



Inclusion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Development Cooperation - Experiences from Finland

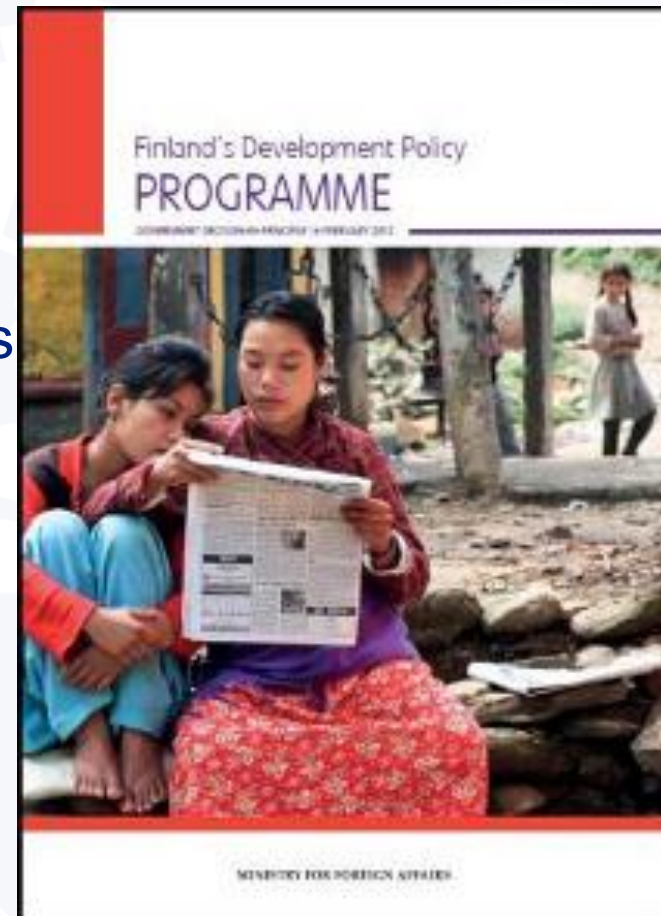
Rome 18.11.2015

Katariina Sario

Senior Adviser, Non-Discrimination & Rights of Groups in Focus
Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Contents

1. Strategies and Guidance
2. Current Promising Practices
3. Results and Lessons Learnt
4. Current Challenges and Opportunities
5. Ideas for the Future



Strategies and Guidance 2012-2015

1. *Domestic policies* aligned with the **Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD)** – ratification still pending
2. **Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)** across *Foreign Policy*:
 - (a) Disability is included in the cross-cutting objectives and flagship projects of the *Foreign Affairs' Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for 2013-2015*

“The cross-cutting objectives of Finland’s human rights policy are
(1) the elimination of discrimination and
(2) greater openness and inclusion.”
 - (b) Finland’s Development Cooperation Policy Programme (2012):
 - Based on the HRBA
 - The Cross-Cutting Objectives include rights of PWDs



Disability and Development – Implementation Strategy

Disability is Included in the three Cross-cutting objectives of Finland's Development Co-operation Policy:

1. Promote gender equality
2. Reduce inequalities
3. Secure climate sustainability

Operationalized by Three track –approach :

- **Mainstream** disability in all sectors and accommodate people with disabilities on the basis of the Human Rights Based Approach,
and
- **Complement** universal provisions **with additional, targeted support** and services to equalize access and opportunities for people with disabilities – and to empower them,
and
- **Include disability in policy dialogue**, country negotiations and multilateral cooperation and information dissemination



Promising Developments Since 2011

1. Increase in funding (from 6 ME in 2011 to over 10ME in 2012-2014); 80-90 % channeled through DPOs (and NGOs)
2. Foreign Affairs' Partnership with Finnish DPOs
3. Adviser team/focal points on Cross-cutting Objectives at HQ
4. Disability policy coordination group at Foreign Affairs/ Human Rights Unit (incl. Ministries, DPOs, Experts)
5. The cross-cutting objectives & HRBA, including disability, are integrated in programming guidelines) and quality assurance criteria
6. HRBA and CCO mainstreaming is also included in regular training of all staff.



Promising Developments

1. Bilateral support to inclusive education (Ethiopia, Nepal, Mozambique) and local support to DPOs from the Embassy funds
2. 90 % of support through Finnish DPOs (and NGOs) with 7,5% own funding requirements (usually 15%)
3. Multilateral support: UN Partnership on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and UNHCR. Finland is the biggest donor currently
4. Funding African Union Commission's Department of Social Affairs and African Continental Plan of Action on Disability
5. 'Disability diplomacy' -initiative (Kalle Könkkölä)
+ 'SIGNMARK' – the Deaf Rap Artist with a Mission. = Mr. Marko Vuoriheimo performing at selected Meetings/events



Results and Lessons Learnt

- Mainstreaming remains a challenge!
- Difficulties to demonstrate results – inadequate monitoring and reporting systems
- Weak demonstration of results on the ground
- Inadequate incentive and accountability mechanisms
- Institutionalize participation, adequate involvement of rights holders and the capacity development of duty bearers in the processes
- Quality has a price tag. Include budget line(s) to accommodate the rights of PWDs



Lessons learned

Institutionalize training and capacity building and participation of key stakeholders

Use a right insight and attitude - Striving at perfection is often an enemy of a reasonably good practice

Budget for involving the expertise of PWDs and DPOs

**Priorities: (1) Non-discrimination; (2) Accessibility;
(3) Meaningful participation**

Use innovative methods and good practices to draw the attention of the 'non-devoted' i.e. the mainstream, whose cooperation is necessary



Current Challenges and Opportunities

Challenge

- New Government 2015
- Budget cuts – 40 %
- New Development Policy Programme
- Pressure to demonstrate results
- Cross-cutting objectives?
- **Mainstreaming?**

Opportunity

- RBM – Accountability!
- HRBA/HR Principles
 - (1) Non-discrimination;
 - (2) Accessibility
 - (3) Meaningful participation
- Internal development processes ongoing
- Relative emphasis of the Persons with Disabilities within the new programme potentially bigger



Ideas for the Future

- More comprehensive and strategic approach to programming
- Better integration of the 3 tracks at country level
- Systematic collection and dissemination of good practices
- Incentives and accountability mechanisms in place
- Opening the country – and sector planning processes to DPOs
- Looking into options for collaboration with DPOs in the country programme implementation
- Private sector engagement and collaboration?

