Cross-Cutting Disability Research Programme
Capacity Building: Internships

Eleanor Challenger, Project Coordinator, Leonard Cheshire Disability & Inclusive Development Research Centre, UCL
Internship Rationale

- Few examples of DPOs undertaking applied research; and academic institutions undertaking development research incorporating disability
- **Capacity building** – to build collaboration and understanding within and between academia and disability sector
- 180 – 220 million *youth with disabilities* worldwide (80% in developing countries)\(^1\)
  - facing challenges to access skills development and employment
- Complements SAFOD’s work on building next generation of homegrown disability and development researchers

\(^1\) UNDESA (2012) BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW: The voices of young people with disabilities
The internship projects

- Two types of 10-12 week research internship project:
  - **Graduates** in international devt/social sciences university undertaking research project within local disabled persons organisation (DPO)
  - **DPO Members/staff** undertaking research within equivalent university department or with CCDRP NGO research partner

- Theme on disability and development of mutual interest to all partners

- Interns lead on research project under mentorship of host institution and CCDRP research staff in London
The process

- Invited 11 academic institutes, 27 DPOs & 2 research partner NGOs in five countries; half expressed interest to host intern
- Advertised internship among above institutes & LCD/UCL networks
- 78 individual applications; nine applicants shortlisted with expert members from CCDRP Consortium Advisory Group; three final interns selected:
  - **DPO member** researching **disability and education** at Department of Social Work, Makere University, Uganda
  - **Grad student** in Ethics and Development – researching **access to water and sanitation** for persons with disabilities, National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)
  - **DPO member** researching **agricultural activities** of disabled people in Kenya with Real Impact NGO
Have we achieved our objectives?

- To promote the mutual exchange of disability & development information and knowledge through South-South collaboration
- To build capacity and skills of local disabled youth to undertake research on issues relevant to their lives
- To effectively cross-cut disability in mainstream development research, and use results to inform future campaigns, policy/practice.....
Thank-you!

- Our three interns: Veronica Nganga (Kenya), Joseph Mbulamwana (Uganda), and Claire Luwie (Uganda)
- Host institution partners
  - Edson Ngirabazunki, Executive Director, National Union Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU)
  - Charlotte Jordan, Research & Development Manager, Real Impact, Kenya
  - Sarah Kamya, Lecturer, University of Makere, Uganda
- Consortium Advisory Group member selection panel:
  - Prof. Anita Ghai, Associate Prof. Jesus and Mary College, Delhi
  - Rachel Kachaje, Deputy Chairperson, Disabled People’s International
  - CCDRP colleagues, LCD/UCL London