

**Dear Reader,**

in this letter you will find the latest news from the International Development Collaboration at STAKES.

This newsletter is also available at our website <http://www.stakes.fi/hedec>

May 2003

# News

## Evaluation in Disability: From Exclusion to Inclusion

*Disability issues have recently been placed on the international development agenda. Global poverty reduction efforts have not produced sufficient results, and more emphasis is being put on ensuring better targeting of efforts, so that the poor can benefit. In this context, the poorest of the poor, the people with disabilities, are gradually being given more consideration.*

At the same time, a profound change has been taking place in the thinking on disability issues. The trend is from exclusion to inclusion, i.e. bringing people with disabilities out of the dark shadows and away from being objects of social welfare into their societies as full and active members with equal opportunities and responsibility for their own lives.

To further develop the Finnish development cooperation, the *Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland* assigned International Development Collaboration at STAKES to undertake an evaluation of all development co-operations in disability issues funded by the Finnish government over the last ten years.

In addition to the evaluation, the recently published report takes a strong proactive approach on the future. The results of the evaluation point to a need for

an explicit policy shift followed by changes in strategies and actual implementation of the Finnish development cooperation in disability issues.

**Twin-tracking and mainstreaming** Finland's current policy on development cooperation emphasises the promotion of human rights, the reduction of poverty, and achievement of the global *Millennium Development Goals*. In development cooperation, this approach in disability issues means renewing policies, basing them on a *twin-track approach*.

The most far-reaching change in policy thinking is *mainstreaming*: all development cooperation has to support equal opportunities for everybody - including people with disabilities - to participate in society and the cooperation and to benefit from it. Also, cooperation targeted primarily at disabled people (disability-specific actions) needs to continue and expand.

In the cooperation via Finnish NGOs, including NGOs in partner countries and their policy advocacy work, the emerging shift should be further encouraged so that the development of the civil society of the disabled people is supported.

**What should be done?**

The recommendations made in the report are mainly targeted at the Finnish government, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in particular. At present, in Finland,

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disability issues are left mostly to the NGOs. But disability issues are an essential part of social development, poverty reduction and human rights, which is a fact internationally acknowledged by the UN systems and the World Bank, and one that should be reflected in the Finnish development cooperation.

The report makes the following recommendations:

- clear policy statements in disability issues are given
- a strategic decision is made to include the disability aspect as a cross-cutting theme in all development activities
- the potential for active international policy advocacy as part of multilateral development cooperation is utilised, and
- in disability-specific cooperation, the use of different types of aid instruments is promoted, so that there is sufficient bilateral and active multilateral cooperation, and humanitarian assistance focusing on people with disabilities.

The multinational evaluation team identified six bilateral projects, five multilateral projects and 115 projects funded via Finnish NGOs. In addition, present situation in disability issues was analysed in two countries, Tanzania and Zambia. The report also includes a case from Namibia, where disability aspects were included in the cooperation programme on the health and social sector reform after the cooperation had been designed and started, and note the lessons learned from it. □

For the full report, see <http://global.finland.fi/evaluations/labelable/>

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## Disability on the Web

- The UN and Persons with Disabilities  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/>
- The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities  
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/dissre00.htm>
- The World Bank and Disability  
[http://www.worldbank.org/sp/Click Topics/Disability](http://www.worldbank.org/sp/Click%20Topics/Disability)
- Disability and Work - ILO website on Disability  
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/skills/disability/>
- IDDC is a group of international NGOs supporting disability and development work in over 100 countries globally. Information on rights of disabled people, inclusive policies.  
<http://www.iddc.org.uk/>

## STAKES produces poverty reduction website to the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

*Poverty reduction is the main objective of the Finnish development policy. To enhance the competence on poverty reduction of the Ministry's own staff as well as other actors in the development cooperation, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland launched the poverty competence project in 2001. STAKES team was chosen to implement the project as a consultancy assignment.*



Inclusive education for people with disabilities is an essential part of poverty reduction.

In collaboration with the Ministry experts, the STAKES team concluded that there is outnumbered amount of material on poverty reduction and social development, but the main problem is to collect and organise information in an accessible and usable way. The project then decided to design a website where the articles, training material etc. already in use are organised.

Website was first designed in Finnish. English pages are currently under design. To show the possibilities of the tool, user training of the Ministry staff is currently underway. Also staff in the Finnish Embassies is to be trained via electronic communication. Users are encouraged to give feedback on the contents and format of the pages, and to provide further updated information on the topics and tools covered by the pages.

"Poverty reduction is a public good of the same nature as clean air and water, safe and healthy environment and public health. Everyone derives benefits from public goods and everyone should thus shoulder an equal share of the costs. Public goods are indispensable and thus they are highly valued. However, they are not tradable on the market. High quality public goods are attractive to free riders. "

Read more at  
<http://global.finland.fi/koyhyys/> □

## Health and Social Partnership on the move

*The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing is on a good move. The initiative, taken by Finland, has proceeded well and should be ready for political decision making later this year.*

The partnership draft was first introduced in the *Northern Dimension Forum in Social Protection and Health*, held in Joensuu, Finland, in September 2002. The proposal received wide backing and has since been worked on by an international working group.

The international temporary working group has representatives from some 20 countries and the same number of international organisations and other actors. The group meets on regular basis, and the last meeting was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in April. The planning group will produce a concrete partnership proposal ready for political decision in a high-level meeting in Norway in October 2003.

The main principle behind the partnership programme is that the countries in the Northern Dimension should accept joint responsibility for

dealing with the rapid rise in social and health problems in the area. The partnership aims for long-term sustained promotion of health and social wellbeing through wide population based actions and targeted interventions. The emphasis is on the most common health and social problems. □



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## Nurse training in Kosovo

STAKES is participating in the support of the institutionalisation of nurse training in Kosovo. The relatively new Nursing Unit of the *Ministry of Health* in Kosovo lacks qualified human resources compared to the challenges it is faced with, including the implementation of the nurse education reform. The assignment is financed by the *Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*.

Nursing and Human Resource Expert PhD *Tuulikki Hassinen* started to work in the Ministry of Health in Kosovo in January 2003. She will stay in Kosovo until mid July 2003.

The Project Planning Adviser MSc *Madeleine Pousette* has had the main responsibility for the preparation of the document, the first draft of which was ready by end of February 2003.

During the whole planning process, special attention was paid to sustainability. The Planning Adviser was supported in her demanding work especially by the Chief Nursing Officer Ms *Fetie Huruglica* from the Nursing Unit and local staff as well as by the Human Resource Expert. □

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## STAKES to provide health, social and population expertise to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

**Department for Development Policy in the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) employs independent consultants to assist its own in-house health & population and social development sector advisors.**

These external expert services consist of several hundreds of assignments to be conducted at the request of the sectoral advisors, usually with a very short notice. Typical assignments are preparation of background documentation, appraisal of project proposals, monitoring the progress

of projects, commenting of documents from international organisations and drafting of memos and speech notes for the MFA advisors and staff. The advisory services are needed both in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation, including EU and NGO work.

STAKES won the tendering for these external advisory services for the period of 2003-2005. International Development Collaboration at STAKES identified three main experts and a roster of several other senior and junior level experts. Together these experts have vast knowledge on global policy issues, operational project cycle management, public health, health systems development, primary health care,

HIV/AIDS issues, reproductive health, population issues, social policy development, social assistance, and poverty reduction strategies.

This assignment allows STAKES to provide to and share with the MFA the expertise and experience gained in planning, implementing and monitoring projects for the EU, ADB and other donors, and participating in the international discussions on global health, population and social development issues. This also brings the unit 'back to its roots' since International Development Collaboration (formerly HEDEC) at STAKES was originally established as an external expertise-providing project of the MFA. It has further pro-

vided these services for the MFA on consultancy basis during 1996-99.

The main experts are Dr *Marja Anttila* and Mr *Ronald Wiman* from STAKES and Professor *Frants Staugård* from Sweden. □

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## Egypt implements Health Sector Reform Programme, STAKES takes part

*The World Bank* is financing the ongoing implementation of the Health Sector Reform Programme in Egypt. The lead organisation in the implementation is the *Royal Tropical Institute* from the Netherlands, STAKES is providing expertise. The aim of project is to develop and test a tool for monitoring and evaluation of *Health Sector Reform Programme* (HSRP) activities and impact

on health outcomes for periodic use in evaluating the programme. Important focus of the project is to develop process and performance indicators to monitor HSRP activities and outputs.

Further the project will monitor implementation progress and performance of the various implementing agencies. There will be three focus areas, namely

- health care services
- HSRP and the progress of its implementation
- costing and financing of health care.

As a part of the project, two sets of indicators, totally about 60, will be selected for further development and use in the monitoring and evaluation of the focus areas. The development and selection of indicators will be done in close collaboration with the Monitoring and Evaluation team in the *Ministry of Health and Population* in Egypt. The project is to be completed in July 2003.

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Patients cheking in at an Egyptian health centre.

## Finnish health care models introduced to Czech experts

*“We general practitioners should be gate keepers but unfortunately I have no power to decrease the number of patients seeking to specialists”, says GP Yvona Karychova from Czech city Mladá Boleslav. The Czech health care system is a ‘smorgasbord’ where everyone can take what they wish for, she characterises.*

STAKES coordinates the EU Twinning project *Testing the Preparedness for the Application of EC Social Security Legislation in the Czech Republic*. Czech experts have got acquainted with the Finnish social security and health care system during the past spring months.

The project’s main objective is to enable the Czech Republic to take the obligations of EU membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

The Czech Republic is obliged to guarantee to the EU citizens and to members of their families the right to enforce their social security entitlements without discrimination. To reach this aim, it is necessary to pay special attention to the process of preparation of the administrative structures for application of EC regulations in the sphere of social security for migrant persons and also to the co-ordination of health and social insurance system.

### EFQM model to be introduced

*Yvona Karychova* is expert in the component focusing in the comparison of EU and Czech Republic health care standards. There is no general system of monitoring and quality assurance of delivering health care in the Czech Republic. Nevertheless, a few activities are developed by the groups of experts who are preparing the Standards of Quality of health care and Accreditation System. The purpose of the project is to implement the

System of health care quality assurance compatible with European Foundation for Quality Management model (EFQM) and guaranteeing of equal treatment for EU and Czech nationals.

Other components of the project focus on co-ordination of social security activities and assessment of performance of the *Czech Social Security Administration* (CSSA). The professional skills of relevant staff will be tested by EU experts in the form of case studies in order to apply social security legislation in its full depth and extent.

CSSA is planned to transform into the *Social Insurance Agency* (SIA). The transformation and improved operation are at the same time preconditions for essential steps of the Czech pension system reform. Important partner within this component is the *Social Insurance Institution of Finland* (KELA).

In addition to field visits to STAKES and *Ministry of Social Affairs and Health*, the Czech experts visited city of Tampere where the EFQM model has been taken further in Finland.

“In Tampere we saw how only patients who had a referral from the primary health care were sent to the Tampere University Hospital”, described Dr. *Aleš Bourek*, Deputy Director of the Centre for Quality in Health Care. “The health policy discussion in Czech Republic emphasises primarily the citizens’ free access to health care”, Bourek adds.

The most peculiar feature in the Finnish health care system was the freedom of municipalities to decide for the services. Czech experts were surprised how different models are being implemented in different counties and hospital districts.



The Czech experts and Finnish hosts posing in a joint picture.

The study tour was planned and organised by Dr. *Ulla Idänpään-Heikkilä* from STAKES. □

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## Future Finnish-Namibian relations: Transition to normal relations and institutional collaboration

**The basis for relations between Finland and Namibia was created when Finnish missionaries arrived in Northern Namibia as early as in 1870s. During the liberation struggle for independence, Finland gave humanitarian aid to Namibian people and supported the independence process. After Namibia gained independence in 1990, Finland and Namibia started cooperation which aimed at promoting stability and creating the preconditions for peaceful and sustainable development.**

Namibia has been one of Finland’s long-term partners in development cooperation. Several bilateral development cooperation programmes and NGO projects have been implemented. The largest bilateral programme has been the *Health and Social Sector Support Programme*, phases I and II, to which STAKES has provided technical assistance and support services.

Both countries have now agreed that bilateral grant aid cooperation will come to an end by 2007. This is based on the Decision-in-Principle of the Finnish Govern-

ment from February 2001. It states that the Finnish bilateral development cooperation will concentrate on fewer countries, on larger country programmes and on fewer sectors. Long-term bilateral grant assistance to middle-income countries such as Namibia would be gradually phased out. It is planned that ongoing projects will be put on a basis so strong that Namibia will be able to take full responsibility for them.

The cooperation between Namibia and Finland will thus be diversified into a more normal relationship between two friendly countries. The desire of both governments is to have more economic cooperation, and economic and commercial links between the business communities in Finland and Namibia should be actively promoted. An important improvement in the enabling environment for trade and investments was achieved in October 2002, when Finland and Namibia signed a reciprocal agreement on investment promotion and protection.

Although the bilateral aid will gradually come to an end, other grant aid can continue but will gradually decrease in volume. Support to the collaboration between Finnish and Namibian NGOs will continue. Linkages will be promoted between Namibian and Finnish institutions, such as universities, research-, culture-, economic- and business institutions. New partnership

programmes, according to the definitions and principles stated in the Johannesburg conference, could be one of the ways for the increased institutional collaboration. Direct contacts with organisations and citizens will also be promoted. The Government of Finland is willing to support this kind of civil society and institutional collaboration through the Embassy Fund for Local Co-operation, but the initiative and application for these funds should always come from the Namibian side. A reciprocal student exchange programme between Finland and sub-Saharan African countries has also been planned and Namibia is included in that.

The *Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland* called interested NGOs and representatives of several institutions to discuss the Finnish-Namibian relations transition strategy and possibilities for new ways of cooperation. The workshop was held on April in Helsinki. A similar discussion is planned to be held in Namibia before the next country negotiations, scheduled for May 2003. In June, the Ministry is also holding a seminar for Finnish organisations and individuals interested in developing tourism from Finland to Namibia. □

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## UN's Millennium Development Goals

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development

## Millennium Development Goals: A Global Challenge

*"We cannot gain peace in the world, unless we win the war against poverty", states Eveline Herfkens, UN's Secretary General's Executive Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*

In February, Herfkens visited Finland on her tour to promote the MDG campaign and to spice up the discussion around the goals. According to Herfkens, the MDGs are the key to all function in our society, and should be present at all political decision making, not just in the discussions concerning development cooperation.

The MDGs have been signed by 190 countries and/or heads of government. Goals have also gained strong support among the NGOs worldwide. The eight goals are simply formulated, and easily measurable. The foremost of the goals is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

In Finland, in the discussions concerning the MDGs, an important topic has been the objective to raise country's official development cooperation to the international level of 0.7% of GNI, recommended by the UN. At present, Finland spends on development cooperation approx. 0.33% of GNI (net disbursement).

In August 2002, Finland's Minister for Development Cooperation set up a special committee to examine the level and quality of Finland's development aid. The group, lead by the Councillor of State *Harri Holkeri*, proposes in its final report that the funds allocated to development cooperation should be increased in stages in order to maintain a high level of quality and effectiveness in the cooperation. An intermediate goal of 0.55% of GNI is to be achieved by 2007, and the UN goal, 0.7% share in 2010.

In the report, the main goal set for the cooperation is the same as that of the MDGs, the reduction of extreme poverty.

Also, the effectiveness of cooperation will be increased both by concentrating on the themes and goals of the *UN Millennium Declaration*, as well as by directing development aid to fewer but larger cooperation entities.

There is now widespread support in Finland for increasing development aid. A new parliament has just been elected, and nearly all the parties represented have given their support to the initiative to raise the funds to the level of 0.7% of GNI by the year 2010. The future government has already made commitments to reach these goals. □

