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Disability is invisible yet there are 600 million disabled people in the world !

80% of the disabled population live in the poorest countries in the world

Disabled People have Rights

The right to basic services; the right to health care; the right to education; the right to food and water - the right to life !

The MDGs will fail if Disabled Persons are excluded!

MDG 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- 82% of disabled people live below the poverty line in developing countries (UN)
- 20% of impairments are caused by malnutrition (DFID 2000)

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

- 98% of children with disabilities in developing countries do NOT attend schools (UNESCO)
- The global literacy rate for adults with disability is 3% (Helander 1998).

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

- Abuse of disabled women and disabled girls. A survey in Orissa, India found that 100% of disabled women and girls were beaten at home, 25% of women with learning disabilities had been raped and 6% of disabled women had been forcibly sterilised (Mohapatra, Mohanty 2004)

MDG 4: Reduce child mortality

- Mortality for disabled children is as high as 80% even in countries where under-five mortality is below 20% (DFID 2000)

MDG 5: Improve maternal health

- 20 million women per year experience disability from complications during pregnancy and in childbirth (UNFPA 2003 cited in ACFID)

MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Disabled people are most vulnerable to HIV and AIDS: victims of sexual abuse; restricted access to information or services; prevalence of HIV infection in mothers of children with disabilities is twice that of other groups. (Yousafzi and Edwards 2004, Groce 2004) (CBMI Tanzania study)

MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

- 100 million people have disabling conditions due to malnutrition, inadequate sanitary facilities and inadequate health care. Poor environmental planning perpetuates exclusion – we call for inclusive, social and environmental planning.

MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

- The international disability movement successfully mobilised for a UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons – to be adopted end 2006.
- The African Decade of Disabled Persons 1999-2009: endorsed by the African Union to promote disability empowerment in Africa.

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