

From Local to Global Level. Community Based Rehabilitation – a Strategy for Achieving Inclusive Development (03 to 04 May 2012, Bonn, Germany)

Thursday, 03 May, 2012

Working Group 4: Livelihood (including Social Security)

Experts:

- Peter Coleridge: International initiatives
- Essam Franciss Khouzam (Caritas Egypt - SETI Center / Egypt): Project / program on local level

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Questions for analysis of the expert's input on local practice in Egypt:

1. Where do you place your project / program within the CBR matrix? (*component / elements*)
 - *In the practice example from Egypt all five elements of the CBR component "Livelihood" are in some way addressed: 1) Skills development; 2) Self-employment; 3) Wage employment; 4) Financial services; 5) Social protection.*
2. What are typical characteristics of the CBR approach in the NGO project / program presented? (*CBR principles and strategies such as: inclusion, empowerment, sustainability; community participation and solidarity, non-institutional, important role of non-professionals / family members, neighbours etc.; accessibility / barrier-free environment; social justice / human rights based approach; socio-economic development / poverty reduction*)
 - *Characteristic for the CBR approach in the Egyptian example are:*
 - *take first steps with the families*
 - *realistic market survey on micro-level*
 - *increase of personal self-esteem*
 - *increase of solidarity (self-help groups)*
 - *learning from mistakes, going step by step*
 - *working closely with local (Moslem) partners*
 - *making own choices (Is this a dream re. employment? To which extent is it possible?)*
3. Which measures have been successful? Why?
 - *Re. 1) Skills development: Work preparation programme. – Factors for success: focus on key life skills; important question always to keep in mind: "What do we mean by empowering families"?*
 - *Re. 2) Self-employment: Establishment of small family enterprises; agriculture promotion. – Factors for success: Guided choice process, meaning there usually*

- *are limited choices, but it is possible to help generate ideas and to facilitate informed choices.*
- *Re. 3) Wage employment: Employment contracts with McDonald's (18) as well as with other restaurants, factories, workshops, supermarkets (26). –
Factors for success: Stimulation unit, pre-training, job-coach; making use of "image building" policies of companies that want to create an image of "corporate social responsibility"; learning from and motivation by positive role models.*
- *Re. 4) Financial services and 5) Social protection: Loans programme, establishment of savings groups. –
Factors for success: Self-help / savings groups as a mechanism of social monitoring of loan repayment and an informal mechanism of social protection (to compensate for lacking umbrella of social protection in Egypt)*

4. Which measures could not be implemented? Why?

- *Involve more fathers in CBR*
- *More networking, for example with Community Development Associations (CDAs)*
- *Transition of education to livelihood*

Questions for further discussion:

5. What is necessary in order to expand a local CBR project / program to a regional and national program?

- *Gradual trickle-up (e.g. by propagating good practice examples at grassroots level)*
- *CBR as a government catalyst*
- *Long-term objective: negotiate for social protection*
- *Linking with national employers' organisations*
- *Establish round tables with beneficiaries, DPOs, employers...*

6. Livelihood of persons with disabilities as a component of international initiatives:

6.1. How can the Livelihood component be more strongly incorporated into international initiatives? Who should do what? What are the challenges?

- *Attitudes of bureaucrats need to change.*
- *Every country situation is specific: Be aware of and study local contexts!*
- *Promote a problem solving approach!*

- *In the discussions during the workshop some general Obstacles for Inclusion were indicated:*

- *Closed-mindedness of some self-help groups (exclusively for PwDs and their families); but this is perhaps necessary as a first step (?): first gain self-esteem and then open up?*
- *Some religious attitudes, e.g. in Egypt the Moslem religion promotes the charity model rather than empowerment.*
- *The specialists themselves: If they want to do too much themselves, they are hindering empowerment ("white coat syndrome").*
- *Lack of inter-ministerial cooperation.*