



Inclusion of the perspectives of persons with disabilities in the Programming of the 10th EDF: Ghana

This case exemplifies how disability inclusion can be done at the programming level. It has been written by Ute Möhring, Programme Officer of the European Commission's Delegation to Ghana.

<p>Area: Africa</p> <p>Sector: all</p> <p>Phase of PCM illustrated: Programming</p> <p>Degree of relevance: Highly relevant</p> <p>Implementing organisation: EC Delegation to Ghana, in collaboration with Action for Disability and Development</p>
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Stakeholder consultations during the Programming of the 10th EDF in Ghana

"In Ghana, programming of the 10th EDF in 2006 included a number of stakeholder consultations. Civil Society Organisations as well as state and non-state actors, government officials, departments and agencies involved in ACP-EU cooperation, district assembly representatives and traditional rulers were invited to join the regional workshops to comment on the draft CSP and NIP from their perspectives. These consultations took place in 3 major cities."

Inclusion of Disabled Peoples' Organisations and NGOs in the process

"Prior to the workshop in Accra, I held a meeting with several staff members of an international NGO, Action on Disability and Development, to discuss the situation of disabled people in Ghana, the existing support structures and networks of relevant organisations and the need for more advocacy on disability issues. The ADD representative from the UK pointed out that their organisation had been part of the coalition of EDF and IDDC which lobbied the European Commission to address disability and development and which contributed to the drafting of the EU Guidance Note on Disability and Development for European Union Delegations and Services (2004).



I repeated our invitation to the EDF consultation workshop which was scheduled for the



next day. The Ghana Country Representative of ADD, Mr. Felix Dery, and the Senior Programme Officer, Mr. Charles Appiagyei, attended the workshop. In the discussion on the country strategy, they raised the importance of a two-fold approach: inclusion of people with disabilities as a target group for EU support and of disability as a cross-cutting issue in the Ghana country strategy.

This contribution was well noted by the Head of Delegation. In the evaluation of the stakeholder consultations, it was given due consideration and recommended for action in the final programming of the CSP. The Ghana CSP now mentions the rights of people with disabilities as a cross-cutting issue under democracy and good governance. In the relevant section it says that EC activities will include a strong focus to cross-cutting issues such as the rights of people with disabilities. It continues 'the success in focusing on these priorities will require that for all EC interventions initial baselines and indicators to monitor progress will be identified.'

In the National Indicative Programme, the EC programme in support of civil society organisations is outlined. This Programme will aim at 'strengthening the capacity of civil society to participate actively in local government, including policy formulation, policy and implementation reviews, monitoring and evaluations. The programme will focus strongly on financial management, representation and governance structures and performance assessment. Priority will be given to existing rural grass-roots organisations, with strong membership at local levels, promoting the participation of the poor, women, children and disability groups in development.'"

Lessons learned and how this is an example for disability inclusion

- The consultation process for the formulation of the programming of the 10th EDF in Ghana has been including Disabled Peoples' Organisations and other stakeholders, which constitutes an essential precondition for disability inclusive policies and interventions in all sectors in the country.
- By doing so, the EC Delegation to Ghana has set an example and demonstrates the importance of continuous formal and informal dialogue with disability organisations already starting at the programming phase in order to give a voice to persons with disabilities and their organisations and to create a forum where their concerns can be heard and taken on board by decision makers.

For further information please contact:

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10th EDF- Country Strategy Paper:

http://www.delgha.ec.europa.eu/en/eu_and_ghana/EDF10%20-%20Annex%201A.pdf