

## ANNEX A:

**Progress Report**

<b>Date</b>	2003
<b>Title of Project and Project Ref. No.</b>	Capacity building in Community Based Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities NO.CI – P32
<b>Organisation</b>	Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> March to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2003
<b>Anticipated Completion Period</b>	31 December 2003

**1. Goal, Purpose and Output of the Project****Goal**

To improve opportunities for children with disabilities (CWDs) and change attitudes that is biased against them, such that they can participate fully in society.

**Purpose**

To build the capacity of local communities and service providers in ten districts in Community Based Rehabilitation techniques to enable them to better manage and reduce the impact of disability among CWDs.

**Outputs**

1. Service providers, field workers and communities have capacity and have adopted and integrated CBR into existing activities.
2. Parents/family members are better able to care for CWDs through increased knowledge and skills and are more favourably disposed towards them.
3. Local communities are more proactive in seeking provision and opportunities for CWDs.
4. Community Income Generating Activities (IGAs) initiated for the benefit of /and or by CWDs.
5. Information, education and communication (IEC) materials developed and disseminated.
6. Examples of best practice documented and disseminated throughout the ten pilot districts and thence to other districts through VSO's broader disability programme and global network.

**1.2 Modifications to Goal Purpose and output of the Project**

No further changes to Goal, Purpose and Output have been made since the last quarter. The Project continues to be implemented in the ten Districts. The report is based on the achieved outputs in the reporting period.

### **1.3 Output Progress During the Reporting Period**

1. The project has continued to transfer skills to the implementers resulting in a greater confidence and awareness in disability management. Communities have continued to acquire various skills such as financial management and supervision and monitoring of progress in IGAs. Enhanced skills in management of cwds have given communities confidence in follow up and training at community level thereby strengthening their effectiveness.
2. The rights of cwds continued to be entrenched in the current review of the Kenya Constitution where, the project developed a brochure to lobby for inclusion of disability rights. The specific focus included the timeframes for action, such as explicit mention of percentage representation as well as specific timeframes for implementation. It is expected that this will ensure government commitment and action. The lobby for the Persons with Disabilities Bill 2003 continued to be a priority agenda at various fora and meetings. This ensured the current advanced stage of the bill in parliament.
3. The Task Force on Special Education, established by the Ministry of Education in August visited all districts including the 10 project districts. Based on their experience and success in reaching cwds, the 10 districts successfully lobbied for the adoption of the CBR approach in disability management. The project also presented a memorandum to the task force.
4. Networking continued vertically and horizontally drawing on the CBR principle of using local resources. This has enhanced participation and confidence of CBR implementers at faith related, political and social forums in seeking and marshalling services for cwds.
5. Peer support for weak and new locations such as Machakos and Mombasa respectively has provided vital support and ensured sharing of skills and survival of CBR. This fostered ownership and validates the effectiveness of CBR as a community driven initiative.
6. Planning for the launch of the African Decade for persons with disabilities 1999-2009 in Kenya continued to take centre stage. The conference which will be officially opened by the head of state is expected to address rights issues and particularly the implementation of CBR in the country.

### **Purpose Progress**

The purpose of the project continued focus on reduction of complications of disability among cwds by building the capacity of the community. This has translated to increased enrolment in schools, community participation in management and support of cwds, and adoption of the rights based approach. Overall the community and the cwds enjoy better quality of life because of a more positive response to disability.

## **2. Work Carried Out in this Period**

Activities proceeded according to the bar chart of activities, and were successfully achieved for the most part.

- 2.1 Awareness meetings were held for 1787 people during this period.
- 2.2 To date there are a total of 43 support groups. These included parents support groups, and self-help groups.

- 2.3 Through the CBR initiative and EARCs activities a total of 1358 cwds were identified. Of these 743 were a direct result of the CBR initiatives. 596 were girls and 762 were boys. All were referred appropriately to home based programmes, schools and hospitals. This necessitated the opening of new units for children with mental handicaps and for the first time a Unit for the hearing impaired at Mtongwe.
- 2.4 24 CBR training of CBRWs continued for 360 people in Mombasa, Kajiado, Machakos, Kisumu, Kitui, Laikipia, Samburu, Butere-Mumias, and Mwingi. The training content was in communication skills, Cerebral Palsy, and Epilepsy. It also included financial management of income generating activities.
- 2.5 Trainings continued for 456 parents throughout the districts. The trainings were carried out on one to one basis in the homes and in group sessions. Old parents continue to have enhanced training while new ones are given basic training. Physiotherapists and occupational therapists from the district hospitals continue to support parents and CBRWs in refining and practising their skills. In total there were 896 home visits in all districts.
- 2.6 All the districts completed the local artisan training for about 103 people. This has contributed to building local resources to support the making and repair of adaptive equipment such as crutches, toilet seats, and standing and sitting equipment for CWDs. 120 CWDs benefited from various assistive equipment such as hearing aids, body corsets, callipers and crutches and wheel chairs and positioning aids from the project and other partners. 14 of these children were direct beneficiaries of the project.
- 2.7 In the period under review, it was notable that some neighboring locations and districts have desired to have CBR introduced to them. Mombasa expanded from Likoni into Mtongwe while Samburu actively took on supporting Maralal Urban CBR. In Vihiga the demand for CBR has resulted in the EARCs continuing to explore how to expand.
- 2.8 Machakos, Mwingi and the EARCs team coordinators made their educational exchange visits to a neighbouring country and they were joined by CBR supervisor. This contributed to a powerful learning experience that accelerated the pace of CBR in Machakos. Machakos was further supported by the neighbouring Kitui and Mwingi districts to revitalize the CBR initiative. There was also change in the management of the Machakos EARC to reinforce and strengthen the now active and effective CBR.
- 2.9 The EARCs continued to monitor and support the work of the CBR at the community level throughout the period under review. The programme coordinator and Ministry of Education officials also continued to monitor and support the project.
- 2.10 The EARCs and the CBR teams took advantage of the Universal Free Primary Education (UPE) campaigns to lobby teachers and heads of schools for cwds to be included in primary schools and realize the implementation of UPE. In Butere-Mumias the EARCs used the prevailing political home coming parties to further the cause of cwds in education. This led to a greater acceptability of cwds in schools.

### 3. Results

- 3.1 In all districts there is evidence of goodwill in support of families of CWDs and an increase in the number of support and self help groups around the CBR initiatives. Members of these groups are not confined to families of CWDs but also members of the wider community. This is a direct result of the continuing awareness campaigns by CBRs and communities. This is encouraged by the change in the political situation that has brought new hope of positive changes for CWDs. As well there has been consistent emphasis of the rights of children in many public forums and the media.
- 3.2 The period under review has witnessed the continuing skills transfer to communities through training and educational visits that has enabled them to take a greater

responsibility and lead role in managing CBR initiatives as well as taking them beyond the initial project sites.

- 3.3 Communities took advantage of the new political climate that has encouraged universal primary education, resulting in a better understanding by service providers thereby ensuring that cwds access their rightful education and services. One of the District Education Officers reported that as a result of her involvement with CBR she advocated for cwds to be admitted in the local schools. There is evidence in the country that the number of CWDs in primary school has significantly increased.
- 3.4 The period witnessed increased networking with partners and local artisans resulting in the expansion of a local resource base to support provision of equipment cwds. In Samburu there is an organized group of local artisans.
- 3.5 There was evidence of parents and teachers voluntarily reaching out to the EARCs to seek advise and counsel as well as assessment for their children. The EARCs were used proactively by the community who sought services there. CBR groups continue to reassess their functions and efforts and strategies in order to adjust them and make them more responsive to their circumstances. In recognition of their good work and influence in the community partners have asked the Kitui EARC to write proposals for support to supplement their efforts.
- 3.6 The concerted efforts of Mwingi, Kitui, the District Education Officer and the national office and other EARCs underlined the power of intervening and strategising to support and revamp the Machakos EARC. Currently Machakos is vibrant and active.

#### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 An enabling positive political will, policies and social environments working together to inform and support the CBR initiative can ensure continuity and sustainability.
- 4.2 CBR has demonstrated that although finances are important, it is not the amount of money or the only factor that makes the difference. Rather it is the recognition and ownership of disability in communities that will generate appropriate interventions to bring real changes to the lives of CWDs.
- 4.3 Continued networking with partners and taking advantage of opportunities are key in realizing greater support and furthering the cause of cwds.
- 4.4 The quality of life of communities and cwds has been enhanced through CBR.

#### **5. Priority Activities During the Next Reporting Period**

Priority activities during the next quarter will include:

- 5.1 Carry out exchange visits to other districts by community based rehabilitation team
- 5.3 Continue development and management of IGAs and explore micro-enterprise options
- 5.4 Continue home- based training and home visits
- 5.5 Develop IEC promotional materials in terms of brochures and identification items such as T-shirts and scarves.
- 5.6 Training of new parents will continue in all the districts.
- 5.7 Support of transportation within the communities will be reviewed.
- 5.6 Monitoring and Evaluation visits, by both EARC and national office.
- 5.7 The summative evaluation of special needs education support project (SNESP), with its CBR component will be carried out.