



Disability Mainstreaming in Humanitarian Aid and Emergency Response



Who we are

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is a European confederation of national development NGOs aiming at an inclusive society. We are committed to saving eyesight, improving the quality of life and advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in the underprivileged regions of our world.

www.light-for-the-world.org



Beneficiaries of the inclusive humanitarian aid programme during the famine in Ethiopia

Our aim

In the underprivileged regions of our world, health, education and employment infrastructure are often weak and inaccessible. Accessing the few existing services is an even bigger challenge for 15% of the world's population, persons with disabilities, of which 80% live in developing countries. They number over 700 million people. Additionally, in countries where disability is seen as resulting from non-medicinal reasons such as a curse or a punishment, persons with disabilities face severe discrimination and are excluded from the community.

Humanitarian crises and natural disasters hit vulnerable groups hardest. Amongst these are persons with disabilities. They are at risk of staying behind because they are either hidden as a result of stigma or when they and their care-givers cannot cope with the situation. Natural disasters and conflicts lead to an increase of disabilities caused, among others, by injuries or the effects of malnutrition. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD, in cooperation with local partners, is committed to make sure that persons with disabilities are not forgotten in emergency work. We have implemented several humanitarian aid projects with a special focus on inclusion of people with disabilities in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Haiti. Some of these projects will be presented on the following pages.

Haiti

After the earthquake in 2010, many people suffered from injuries which left them temporarily or permanently disabled. Health services were not able to provide the needed care and follow up. Family structures could not cope with the specific needs arising from newly acquired disabilities. Many relief services were not accessible for people with disabilities due to physical, social and attitudinal barriers. As immediate response to the earthquake several partners established a temporary rehabilitation programme for people with injuries and disabilities. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD facilitated the transition towards sustainable structures for Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services for the disadvantaged population in two neighbourhoods. The CBR programme advocates for accessibility of infrastructure and services such as basic health care, education and income generation for 450 people with disa-



Sebastian lost his leg due to injuries after the earthquake in 2010



**Nutritious cereal distribution during the droughts
in Burkina Faso in 2011**

Burkina Faso

Since 2011, Burkina Faso has been facing droughts and a decrease in food production leading to food insecurity and alarming cases of malnutrition. In cooperation with OCADES, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD has developed an initiative with the objective to contribute to food security of the most vulnerable households threatened by hunger and malnutrition.

The project includes people with disabilities in mainstream relief activities. Additionally, it provides financial support and skill training in alternative crops and cattle farming to people with and without disabilities. This prevents impairments caused by malnutrition and empowers people with disabilities to participate actively in food production.

Pakistan

Pakistan was hit by one of the worst floods in July 2010 affecting 20 million people. Persons with disabilities and their families struggled to cope with the crisis because they were not able to access most of the services. As LIGHT FOR THE WORLD had already been working in the region, it was possible to provide quick emergency support for people with disabilities in cooperation with the partner CHEF International.

Now, the long term programme aims at including disability issues in mainstream emergency response strategies and building up a model to transform affected villages into inclusive communities. In two flood affected villages a disability-friendly environment is being established with accessible infrastructure, inclusive health services and education, opportunities for income generation and efforts towards social inclusion.



Especially during a crisis young and old need nutritious food to stay healthy – Pakistan 2010



Persons with disabilities need to be proactively included in humanitarian aid programmes – Ethiopia 2011


Ethiopia

In early 2011 a famine caused by a long-lasting drought hit the horn of Africa. LIGHT FOR THE WORLD had already supported Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes in partnership with Gayo Pastoral Development Initiative (GPDI), an indigenous community based development NGO in Southern Ethiopia before the crisis.

In a short period both organizations jointly developed a humanitarian aid project to distribute supplementary food, targeting up to 8,500 vulnerable people such as children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people and 2,300 persons with disabilities. To reach out to so many persons with disabilities was possible as GPDI had already been working with self-help groups and disabled people's organizations.

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For more information, visit www.light-for-the-world.org
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