INTRODUCTION

Learning in practice

Lessons from the Disability and Healthcare Technology Knowledge and Research Programme

In 2000, the UK Department for International Development launched a Knowledge and Research (KaR) Programme on Disability and Healthcare Technology. Its purpose is to stimulate and share learning and knowledge that will improve healthcare technologies and infrastructure for poor people, and minimise the detrimental effects of disability on the lives of poor people.

Jointly managed by Healthlink Worldwide and GIC Ltd, the programme funded 17 projects between September 2000 and March 2003. These were selected through a variety of mechanisms, including open competition. The projects have generated a diverse range of learning and knowledge that has been shared both within and beyond the programme in several ways, including a biannual newsletter, the programme website www.kar-dht.org, and a number of round table discussions on hot topics arising from the programme’s activities.

The purpose of this pack is to collate and share learning from various strands of the programme. It has been compiled from reports of project visits by Healthlink Worldwide and GIC staff and from feedback from the projects themselves, through their regular reports and a learning questionnaire that was circulated at the end of 2002.

The pack includes reports of all 17 funded projects, an analysis of programme-wide lessons learned and a report of two round table meetings. These are presented as stand-alone documents, so they can be read separately or as a whole, depending on the interests of the reader.
Disability Projects

D 1  Research into the extent and impact of uncorrected vision
     Adaptive Eyecare Ltd

D 2  An appropriate, low-cost mechanical Braille writer
     Development Technology Workshop

D 3  Promoting good practice on disability internationally
     Healthlink Worldwide

D 4  Field-testing the Access Portfolio
     Institute of Child Health

D 5  Evaluating the impact of a community-based rehabilitation intervention
     Institute of Child Health and Kenya Medical Research Institute

D 6  Prefabrication of knee-ankle-foot orthoses
     J aipur Limb Campaign and M obility India

D 7  WorldMade wheelchairs
     M otivation Charitable Trust

D 8  Wheelchair Technologists’ Training Course
     M otivation Charitable Trust

D 9  Capacity building in community-based rehabilitation
     Voluntary Service Overseas

Healthcare technology projects

HCT 1  Developing the Essential Healthcare Technology Package
       African Federation for Technology in Healthcare

HCT 2  Health information systems, processes and technologies
       Baobab Health Partnership Inc, USA

HCT 3  Maintaining medical equipment in developing countries
       ECHO International Health Services

HCT 4  The Global Knowledge Network Project
       GIC Ltd

HCT 5  Establishing the International Centre for Healthcare Technology Management
       International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering

HCT 6  Controlling malaria and trypanosomiasis with insecticide-treated cattle
       University of Greenwich, Natural Resources Institute

HCT 7  Production and distribution of electronic training materials
       Teaching-aids At Low Cost

HCT 8  Practical healthcare technology management procedure guides
       Ziken International

Programme reports

P1  Lessons learned across the programme

P2  Round table discussions