). In May CBR training was given to NLR staff and partners (NGOs, government and DPOs). More recent (October) a strategic workshop took place and rehabilitation has become an integral part of the overall NLR strategy in Nigeria. 2010 will be an important year since pilots in comprehensive rehabilitation will be started in Kaduna – and Bauchi state.

Of essential importance to the success of the 2 pilots is the availability of professional and field staff. There is a lot of interest to develop at the University of Jos a diploma course for CBR fieldworkers. Current activities – in which NLR may be a partner - are focusing on soliciting political and financial support for this development.

### **Developments in Nepal (NLR project)**

Based on the outcome of a house-to-house disability study in Morang district in the eastern part of Nepal study; focus group discussions with beneficiaries a strategic workshop took place in October this year. The outline of a rehabilitation program start to evolve and an exciting development is formed by the intense partnership with various stakeholders in this programme. As a result from the workshop a disability study and rehabilitation programme

will be facilitated in the Far west region as well. However, no extensive, largely quantitative research will be executed to determine problems and needs. Instead, a more qualitative and participatory approach will be followed. It is decided to choose for 2 research methodologies: 1) Focus Group Discussions and 2) Photo voicing.

Photo voice is a unique method that combines photography and social action. It provides cameras to community residents rather than professionals or outsiders. Thus, community residents have an opportunity to visually reflect their surroundings, and— most importantly—provide insight into their lives, experiences, and community problems through photographs. For example, through pictures disabled people and their relatives can document the number of (man-made) physical barriers in their neighborhood, and use their findings to improve accessibility in their surroundings.

Photo voice has three goals:

- 1) It allows community residents to show the strengths and problems of their communities.
- 2) It fosters dialogue about important issues through the photographs.
- 3) It provides a visual representation of community experiences and problems thereby engaging policymakers.

Photo voice is an increasingly used methodology utilized in a variety of programmes and for a variety of applications. In our case we would like to gather - through photography - information about the real life stories of people with disabilities and their families. A group of 30 families with disabled people (various gender, age and type of disability) will be given a digital camera with opportunities to make high resolution photographs. The disabled people themselves and their relatives will be asked to make pictures of the lives of disabled people: their struggles, barriers in society they come across; their achievements in spite of their disability and their ambitions.

### **Ethiopia- ALERT: training in CBR**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year a 2-week CBR course was organized by ALERT in Ethiopia. Participants came from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and South Africa. The training was conducted in close cooperation with Marieke Boersma (Enablement associate) and local Ethiopian lecturers. Thanks to TLMI for making this course financially possible

## Publications

### New Publications

One article has been accepted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2009 for publication:

- Cornielje H, Lessen uit het Zuiden: hoe ontwikkelt Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) zich in ontwikkelingslanden naar de toekomst? Wat kan Nederland hiervan leren met betrekking tot zelfmanagement en *empowerment*? Tijdschrift Health Management Forum, 15<sup>e</sup> jaargang, no 4, 2009.

### Publications submitted

- Assen von.der N, Euwema M & Cornielje H, Including disabled children in psychosocial programmes in conflict situations: where do we stand? Intervention Journal, in press
- Velema JP and Cornielje H, Backbone Principles of the CBR Guidelines, submitted to APDRJ, November 2009.

### Publications in progress

- Cornielje H, Program Evaluation: paper to be written for an international Encyclopedia of Rehabilitation

## Developments at the VU University, Amsterdam

During November and December 2009 a Disability and Development (D&D) module as part of a Masters in Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences (MPA) was organized. It is expected that the second module will be offered in July 2010 as a summer course in Jakarta, Indonesia

For information contact: [anna.van.luijn@falw.vu.nl](mailto:anna.van.luijn@falw.vu.nl)

## Contributions to Conferences and Workshops

Contrary to other years substantial contributions and involvement in a number of conferences took place.

- **Accra, Ghana:** first national conference on capacity building in rehabilitation, August 2009. Keynote address on CBR.
- **Abuja, Nigeria:** first national CBR conference, May 2009. Presentation on CBR development in Nigeria.

- **Oslo, Norway:** June 2009. Delivering on the promises: A meeting of experts and practitioners.

Priorities for implementation of victim assistance commitments in the context of the Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War. Presentation on CBR. Presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation.

- **Lyon, France:** September 2009, CBR lecture and debate - Handicap International
- **Bonn, Germany:** November 2009, Inclusive Education. BEZEV, Handicap International, KinderNothilfe and Enablement organized a conference on inclusive education in Bonn in Germany.

## **New 2010 Developments**

A number of new Enablement projects will be finalised or undertaken during the year 2010.

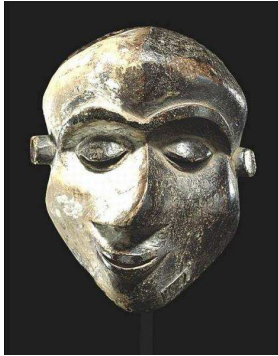
### **1) Expansion of Enablement**

Growing demands from the field require that Enablement will expand. Provisionally such an expansion is seen in forming associations with other independent consultants and trainers. Early 2010 a first meeting will take place and we hope to report in the next newsletter about the outcome of this meeting.

### **2) Conference: an African perspective on CBR**

The CBR Guidelines are still in its draft form. However, the drafts are widely distributed and even used in the field. The great benefit from this consensus building process and project is that CBR receives a lot of attention. The possible disadvantage of the Guidelines is that people in the field often assume that the Guidelines are written in stone. Besides, when reviewing the Guidelines one cannot deny the feeling that most concepts are Western concepts. Independence may for instance be a great value to Western people but is this also the case in Africa (and Asia), where (still) the (extended) family provide support mechanisms. Empowerment may have quite different meanings in different cultures and may even be a controversial concept in some African cultures.

Enablement intends to take at least the initiative to organise a workshop or conference on African perspectives in CBR; contextualizing guidelines and making recommendations for more indigenous applications of the guidelines. Anyone who wishes to take part in the organization of such an event is most welcome to contact the Enablement office.



### **3) CBR anniversary publication**

In last newsletter we mentioned that an educational publication will be compiled and published (as hard and soft copy). Time constraints and late submission of various case studies delayed the process. The material is currently being reviewed and transformed into educational material. It is expected that the publication will become available during 2010.

### **4) CBR Game**

Another outstanding development is the development of an educational CBR game. While first steps were already made in January this year only recently a follow up to this project was given.

## **New Training Developments**

### **Short Course: Delivering Presentation in the Netherlands**

During this 3 day course you will acquire the theory, skills and methods to design and deliver effective presentations that will increase community awareness and support for CBR initiatives. As a result it is expected you will help improve the quality of life of people living with a disability. The course is given by Fiona Post of To the Point Consultancy. Dates: still to be determined.

### **Training of Trainers in CBR program in The Netherlands**

Enablement will also offer in 2010 the following course after a very successful first course in 2009: **TOT in CBR**. The course is scheduled for April 2010. This course is of particular importance if you want to develop training skills for CBR staff.

### **International Course in Theory and Praxis of CBR in the Netherlands**

After running the 4-week international CBR course for 16! Times it is becoming time to re-focus our efforts to build capacity in the field of CBR. For several reasons it was decided to move into a new concept of training: 2-week training for those who want to know more about CBR and a 2-week course for those who have experience and expertise in the field of CBR but who would like to acquire more leadership and management skills in the field of CBR (see below).

### **International Course in Leadership and Management of CBR in the Netherlands**

Enablement is pleased to inform you that again during 2010 an International Course in Leadership and Management of CBR is being offered for rehabilitation professionals and disability and development workers and activists. Serious candidates should apply well in advance.

### **Extended Course in HIV-AIDS and Disability**

A high level 5-day training in the field of HIV-AIDS and Disability will equip participants not only with insight, awareness and knowledge about this field, but will provide participants also with practical tools. Tools that will enable them and their organisations to include persons with disability into their mainstream health development activities and provide the necessary competencies for rehabilitation service providers and DPOs to be better equipped to inform their beneficiaries and members of HIV-AIDS prevention, cure and care.

## Overview of all 2010 courses

Country	Type of training	Period
Phokara, Nepal	CBR course BIKASH training Centre	22 <sup>nd</sup> of February to 5 <sup>th</sup> of March 2010
Alphen aan den Rijn Netherlands	TOT in CBR	12 <sup>th</sup> of April to 23 <sup>rd</sup> of April 2010
Alphen aan den Rijn Netherlands	CBR: Theory and Praxis	21 <sup>st</sup> of June to 2 <sup>nd</sup> of July 2010
Alphen aan den Rijn Netherlands	Management and Leadership in CBR	4 <sup>th</sup> of October to 15 <sup>th</sup> of October 2010
Alphen aan den Rijn Netherlands	Disability – HIV-AIDS training	25 <sup>th</sup> of October to 29 <sup>th</sup> of October
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	CBR, ALERT	15 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> of November
Bangkok, Thailand	in-house CBR training	22 <sup>nd</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> of March
Zaria, Nigeria	in-house 2-week CBR training	May 2010

## Finally

The year 2009 has been an exciting year; at times a too busy year and clearly experiencing the limits in terms of capacity. It is anticipated that during 2010 even more exciting developments will take place, which will require more input and as indicated already earlier Enablement will expand and professionalize; maybe it will change its legal structure but lots is unsure at this moment. It is evident that Enablement has become a valued name in the field of disability. We hope and trust that during the coming years we continually will be able to provide a high quality service and we would like to make use of this opportunity to wish all of you a prosperous and blessed 2010.

Huib Cornielje

For information, comments and reactions to this newsletter contact:

Enablement

Langenhorst 36

2402 PX Alphen aan den Rijn

The Netherlands

Tel: ++31-172-436953

Fax: ++31-172-244976

e-mail: [h.cornielje@enablement.nl](mailto:h.cornielje@enablement.nl)

Internet: [www.enablement.nl](http://www.enablement.nl) and [www.cbrtraining.com](http://www.cbrtraining.com)