



Newsletter Enablement No 11, July 2010

Panem et Circensus (Julius Caesar, 122 BC),

Introduction

It appears these days that there is only one important thing in life: soccer! It is great to get so much positive attention for the African continent and it is understandable that there is so much euphoria in Africa: the first time in history that such a large tournament is taking place in Africa; a continent that all too often is associated with poverty, famine, corruption, human rights violations and disease. Africa is often seen as the lost continent.... But, that is the opinion of wealthy bankers, powerful politicians, Eurocentric, phobic right-wing politicians who want their 'country first'... Developments in Dutch politics clearly demonstrate the fear of those the 'have's' for the 'have not's'. If the liberal right-wing will come to power; those parties who won the majority of votes the future may seem bleak in many instances. Development cooperation is threatened and The Netherlands will become more a fortress than it is already.

It is hoped that the soccer tournament will result in more trust in Africa; at least more trust in the people of Africa. Maybe not in its leaders who are as phobic, power-hungry, corrupt and egocentric as leaders in the West and elsewhere. Unfortunately Africa is in that sense not unique. Fortunately, there is uniqueness in Africa that should be nurtured: its positive spirit; its social networks and other values that we in the West lost already long time ago.

In October 2010 there is another important event in Africa taking place: the launch of the new CBR Guidelines written by teams of experts and practitioners under guidance and leadership of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). This event takes place in Abuja in Nigeria. It is obvious that it will receive a fraction of media coverage as the soccer tournament has received.

Panem et Circensus (Julius Caesar, 122 BC), literally Bread and Circuses; a deliberate strategy of handouts and petty amusement that politicians still use to gain popular support. The launch of the CBR Guidelines doesn't fall in that category so the attention that will be given to this event will most likely take place in the sideline of that what excites the majority in this world. It is hoped however that those who attend the launch will feel excited and will take up the challenge of scaling up CBR. CBR still takes place in the margins of development; CBR is still often limited to pilots and projects. Yet, CBR is possibly for most persons with disabilities in this world the only practical way to get a share in development. We see CBR as an important strategy to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Let us be encouraged that at last the Guidelines are ready; that we have a consensus document – although it may have many flaws; has a high level of rhetoric and

politically correct jargon. It is up to us as practitioners to make CBR work; to research CBR; to develop CBR and make sure that CBR will not become determined by the Guidelines; instead become an approach towards rehabilitation that leaves room to develop with national and local eco-social contexts.

Developments in Ghana

Enablement is still much involved in the Centre for Disability and Rehabilitation Studies of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (CEDRES-KNUST) Capacity Building project in Kumasi in Ghana. This year in January a meeting focusing on the Disability Research agenda was attended as well as a staff retreat in June, which focused largely on the evaluation of the first MSC programme in Disability and Rehabilitation. Enablement facilitated the involvement of Roos de Groot at CEDRES- KNUST as well as the internship of Mandy Tijm, a Dutch Master student International Public Health at the VU University.

The Ghana experience from Roos de Groot

Cultural norms and values interfere with project goals in many ways. My time in Ghana reminded me again of this interesting phenomenon that I saw before in Ecuador and in cases during my Master in International Public Health: a clash of cultures between the developing and the developed world. However, these cultural differences don't always have to result in a problem. For me it was exciting to try to find the best of both worlds and to let go of typical Western thinking once in a while.

For three months I worked in Kumasi for the Disability Project. This time taught me about my own skills in networking, project management, inspiring others and letting others inspire me. Getting things done, being flexible and opening up to other values and lines of thought....That is what I learned to be the key to success in development projects on the long term. Being back in the Netherlands and looking around for a new project I feel the need to make the above statement.

For Enablement I really enjoy being creative assisting in the development of training material and new projects. I share Enablement's view on the importance of empowering marginalized groups and I also found out about my own special interest in development projects: prevention. I think it is important to prevent harmful situations from occurring and to anticipate on possible risk factors.

I am looking forward continuing my work within the Enablement network and other similar inspiring organizations to extend my working experience further develop my knowledge in developmental issues and realize my dream of having an internationally focused career in the public health sector.

This all in the anticipation and confidence interesting projects will show up in the very near future.

Roos de Groot (degrootroselieke@gmail.com)

Photovoice: a unique research method used in Ghana to assess the needs of persons with disabilities

Which barriers do persons with disabilities experience in their daily life in and around Kumasi in Ghana? But also what positive experiences do they have. While the staff of the CEDRES disability capacity building programme at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi had some idea, a good study was in fact never done. Mandy Tijm in close collaboration with Enablement decided to use Photovoice - participatory research method – to study the life of persons with disabilities. Families with relatives who have a disability were trained to use a digital camera and asked to make during a certain period photographs of their life; their struggles; their hopes and dreams.

The result is a visual account of the life of persons with a variety of disabilities in the Kumasi area; useful material that was used in a workshop with all participants to discuss and determine a list of priority problems and challenges. During the last workshop dignitaries, participants, university staff and master students received feedback in a presentation by Mandy Tijm.

It is hoped and expected that the results of this research will be used for various purposes; most importantly in defining the direction of rehabilitation (service) development in and around Kumasi. However, the great series of photographs with corresponding quotes describing why the photograph was made may form also a rich resource for awareness raising purposes.

A summary of the photographic material can be found in a video at:
<http://vimeo.com/11999111>.

Mandy Tijm, Student Management, Policy-Analysis and
Entrepreneurship, specialization International Public Health,
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Developments in Nigeria (NLR project)

The rehabilitation programmes in Kaduna and Bauchi State are steadily developing. Strategic workshops have been held with the partners in these 2 states. Along these developments support is given to the puppetry programme which is focusing on raising awareness about the position of people with leprosy in Bauchi state; trying to influence attitudes and subsequent practices.

Discussions are being held with the University of Jos in order to see how they can play a role in training the much needed manpower for rehabilitation.

Developments in Nepal

BIKASH

During March for the 7th consecutive year a 2-week CBR course was held at BIKASH training centre in Phokara, Nepal. This time the course was attended by participants from as far as

Zambia. Currently discussions are being held with BIKASH training centre to start working more intensively together.

NLR in Morang

After the training a Monitoring and Evaluation workshop was held with staff from the 10 participating NGOs and DPOs in the CBR project, which is currently being developed in Morang district in the Terai. This project is coordinated by the Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR). NLR has taken during 2008 the initiative to develop – in partnership with major stakeholders in the disability field - comprehensive rehabilitation services. The role of NLR is largely a facilitating role; establish linkages and an elaborate network of partners involved in achieving a vision, which is formulated as: working towards a discrimination-free society where PWDs enjoy their rights in inclusive ways

The vision was developed in a strategic planning workshop in 2009. During this workshop all prospective partners of NLR were involved. The workshop used the data from the 2008 disability baseline study and extensive consultations with PWDs and their organisations as a starting point. Essential government ministries as well as large and smaller NGOs, CBOs and DPOs attended this meeting.

During a highly participatory process a 3 year project plan was developed following the Log Frame approach.

Years of networking forms the backbone of this programme which steadily developed already before the strategic workshop took place. In fact without all the preparatory work; lobby, awareness raising and investing in building relationships as well as soliciting support at the NLR office in Biratnagar developments wouldn't move that smooth and commitment to really work together as a group of 10 governmental and non-governmental partners would not have been possible.

Further partnership development is taking place through regular stakeholder meetings, targeted coordination of activities and joint M&E.

Karuna Foundation

Following this workshop a 2-day CBR workshop was given to field staff from the Karuna Foundation and its partners.

NOTICE: Ethiopia- ALERT: training in CBR

ALERT in Ethiopia in collaboration with ENABLEMENT in The Netherlands will organize from November the 22nd to December the 3rd, 2010 for the 3rd consecutive year highly successful 2-week training in Community Based Rehabilitation

Target group: Health and social workers (including physiotherapists, occupational therapists and project managers) as well as disability activists involved in or new to management of CBR programs.

Objective of the course is that participants will have a working knowledge of all the important aspects related to CBR. Beside theoretical sessions there will be a variety of

practical (skill) sessions and a field trip. Topics covered include disability in Africa, CBR, project management cycle, community participation, disability rights, violence towards children with disabilities, DPOs, socio-economic rehabilitation, micro-credit, measuring quality of life, advocacy and networking.

Tuition fee Euro 550/course/person
Living/accommodation fee: Euro 40/day/person

There are still a few places available

For more information: contact the Training Division of ALERT at <leprosytb@ethionet.et> and you can request an application form.

CBR training in Thailand

From the 29th of March to 2nd of April 2010 a CBR training was given in Bangkok, Thailand. The training was organized by the Raj Pracha Samasai Institute of the Thai Ministry of Health and supported by the Netherlands Leprosy Relief. An interesting experience with thought-provoking discussions about integrating rehabilitation of people with leprosy into mainstream rehabilitation services; excellent discussions about disability (models) and the importance of the ICF for understanding disability; attention for the place of culture in CBR; the new CBR Guidelines and its application in practice; ample discussions about disability studies; monitoring and evaluation and an intensive workshop about lobby, advocacy and networking.

Developments at the VU University, Amsterdam

The VU University, the University of Indonesia and Enablement offer in July/August this year the second module in Disability & Development. This module is offered as a Summer School in Jakarta, Indonesia.

During November and December 2010 for the third consecutive year the first Disability and Development (D&D) module as part of a Masters in Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences (MPA) at the VU University in Amsterdam will be organized.

For information contact: anna.van.luijn@falw.vu.nl

New 2010 Developments

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

Expansion of Enablement

The new Enablement office is increasingly becoming a lively place where people (e.g. staff, disability experts, researchers, students) meet; where courses, meeting and workshops are being held. Evert Veldman joined Enablement as a start for 1 day a week but it is hoped that this contract can develop into a more major time contract. Roos de Groot, (Master in

International Public Health) worked for a period of 3 months in Ghana in the CEDRES-KNUST project as well as one day a week for Enablement.

A first meeting has been held with an interdisciplinary group of 10 experienced professionals to explore ways of structural collaboration. A second meeting is planned for the end of August. An exciting development as it brings together highly committed people who have an intention to work together in the furtherance of a more inclusive society. It is hoped and expected that large(r) and more complex assignments can be undertaken by this group of experts.

Conference: an African perspective on CBR

The CBR Guidelines in the African context form the focus of a Round Table Conference which will be organised early 2011 in Ghana. As mentioned before, when reviewing the Guidelines one cannot deny the feeling that there are quite some Western concepts which appear to become the norm for CBR development. We see a need to identify local resources in knowledge and tradition and how they could make CBR work, richer, more appropriate and more effective. Therefore, a master student of the VU University is studying African characteristics that may influence CBR praxis. Enablement believes that there are local (African) traditions that enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities. On the other hand evidence will be gathered about harmful traditions. Both facilitators and barriers towards inclusion and participation are studied. The results of this study will form the basis for a Round Table Conference. African CBR practitioners will be invited to debate and suggest ways to 'Africanize' CBR. Enablement – in collaboration with the SWEB Foundation in Ghana are currently securing funds to make this important event to take place.

CBR anniversary publication

The anniversary publication with teaching aids for CBR training is not yet ready, but extra efforts are made to get this publication ready before September.

CBR Game

The development of an educational CBR game is on its way. A group of students from a University will become involved in this project as well as game developers BitPress Educatie. Ideas are at the moment being developed and funding is being sought to make this development possible.

New Training Developments

Training of Trainers in CBR program in The Netherlands

During April - for the second consecutive year - a 2 week TOT course in CBR was being held with participants from four continents. The training was organized at the new Enablement offices.

NOTICE: International Course in Leadership and Management of CBR in the Netherlands

Enablement is pleased to inform you that during October 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.

There are still a few places available

Finally

Enablement has become a name in the field of disability and more explicitly in the field of CBR. When I was recently analyzing the large increase in hits at the 2 websites of Enablement it became clear that this may be true indeed. However, just the number of hits does not tell you much about the interest in, or the recognition of Enablement. Yes, it is true that the Office of the State President of the United States of the USA as well as Ministries of Defense from various countries did visit the cbrtraining.com site, but I am sure they are more interested in **C**hemical, **B**iological and **R**adiological warfare than in **C**ommunity **B**ased **R**ehabilitation. When Phillips headquarters visits the Enablement.nl site it is also obvious that they are interested in Enablement information technology and not so much in disablement...

It is good to realize this and the above anecdotes will keep the small Enablement team humble and realistic in terms of what it can and will achieve. However, is clear as well that the Enablement team need to expand in order to play an even more meaningful role in the field of CBR. At times playing the role of a watchdog as well; linking research with development; linking practice and the reality of persons with disabilities with great grand plans of large international agencies.

Huib Cornielje

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