

## ANNEX A:

### Progress Report

<b>Date</b>	11 December 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>	VSO
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> September to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 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 are 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 build the capacity of the implementers in different areas. The national training of CBRWs, CBRCs and EARC personnel in management of community based organizations with specific reference to group dynamics enhanced their confidence and capacity to understand and manage groups. It also enabled them to appreciate processes and challenges in the various stages of group development thus equipping them with skills to steer the groups towards achieving objectives better.
2. In the period under review, whereas CBRWs made valuable input into the community through identification, intervention and home training, there was a recognition of the need to extend training for newly identified parents beyond the home to group forums to further expose them to learn and refine their skills from experts such as educationists, occupational and other therapists.
3. There was evidence that parents, CBRWs, community members and service providers have internalised advocacy for CWDs and exploited opportunities by using every forum including one on one situations, large and small gatherings and meetings addressing various issues to push disability to the forefront. Closer collaboration and networking of partners and other service providers ensured that advocacy continued at every opportunity thereby making disability a national agenda and guaranteeing sustainability.
4. Sharing of experiences, skills and best practices continued among project partners through educational exchange visits, workshops and seminars which were aimed at improving the availability and quality of service delivery.
5. Implementers acquired enough confidence to develop promotional materials to advertise CBR services available for the community to increase outreach, attract more partners and enhance the visibility of CBRWs.

### **Purpose Progress**

The purpose of the project continues to be to better manage and reduce the complications of disability among CWDs by building the capacity of the community. The project continues to encourage and strengthen the understanding of group dynamics in order to enhance the communities' capacity to manage groups that support children with disabilities and their parents.

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

Activities proceeded as planned for the most part.

- 2.1 In October 2003, forty CBR members from the 10 districts were trained in stages of group development, sustainability, networking and resource mobilization. The forum provided an opportunity for sharing experiences and meeting other CBR groups for improved networking and collaboration.
- 2.2 300 newly identified parents were trained in management of CWDs, received group guidance and counselling and were encouraged to form support groups.
- 2.3 The contributions of various donors including KaR have enabled 52 CWDs to receive adaptive and assistive equipment, while 18 had received or were due to receive corrective surgery.
- 2.4 Awareness meetings continued in all districts. In Mwingi, Kajiado, Kisumu and Mombasa reached 1435 persons. This was done in forums such as children's consortiums, women

group meetings, church meetings, teachers' and head teachers' meetings and chief's *barazas*.

- 2.5 Through the joint efforts of communities and EARCs 564 children with disabilities were identified and referred appropriately to schools, hospitals and home programmes.
- 2.6 To date a total of 37 special needs units in regular schools with 519 CWDs have been started and at least 2 revived through the efforts of CBR.
- 2.7 To date 1630 people in various groups of CBRWs, CBRCs, parents, persons with disabilities, community members were involved directly in community based rehabilitation work. These 1630 people started 48 IGA groups which include goat and sheep projects, small businesses, horticulture, agrovet (agriculture/veterinary) pharmacies, firewood selling, nursery tree planting, buying and selling of cattle and small repair shops.
- 2.8 64 members took part in exchange visits in different project districts and had opportunity to learn and share experiences, observe how others conduct home visits and training, recording and monitoring progress, and management of IGAs.
- 2.9 Promotional materials in form of specific brochures for every CBR group, T-shirts, headscarves and caps were produced for the purposes of outreach, advertisements, and identification.
- 2.10 The project was at the forefront in conceptualising, proposing and initiating the launch of the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities through a national conference to be held in January 2004 and officially opened by the head of state. As part of sharing best practices this conference will address CBR and develop a national plan of action to adopt CBR as a national strategy.
- 2.11 During the VSO staff Conference held in London in October different VSO country offices had the opportunity to hear about the CBR programme in Kenya. It was expected that this would influence and possibly lead to other offices adopting the use of the CBR approach in disability work.

### **3. Results**

- 3.1 It is anticipated that having been equipped in management of community based organizations CBR implementers and supervisors will be able to manage their groups better. They will tackle the challenges in a more informed manner and determine to use their strengths to focus on the purpose and overcome difficulties.
- 3.2 The newly identified parents' workshop offered a forum for new parents to meet others with CWDs and provided a source of inspiration, renewed vision and hope. The resultant action plans suggested that parents would form support groups and join with other CBR workers.
- 3.3 Improved awareness, positive change of attitudes, early identification and intervention of CWDs and the provision of equipment enhanced access to medical, education, and other services.
- 3.4 CBC led to a greater awareness of services available at the EARCs allowing the communities to seek them. In addition CBR jointly with the schools, were at the forefront in initiating and providing services through the start of special needs units and community rehabilitation centres as is the case in Mwingi. Increasingly there was evidence that communities in all districts were more open and consulting with CBR workers in matters affecting CWDs.
- 3.5 Exchange visits encouraged linkages and networking, widened horizons of CBR implementers, improved resilience and strengthened groups' ability to survive. They were

determined to overcome the numerous challenges in a difficult environment fraught with poverty and want, to rethink their strategies and respond to the larger development issues around them including HIV/AIDs, and orphans.

- 3.6 Intense lobbying at every opportunity has made disability a national agenda. Currently disability is being addressed in the Kenya Constitution Review Commission, the upcoming National Conference on the African Decade for Persons with Disabilities and the Universal Primary Education where additional funds have been provided especially for CWDs.
- 3.7 The use of T-shirts, headscarves and caps by CBRWs have elicited interest and made disability more visible. Brochures will be used to further inform communities on the services available to them.

#### **4. Implications**

- 4.1 The cumulative effect of all these activities is that CWDs will be better accepted in their communities, the services will be more available and there will be better policies to ensure better support. This will translate into improved quality of life.
- 4.2 The exposure, training and commitment of communities will ensure sustainability of CBR and continued interventions for CWDs in the immediate future. Communities will of necessity require further support periodically through training to acquire additional skills, update their information and practice and to sustain their momentum. It is necessary to recognize that disability can be impacted by other extraneous factors and hence the need to have multiple skills to complement disability management skills.
- 4.3 CBR has helped communities break away from enslaving customs and traditions, enlightened and enriched their experiences through group formations and brought a new way of looking at life thereby reviving hope. Communities have found strength in working together, pooling their resources and forming IGAs to improve the quality of life.
- 4.4 CBR has revealed the power of the community in bringing change, breaking barriers and transcending difficulties and challenges that defeat people on an individual level.

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

Final Project Report:

- 5.1 This marks the last report for Capacity Building in Community Based Rehabilitation for Children with Disabilities NO. C1-P32.
- 5.2 It is anticipated however that activities in all the communities will continue.