



International Disability and Development Consortium

Promoting Inclusive Development

IDDC Newsletter October 2010

Welcome to the first issue of the IDDC Newsletter!

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide IDDC members and others interested in IDDC's activities in disability and development an overview of what is happening in the IDDC network.

This month will see the arrival of Anh Tran, the Administrative and Finance Officer at the IDDC Secretariat on 18 October. Hannah Nicholls, Communications Officer at IDDC, will be leaving.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email us at info@iddcconsortium.net.

Upcoming events

HIV&AIDS TG: World AIDS day, 1st December 2010

Livelihood TG: European Microfinance Week in Luxembourg, 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2010

UN TG: UN General Assembly reviewing the resolution on inclusive MDGs, October 2010

HIV & AIDS and Disability Task Group

The big event on the HIV&AIDS Task Group calendar recently was the Vienna International AIDS Conference, July 18-23. The Task Group organised a Disability Networking Zone which included events and information, ensuring that disability was not left out of the discussion on HIV&AIDS. Supported by the Making Development Inclusive EC-funded project, the event included the participation of a Southern Disability and HIV Activist.

Another important date was the showing of IDDC Member VSO's film "the voice of 650 million times one" on 16th June at the Brussels UN office. Hosted by VSO Netherlands and EU-CORD, the showing was followed by a Q&A session with one of the documentary's subjects from Kenya.

Future events and activities are likely to be related to World Aids Day on 1st December.

European Union Task Group

The EU Task Group has been working intensely to convince European decision-makers to include the rights of persons with disabilities in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This effort was made in light of the important MDG Review Summit at the end of September in New York. We are pleased to announce that the EU position (so-called Council Conclusions) show great commitment to disability in general, and in the field of education in particular. It is now crucial that the EU lives up to its strong commitments in the final stages of the negotiations at UN level.

In the same context, the European Parliament also adopted its position on the Millennium Development Goals. The EU Task Group has been working successfully with the draft person of that position, Michael Cashman MEP, on several occasions. We are glad to share the good news that the adopted report makes strong reference to persons with disabilities. This will help us to undertake final lobbying efforts at UN level.

Livelihood Task Group

The Livelihood Task Group is looking to the future, and is currently preparing to meet in order to define a work plan and position papers for sub Task Groups within the Livelihood group on microfinance, social protection and skills and employment.

In addition, there are a number of events ongoing which will be attended by members of the Task Group. These include conferences on Community Based Rehabilitation in Nigeria and Malaysia, and also the attendance of IDDC Member Organisations at the European Microfinance Week in Luxembourg.

Contact Us

C/o LFTW
rue Washington 40
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 644 43 23

info@iddcconsortium.net
www.iddcconsortium.net

United Nations Task Group

For many months, the UN Task Group's main activities have been focused around the Millennium Development Goals mid-term Review Summit, held in September 2010. A particular focus was the conclusion of the MDG outcome document, adopted by Heads of State at the opening of the General Assembly on September 22, where the campaign www.IncludeEverybody.org was the main vehicle to raise awareness for the need for inclusive MDGs.

A large number of UN Task Group members attended the Third Conference of States Parties in early September. The meeting elected the members of the augmented UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) Committee. Stig Langvad from DPOD (Disabled Peoples Organisations Denmark) was elected, and Diane Mulligan from Sightsavers International will run for election for the 2012 elections as the UK candidate. IDDC members also hosted a number of panel discussions on independent living, education and on situations of risk. A side event by DESA (Department of Economic & Social Affairs) discussed inclusive MDGs and the lack of data and included the contributions of Professor Nora Groce, a UN Task Group member.

Other ongoing activities include the consultation of the UN Task Group to UNDP on the creation of guidelines on inclusive programming, and the preparation of a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ahead of a report on Article 32 of CRPD on international cooperation to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in March 2011.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Task Group

The CBR Task Group has over the last 4 years been working persistently to support WHO in developing the new CBR Guidelines. The process has been a giant global mobilisation of various government organisations, International NGOs, NGOs and Disabled People's Organisations across the world, where the IDDC members have formed the core, being both contributors and guarantors to the quality of the guidelines through direct input in writing the document as well as making their programs worldwide available for the field validation of the document's various components.

These efforts are about to yield results this year, when the document will be launched in the Abuja CBR Conference in Nigeria in October. The new guidelines carry the potential of being the main tool for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the CBR TG will continue to lead an initiative to secure a global dissemination and promotion of the CBR Guidelines and not least to secure that the guidelines are taken into use in the field.