

Third Report
on the Implementation of
the USAID Disability Policy

Presented to the Administrator
May 30, 2003



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dear Colleague:

Enclosed is the Third Report on the Implementation of the U. S. Agency for International Development's Disability Policy. Since 1997, USAID has had in place a policy to include people with disabilities in our development efforts. This policy does not add a new strategic goal for USAID programs, but recognizes that people with disabilities are a significant part of each population we work with and, given a role, can be an important part of our success. Respect for diversity is an American ideal. President Bush introduced his New Freedom Initiative during his second week in office to ensure that all Americans with disabilities, whether young or old, can participate more fully in the life of their communities and country.

Full implementation of USAID's Disability Policy will extend this ideal to our international development efforts. The attached report prepared by the USAID Team for Disability Policy summarizes efforts over the past three years to implement this policy. If you have questions about this report, please contact Janet Allem, Coordinator of the Disability Policy Team at (202) 712-4661 or jallem@usaid.gov.

Sincerely,

Frederick W. Schieck
Acting Administrator

Enclosure: Third Report

Table of Contents

Third Report on Implementation of USAID's Disability Policy

-- Background	3
-- Recent Developments	4
-- A Human Rights Issue	4
-- USAID Disability Policy	5
-- Reports from Missions	6
-- Pillar Bureau Activities	9
-- Report from EOP	10
-- Activities of the Disability Coordinator	10
-- Disability Community Concerns	11
-- Findings and Recommendations	12
-- Conclusion	13
Mission Comments	14
Pillar Bureau Comments	75
Equal Opportunity Program Comments	81
Trip Report for 6th Congress in Alberta, Canada	83
Trip Report for 7th Congress in San Luis, Argentina	85
USAID Disability Policy	87
USAID Team for Disability Policy	92

Third Report on the Implementation of The USAID Disability Policy

Background

At the beginning of the 21st Century, people with disabilities in the developing world remain significantly outside the official development process and are all too frequently denied even basic human rights. Since the U.N.'s Decade of the Disabled (1982 - 1991) and its introduction of the World Program of Action Concerning People With Disabilities (WPA), there has been an increasing awareness of the inequities. People with Disabilities (PWDs) have grown considerably more vocal and organized. And yet, within the official development arena, disability is still largely considered a "special interest" that requires a separate effort.

Disability is much more than a "special interest" in the developing world. The WPA claims: "As many as 80 per cent of all disabled persons live in isolated rural areas in the developing countries. In some of these countries, the percentage of the disabled population is estimated to be as high as 20 and, thus, if families and relatives are included, 50 per cent of the population could be adversely affected by disability."

The WPA admonishes: "Donor countries should attempt to find the means within their bilateral and multilateral technical assistance program to respond to requests for assistance from Member States relating to national or regional measures in the area of prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities." This admonition has scarcely been heeded. While the Nordic states have specifically included disability in their development programs since the 1980s -- Sweden allocated a percentage of donated funds for PWDs -- many other donors have focused solely on prevention.

The World Bank has recently recognized the link between disability and poverty. The World Bank's Social Protection Division published a policy discussion paper: *Poverty and Disability: A Survey of the Literature* in December 1999. This review concludes that: "Despite the dearth of formal analysis, it is clear that in developing countries, as in more developed areas, disabled people (and their families) are more likely than the rest of the population to live in poverty. It is a two-way relationship -- disability adds to the risk of poverty, and conditions of poverty increase the risk of disability."

In 2002, the World Bank cemented their concern by hiring a disability advisor with funding to include people with disabilities in World Bank activities. In a December 3, 2002 Op Ed article, James Wohlfenson implores the development community to join the Bank in including people with disabilities in their development agendas. As Adviser, Disability and Development in the Human Development Network, Ms. Judith Heumann will spearhead the World Bank's new efforts to include people with disabilities. She will promote the integration of disability into the dialogue with client countries and country-based analytical work as well as support improvements to policies, programs, and projects that take people with disabilities fully into consideration in developing countries. In announcing Ms. Heumann's appointment, Mr. Wohlfenson explained that "Initiating the strategies to address the needs of the marginalized population of disabled people in poor countries around the world will importantly contribute to achieving the Bank's goal on poverty reduction and development."

Recent Developments

The past three years have seen an increase in international activity around disability and development. The 6th and 7th World Congresses on Including Children with Disabilities held in Canada (2000) and Argentina (2002) reinforced the need to include children in their communities at all stages of life. The Inter-American Development Bank highlighted people with disabilities in its 2001 Executive meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

The European Disability Forum has launched the European Year of Disability in 2003 with support from eleven major international corporations. And, the Asia and the Pacific Region has decided to celebrate an additional Decade of Disabled Persons to bring attention to the needs of and opportunities for working with PWDs in their region.

At a meeting in Stockholm in September 2002, forty-one disability advocates including Bengt Lindqvist, the United Nations' Special Rapporteur for Disability signed a Bill of Electoral Rights for People with Disabilities. The meeting was co-organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), and sponsored by the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA).

And, at a September 19, 2002 ceremony at UN Headquarters in New York, President Gustavo Noboa Bejarano accepted on behalf of Ecuador the 2002 Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award. Since 1995, this award has been presented to the country that makes noteworthy progress toward the goal of the UN Program of Action Concerning Disabled Persons.

A Human Rights Issue

In November 2002, the ambassador to the U.N. from Mexico proposed a committee to investigate the creation of a U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Disabled. This proposal was passed unanimously by the General Assembly.

Worldwide meetings of international disability organizations -- Rehabilitation International and Disabled Peoples' International -- have affirmed the human rights of PWDs and the need for an international convention to affirm these rights.

The World Program of Action calls for efforts in Prevention, Rehabilitation and Rights for People with Disabilities. The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities passed by the U.N. General Assembly in 1993 provided 22 agreed upon universal goals to provide rights and dignity to people with disabilities. And yet, Mental Disability Rights International continues to report routine, inhumane treatment of people with psychiatric disabilities, including continuation of abuses in Kosovo while under the oversight of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo.

People with Disabilities are becoming better organized to demand their rights and fair treatment. Yet, in the late 1990s, most development agencies did not have policies of inclusion for people with disabilities in their development efforts.

USAID's Disability Policy

In 1997, USAID put in place a Disability Policy that promised the inclusion of PWDs in USAID activities. The Policy recognized that the problems of PWDs in developing countries are the problems of development and in order to be most effective in our development efforts, the needs of PWDs must be considered with regard to our development programs. This policy statement did not come with additional funding, nor with penalties for non-compliance, but rather relied upon USAID personnel and the disability community to work together to turn this policy into action.

As the agency responsible for carrying out the international development and humanitarian assistance goals of the United States, USAID has a unique opportunity to include millions of PWDs in development efforts. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are looked upon throughout the world as models for providing a level playing field for PWDs. The U.S. has a natural leadership role in the area of disability and development.

Nearly all of USAID's programs have the potential to impact on the lives of people living with disability.

Health is a disability-related issue. The 1982 U.N. World Program of Action (WPA) cites "Much disability could be prevented through measures taken against malnutrition, environmental pollution, poor hygiene, inadequate prenatal and postnatal care, water-borne diseases and accidents of all types."

(The WPA can be read in its entirety at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/diswpa01.htm>.)

In 2002, more than \$900 million of USAID's total appropriation was designated for prevention of diseases, many of which cause disability. An additional \$20 million was

earmarked for rehabilitative assistance to civilian victims of war and torture. \$25 million was designated for vulnerable children.

Economic Growth is a disability-related issue. The WPA further declares: "In many countries, the prerequisites for achieving the purposes of the Program are economic and social development, extended services provided to the whole population in the humanitarian area, the redistribution of resources and income and an improvement in the living standards of the population.

In 2002, \$252.9 million was appropriated to USAID for use in Business, Trade and Investment efforts including \$155,000,000 for microenterprise lending, which is of great importance for PWDs. More than \$200 million was appropriated for education including \$150 million for basic education.

Democracy and Conflict Prevention are disability issues.

The WPA reminds: "It is necessary to use every effort to prevent wars leading to devastation, catastrophe and poverty, hunger, suffering, diseases and mass disability of people, and therefore to adopt measures at all levels to strengthen international peace and security, to settle all international disputes by peaceful means and to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination in countries where they still exist."

\$119,400,000 of USAID's FY2002 budget was to address Democracy and Conflict Prevention. An additional \$27 million went to address Human Rights. And, \$235 million was appropriated to assist developing countries recovering from man-made and environmental disasters.

USAID also managed a little more than \$1 billion for prevention of hunger in agriculture programs and Food for Peace.

Almost all USAID programs have the potential to prevent disability or to enhance the lives of people living with disability. Except where there is specific legislation, however, relatively few programs give systematic thought to including PWDs in their design and implementation. The Congress has expressed interest in programs to assist the disabled and USAID has been responsive, for example, through the Leahy War Victims Fund and the Victims of Torture Fund.

Reports from Missions

Since USAID's disability policy was adopted in 1997, missions have been asked periodically to make a report on their work that includes PWDs. In 2002, reports were received from 48 USAID missions (compared to 28 in 2000). Only eleven missions reported having a mission-specific disability plan, but this does not appear to be the end of the story. Twenty-five (25) missions reported that they work with at least one disability organization while nine (9) missions cited more than one disability partner. Thirty-five (35) missions reported at least one project that included PWDs with eighteen

missions reporting more than one project area that included PWDs. There is not a direct correlation between plans and projects. One mission reported a plan, but no projects. Eleven reported multiple projects, but did not report having a specific disability plan.

Mission reports in 2002 show USAID inclusion of PWDs to be broad and meaningful, but there is room for improvement. Reports demonstrate a wide variety of disability projects that fall within USAID objectives. As in past reports, the Democracy and Governance sector reported the largest number of projects (19) that include or target PWDs.

Fifteen (15) missions reported activities in the area of Economic Growth including entrepreneurial training and microenterprise lending.

Eighteen (18) missions spoke of inclusion in more than one program area, with Egypt and Cambodia reporting projects in four program areas each.

Mission reports uphold the finding of the first disability report, which was published in 2000, that where missions rely predominantly upon NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to deliver our programs, PWDs are more likely to be included. For instance, reports from the Caucasus and Central Asian Republics regions of the Europe and Eurasia Bureau show inclusion in the full range of mission activities. This report shows a relatively high number of efforts that include PWDs in this region, most of which are performed through NGOs which are either advocacy or service delivery groups. Relatively few USAID missions in the Europe & Eurasia Region work directly with the host governments.

Several missions made mention of projects under the War Victims Fund (WVF) as part of their disability portfolio. The first disability report noted that WVF activities were a major part of USAID's disability activity, but this third report shows much greater ownership of these efforts. In this report, it can be seen that in many areas early experience with the WVF impacted inclusion in current efforts. USAID/Vietnam, in particular, has a robust inclusion of PWDs with programs in inclusive education, community based rehabilitation, maternal and child health, advocacy, poverty reduction, and with a specific program to train and empower adolescents with disabilities.

Technology and communications are powerful tools. Using the exciting medium of television, USAID/Egypt is funding the Egyptian Sesame Street program with messages that children with many different types of disability can participate in community life. This important message to children with disabilities and their peers will help pave the way for future empowerment and inclusion.

Recognizing the great power of inclusion on the Internet, USAID/Ghana plans to work with the Jachie Community Learning Center to improve the lives of PWDs through "access to information and desk-bound employable skills."

Discrimination poses a tremendous handicap. USAID/Guinea has recognized the impact of social discrimination on PWDs through the Yaguiba project. " *Yaguiba* (Soussou for "to overcome shame") was formed to provide those who are handicapped (paraplegics), have HIV/AIDS, or are former commercial sex workers -- solidarity and dignity through gainful employment."

Some missions have recognized that living with HIV/AIDS is living with a disability. USAID/Cambodia has worked with the Cambodian National AIDS Authority to advocate for legislation to prevent discrimination against those living with AIDS. This project is working through community organizations and buddhist monks to destigmatize living with AIDS. USAID/Cambodia has a particularly expansive approach to PWDs including rights, civil society strengthening, health programs, rehabilitation, education and microfinance.

USAID has been supportive of several national efforts to secure rights for PWDs. Significantly, the USAID/South Africa Economics team supported the development of the "Code of Good Practices: Key Aspects of the Employment of People with Disabilities" published by the South African Department of Labor in August 2002. This guide to employers on implementing the Employment Equity Act for people with disabilities has the potential to be an important instrument in limiting employment discrimination.

After the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, USAID/Kenya supported empowerment of PWDs through Disabled for Education and Economic Development (DEEDS) to enhance the role of PWDs in the national constitutional reform process.

Many missions have supported people with disabilities in their efforts to organize and learn from one another. Individual missions in Armenia, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Romania, and Uzbekistan have supported participation in the 6th and/or 7th World Congresses on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community. USAID/Madagascar supported a partner's participation in the U.N. Beijing + 5 conference in New York. USAID/Bangladesh supported six Bangladeshi participants to the 6th World Assembly of Disabled People's International in Sapporo Japan in 2002.

Small Project Assistance accounts have sometimes been used to support PWDs. Missions have donated used computer equipment to organizations that work with PWDs. USAID's Ghana mission donated computers to the Ministry for Manpower Development and Employment, which is the cognizant agency for programs in Ghana that work with PWDs.

While many missions do not make the link between disability and their current strategy, several have included PWDs in significant participant training opportunities. For instance, USAID/Jordan brought the Director of the Special Buildings Code Department of the Greater Amman Municipality to the U.S. to look at U.S. policies that affect PWDs.

As USAID improves security in our buildings overseas, construction and leasing plans now include accessibility for people with mobility impairment. Several missions, including the West Bank and Bulgaria, have reported projects that made other public buildings in their host countries accessible.

Overall, USAID missions are becoming more aware of PWDs and are making efforts to include this growing sector of the world community. Reflecting the disparate nature of our development and assistance efforts, inclusion takes many forms. The common denominator seems to be working with NGOs to address community-based solutions to development issues.

While some missions seek training to include PWDs, many are finding that inclusion takes place by opening the door.

Pillar Bureau Activities

In general, the Pillar Bureaus are designed to support efforts in the missions. This is accomplished by maintaining technical expertise and support mechanisms. In some cases, however, they have projects or earmarks that benefit more than one mission or region.

Global Health (GH) implements programs in response to several Congressional disability-related earmarks and directives, including:

- Vulnerable, including Blind, Children
- Micronutrients
- Iodine Deficiency Disorder
- The Vaccine Fund
- HIV/AIDS
- Polio Eradication
- Other Infectious Diseases, including TB and Malaria

In the 2000 Report to Congress on the Polio Eradication Initiative, USAID states, "Progress in child survival, disease control, and basic education has long been, and remains, among the Agency's major accomplishments."

The Bureau for Democracy, Governance and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) is the new home of the War Victim's Fund (WVF), the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF), and the Victims of Torture Fund. It also is the home for the Agency's expertise in Democracy and Governance. In addition, DCHA has a major role in prevention of new disability with its efforts and expertise in conflict prevention.

The Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) houses the Office of Women in Development (WID) that has made a major contribution by funding a series of activities with Mobility International (MIUSA) to assess disability awareness and

inclusive practices of member organizations of InterAction, a coalition of PVOs that implements USAID activities.

EGAT's Office of Human Capacity Development (HCD) also sponsored a November 2002 roundtable on "Educating Children with Disabilities in Developing Nations" with a goal to: "inspire action and set an agenda to improve education for children with disabilities in developing nations." A report of this event is available at <http://www.caii.net/What's%20New/Publications/ECD%20Report%20Final-Disabilities.pdf>

Report from EOP

USAID's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs reports that USAID has made significant gains in hiring and accommodating USAID employees with disabilities, including a 5-year plan to hire up to 30 new employees with disabilities and a new Disability Review Committee to facilitate requests for "reasonable accommodation."

Activities of the USAID Disability Coordinator

During this three-year period (2000-2002), an attempt was made to pursue the Second Report recommendation that this advocacy function find a home in a bureau with a more direct link to program activity. Conversations were held with the Global (G) Bureau and with the Policy and Program Coordination (PPC) Bureau. PPC did play a larger role in answering congressional correspondence on USAID's implementation of our Disability Policy. At the behest of Senator Harkin, the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) arranged meetings with the National Council on Disability and helped them pull together a Roundtable Discussion with USAID staff on disability and development. This Roundtable spawned a Working Group on Disability and Conflict that was chaired by Dr. William Smith and brought to the attention of the State Department and USAID issues concerning PWDs in Afghanistan.

Involved staff in LPA and PPC have since left these positions.

The Coordinator has remained active in disability issues in the Agency, within the Agency's program and in the U.S. disability and foreign affairs community.

During this period, the Coordinator has:

- Remained active on the Steering Committees for the 6th and 7th World Congresses on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community. In preparation for the Congresses, she facilitated meetings and conducted conversations to gain USAID support for participants to the Congresses. In both of these events, USAID participation had a dramatic impact on the tone of the meetings.

- Laid the groundwork that helped bring 55 participants from 13 countries to the 6th International Congress on Serving Children with Disabilities in the Community held in Alberta, Canada in 2000.
- Helped bring participants from five USAID countries to the 7th Congress held in San Luis, Argentina in 2002. One participant was featured in an opening plenary speech and his attendance was very important. Several other participants were active in the various workshops.
- Made an introductory speech to the plenary of the 7th Congress.
- Monitored meetings of NCD's International Watch, including a first face-to-face meeting in April 2002 and follow-up discussions about how to increase responsiveness to disability issues in U.S. foreign policy and development programs.
- Represented the USAID disability team at meetings at the World Bank that discussed disability and development and demonstrated some best practices for inclusion.
- Pulled together a team of experts to discuss disability and travel policy at the National Travel Conference.
- Attended, with the Office of Procurement (M/OP) ombudsman, the Deafway II Conference to discuss USAID cooperation with deaf and disability organizations in development.
- Served on the Section 508 and Disability Review Committees representing employees with disabilities.
- Worked with offices in USAID to make a case for inclusion, receiving assurance that construction in Afghanistan in 2002 and later years would be designed to be accessible to PWDs.

The Management (M) Bureau has responded to the ongoing need for a new focus to the USAID Disability Policy by including the Coordinator's role in a new Office of Management Policy and Metrics. This office will also be a key player in implementation of the M Bureau's Business Transformation.

Disability Community Concerns

For many years, disability-related PVOs (private and voluntary organizations) and businesses have tried to break into the "USAID system." The U.S. disability community is growing frustrated with a perceived failure to allow for inclusion of these organizations.

In February 2002, USAID convened a meeting with the U.S. National Council on Disability (NCD) with the goal of engaging USAID staff members in a two-way dialogue with the disability community. This meeting was to begin a collaborative process in which members of USAID and the disability community could learn from one another about how best to ensure that people with disabilities are included in development program planning, implementation and evaluation. NCD's perception of this meeting was that it was not a success due to an "overall lack of will within USAID" to look at a more affirmative policy.

NCD has since begun work on a paper that examines the "need, precedent, potential impact and possible language for" a proposed amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act. This amendment would be based upon the same principle as the Percy Amendment, which required gender integration in U.S. foreign assistance activities. The "Percy Plus" amendment would require integration of people with disabilities similar to our current Women in Development program.

Findings and Recommendations

USAID missions and offices report inclusion of PWDs in significantly more projects than in the 2000 or 2002 reports. While the areas that had greatest participation in the earlier reports continue to dominate in responsive activities, 2002 reports show an increasing variety of activities that target or include people with disabilities. While awareness and will appear to be improving, some significant hurdles remain. Specifically, American organizations of PWDs have very specific, and not necessarily disability-related, obstacles in their efforts to work with USAID.

The USAID Disability Team recommends the following actions to mitigate these obstacles and increase inclusion:

1. Program Planning documents, and hence, as applicable, Contracts, Cooperative Agreements, and Grants should include language that stipulates that people with disabilities are part of the target development community and that activities should be designed to accommodate their inclusion. The USAID Disability Policy is currently listed in the Agency's Automated Directives System as a "Mandatory Reference," but in isolation, it is generally not noted. Language pointing to this reference should be written into the directives chapters on Planning, Implementing and Evaluating (ADS 202-204) USAID activities. While many of our grantees (InterAction members) subscribe to their own disability inclusion policies, their efforts should be encouraged and supported by our own programming and contracting guidance.
2. A Contract Information System should be developed and made public that lets organizations and small businesses know, through the USAID external web site, which will inform potential sub-contractors of what prime contracts exist, and what they cover, and what sub-contracting opportunities are available in them according to any sub-contracting plans. While many local NGOs are being tapped at the mission

level, small businesses and U.S. PVOs still feel excluded from the USAID system. This issue is broader than USAID and the disability community. It reflects a continuing pressure to do more with less contracting staff and the subsequent issuance of large Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for which smaller organizations cannot effectively compete. Once larger contractors/grantees win the contracts, information about the next level request does not come to a place where U.S. PVOs or businesses can easily and timely access the information. This is currently seen as a tremendous obstacle to inclusion of the U.S. disability community in our development efforts.

3. Funding should be provided to make Disability training and materials available to USAID missions. While many Mission Directors have received some orientation to the Disability Policy and the need for inclusion, other staff have received no support in this area. Centralized training is very expensive and when it occurs, the agenda has not generally included disability. While many missions have learned by experience working with PWDs, many missions would be more comfortable with some orientation materials and access to best practices.
4. Missions and offices should be required to develop contacts with local organizations of PWDs. This report shows such variety in the USAID efforts that include PWDs, it is clear that "best practice" occurs when USAID and disability voices are combined in developing solutions. The First Report on Implementation of the USAID Disability Policy recommends that missions have at least one contact organization in the disability community. This is a critical first step.

Conclusion

USAID has made considerable progress in including people with disabilities in its efforts in missions and in Washington. There is still limited understanding of the USAID Disability Policy and, in many cases, inclusive efforts are not by USAID design, but rather by the policies and purposes of our partner NGOs and PVOs. The above recommendations offer tools to USAID employees and disability organizations that should increase disability participation with both energy and a real purpose.

MISSION REPORTS

AFRICA BUREAU

BOTSWANA

While there are no programs that directly focus on the disabled, the USAID/Botswana's programs promote participation and equalization of opportunities of individuals with disabilities in both policies and activities and foster climate of non-discrimination.

In order to further efforts to include people with disabilities in our programs, potential program funding mechanisms to promote this policy should be examined with special emphasis upon establishing a fund for training to strengthen national NGOs formed by or serving people with disability and to link them better with USAID's field missions and Bureaus.

Secondly, grants programs should be examined to determine whether programs to support inclusion of people with disabilities could be incorporated among options to fulfill this NGO partner requirement.

GHANA

The Mission has encouraged all partners to include disabled, where appropriate, in their activities and to be sensitive to the needs of disabled as a matter of course. However, the Mission has had limited disability activities to date as the existing Country Strategic Plan and all SO activities were firmly in place well before the Mission Disability Plan was written. Existing SO activities have continued to have a higher priority because they contribute directly to the achievement of approved Mission targets and results. Mission efforts to date have also been hampered by the lack of resource materials for disability training. In particular, the Mission needs training materials for Mission staff members, contractors and other partners, including items such as videos with practical examples of programs that work, handouts for reflection and action, discussion frameworks for group activities, and suggestions regarding policy implementation.

USAID/Ghana is currently in the process of donating used computers to the Ministry for Manpower Development and Employment, which is the cognizant Ghanaian ministry with programs for the disabled. These computers will be donated specifically for use in programs for the disabled. Moreover, the Mission is now preparing its 2004 - 2010 Country Strategic Plan and is considering ways to promote the equalization of opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the development of the new strategy, as well as in the design and implementation of specific activities.

Next month (November) the Mission will conduct a Strategic Planning Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to enhance staff knowledge and skills in strategic planning and to assist the Mission in moving the strategic planning process forward.

Also in November, the Mission will begin to work with the Jachie Community Learning Center (JCLC) which is part of the Jachie Training Center for the Physically Disabled, at Jachie in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The purpose of the JCLC is to improve the quality of life for the physically challenged through access to information and desk-bound employable skills. The JCLC is similar to an internet cafe and provides a forum for communication, learning and entertainment through the medium of the Internet. The Jachie Community Learning Center will respond to the increasing demand for Internet services in the Ashanti Region by providing: 1) access to Internet information and communications, and 2) access at an affordable cost and in a socially, economically, and politically friendly environment. These services will be provided to the disabled and the general public alike. The JCLC will serve approximately 200 disabled individuals during its first year of operation.

In addition to providing access to the world wide web, the Jachie Community Learning Center will also give low-cost computer proficiency courses. Courses will be given in introductory computing, email, and Internet use and browsing. The JCLC will enhance the overall human and institutional capacity of the Jachie Training Center for the Physically Disabled, as well as of individual member organizations, by upgrading Internet skills and enabling NGOs in the Ashanti Region to play a more focussed and effective role in regional development efforts.

Ancillary services will include access to laser and color printing, scanning and photocopy services, and access to popular software applications such as Adobe Photo Shop, Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, and Microsoft Access. The JCLC will operate on a fee-for-services basis, which will allow the Center to be financially sustainable over time. A flexible fee schedule will allow disadvantaged groups to have subsidized access to the Internet and related learning technologies.

The Mission would benefit greatly from assistance and guidance in identifying specific examples and approaches which incorporate the disabled and disabled needs into our mainstream efforts. Secondly, there is an urgent need for disability training materials for sensitization of Mission staff, contractors and other partners, including videos, handouts and pamphlets, and discussion frameworks for group activities. Thirdly, there is a need to name a dedicated individual in Washington with the time and resources to act responsively as USAID/W Disability Liaison Officer, if not also create a separate office dealing with issues concerning the disabled. The Mission has been trying to obtain information and training materials from USAID/W without success. To some degree, this has hampered the implementation of the Mission Disability Plan.

GUINEA

USAID/Guinea, through social marketer Population Services International (PSI), has been employing a local NGO called *Yaguiba* to package their popular Prudence Plus brand condoms.

Yaguiba (Soussou for “to overcome shame”) was formed to provide those who are handicapped (parapelegics), have HIV/AIDS, or are former commercial sex workers—solidarity and dignity through gainful employment. The work tasks are performed sitting down and involve repetitive arm and hand movements, jobs that can be preformed by several parapelegic members of the group who have full use of their arms. One member of the group, Betty Musa, who was born without arms, performs her job skillfully by packaging condoms with her feet.

For more information on Yaguiba, please view these two articles on our USAID/Guinea website:

http://www.usaid.gov/gn/health/news/001226_yaguiba/index.htm

and

http://www.usaid.gov/gn/health/news/001226_bettymusa/index.htm.

Furthermore, the Mission has employed a program-funded handicapped person to lead the Democracy and Governance program.

Mission will develop a disability plan and will include language in Grants and Cooperative Agreements, encouraging implementing partners to work with disabled people.

The Sierra Leone Transition Strategy and program, managed by USAID/Guinea, does not directly fund any activities related to disabilities. However, the AFR Bureau did budget (\$750,000) of FY 2002 resources for transfer to BHR (through the Sierra Leone OYB) in support of the Victims of Torture initiative.

KENYA

USAID/Kenya has a disability plan that outlines activities to promote the inclusion of services with and for persons with disabilities in our programs. Mission will continue to dialogue and liaise with our implementing partners and local disability organizations and will do its best to incorporate the interest of the disabled in our programs. The most inclusive activity with people with disabilities is in democracy and governance and bombing response programs. People with disabilities have also been included in Mission participant training activities.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with people with disabilities are included in several ongoing programs. These NGOs are the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya, Kenya National Association for the Deaf, the Kenya

Society for the Blind, United Disabled Persons of Kenya, Samaritan Development Program, and the Disabled for Education & Economic Development Support.

USAID/Kenya is committed to the inclusion of Kenyan people with physical and cognitive disabilities in the implementation of our programs. The Mission will continue to consult with partners, contractors and grantees in its advocacy efforts on behalf of persons with disabilities and ensure that the rights of the disabled people are respected. Since 1997, USAID/Kenya has supported nongovernmental organizations providing specialized services to people with disabilities. We have also been instrumental in supporting and sponsoring persons with disability to participate in a variety of our training programs.

In 1999, USAID gave a grant to Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to carry out rehabilitation activities for bomb blast survivors who sustained physical disabilities as a result of the August 7, 1998 bomb blast. Of the 5,000 victims injured, 332 of these cases were severely disabled as a result of the bomb blast. There are 23 victims who are totally blind, 75 with severely impaired vision, 15 totally deaf, 49 with severe hearing impairment, 3 with total paralysis from the waist down, and 165 with severe bone and muscle injuries. Additionally, all the 332 severely disabled victims are psychologically traumatized and severely depressed. ADRA's rehabilitation strategy involves working through four local nongovernmental organizations that have for a long time carried out rehabilitation activities for people with disabilities. These are the Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK), Kenya National Association for the Deaf (KNAD), Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB), and the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK).

The objective of the project was to target over 400 severely disabled victims, who had suffered directly from the terrorist attack. ADRA has provided outreach services in the form of home visits by case managers to primary and secondary bomb victims. These visits facilitated effective management of the physical and emotional needs of the disabled victim. ADRA also provided rehabilitation services in the form of supportive care through occupational and physiotherapists. The aim was to facilitate the victim's physical and emotional rehabilitation, and the eventual reintegration back into their respective communities as functioning participants.

Due to the complexity of the caseload, and the inherent overlap between service providers, ADRA adopted a centralized record keeping system on the disabled victim's information concerning their specific disabilities. This patient profile and record keeping system allowed ADRA to implement a case management approach, ensuring the efficient and effective management of patients, coordination of rehabilitation services with other organizations and accountability to USAID.

ADRA not only provided successful rehabilitative services to disabled bomb victims but through a strong management supportive role, it upgraded and strengthened the financial and management capacities of all the partners involved in the project. Rehabilitation was divided into two phases. The first phase addressed the survivor's physical, medical and psychological needs. This was implemented by APDK, KNAD, and KSB. The second

phase focused on their overall economic needs and was implemented by the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK).

APDK rehabilitated survivors to a level of independence through physiotherapy, occupational therapy and provision of orthopedic aids. APDK also carried out home adjustments for victims with gross injuries to make homes survivor friendly. Physiotherapy equipment such as foot pedaling machines, pulleys and orthopedic mattresses were given to victims. APDK also provided medical follow-up services at its clinic and trained clients on gross motor (functioning of arms and hands), fine motor movements (movement of hands and digits), daily living and home adaptations, counseling, and reintegration into society.

The KNAD's main rehabilitation activities were sign language and counseling for those whose hearing was badly affected by the blast. Over 50 survivors were trained on sign language and 70 counseled. KNAD established ear-testing services free of charge to survivors. KNAD has extended the counseling to include family members of the victims to ensure that they accept the survivors in their current disability situation. The Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) focused on training survivors on use of Braille, tying skills, computer use for those with low vision and business skills. Over 70 clients who were evaluated as blind and with vision complications were trained on use of cane, mobility at night, depth perception and independent living skills. Counseling services were provided to all clients.

The United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) mandate was economic rehabilitation. After survivors have gone through rehabilitation by APDK, KNAD and KSB, and the victim is ready to move on with their lives, they are referred to UDPK for assessing their business needs. Those assessed as fit to carry out businesses are enrolled into the small business development program. This program deals with business training and management and loan disbursement. Clients are trained on entrepreneurship, finance, marketing, business planning, and credit management. Clients are assisted to locate suitable sites for establishing a business, development of a business plan, opening a business bank account, and purchase of stock. By July 2002, UPDK had trained over 500 clients in business skills and provided loans to 200 to establish businesses. Loan recovery has averaged above 95 percent. The statistics testify to the good performance in business training as well as loan disbursement and recovery. As the beneficiaries go through the healing process, their interest in business has increased. They are gaining confidence economically and many of them testify that USAID assistance has made a great difference to their lives. UDPK has a lot of experience in micro-finance and operated this activity very well. UDPK also carried out job placement for those survivors who had lost their jobs due to injury and had recovered sufficiently both physically and psychologically to go back to work. It assisted those who gained new vocational skills to obtain new jobs. This activity placed 42 survivors either with their previous or new employers. Because UPDK is well aware of the negative attitude towards the disabled in the workplace, it has continued as an advocate for the survivors with employers.

Implementing partners and collaborating agencies alike stated during a recent USAID survey that they were extremely satisfied with the medical, physical and mental health rehabilitation services the survivors received and benefited from. Our assessment of this program show that the disabled victims benefited tremendously from loans and credit provided by USAID and those clients who have already graduated from our credit scheme have attracted bigger loans from other micro-finance institutions.

The rehabilitation of the disabled survivors was successfully, professionally done and a comprehensive holistic approach contributed to the overall medical, psychological and general well being of the survivors. Many of the blind and physically disabled, for example, went on to become active members of their respective organizations (i.e. KSB, APDK). Overall, the project made a sizable impact on all the implementing organizations involved in providing services to the disabled. Capacities were built up and strengthened within all the participating NGOs. Partnering during the implementation of the project led to a saving of limited resources, provided bigger impact and provided the opportunity to learn from each other. Most importantly, ADRA's overall holistic rehabilitative approach provided the more than 400 disabled survivors with a deep sense of appreciation for the personalized treatment and care they had received throughout the life of the project as they resume more normal lives.

In 1999 and 2000, USAID/Kenya awarded small grants under the Democracy & Human Rights Fund [DHRF - 116(e)] to two advocacy NGOs to lobby the Government of Kenya to enact legislation that fosters an enabling regulatory environment. These are the Samaritan Development Program (SADEP) and Disabled for Education & Economic Development Support (DEEDS).

The purpose of SADEP's grant was to help disabled people lobby the Government of Kenya (GOK) to protect the rights of disabled persons and to sensitize Kenyans to the need for policies and programs to assist the disabled. The project targeted over 200 disabled members of SADEP and a few other non-disabled persons. SADEP conducted six workshops focusing on providing knowledge and skills on how to influence public policy in support of affirmative action for disabled persons. Over 300 disabled persons participated in these workshops.

Most training sessions concentrated on improving the participants' knowledge in effectively representing the interests of disabled persons. Additionally, a few sessions targeted disabled networks addressing coalition building and developing constituencies of key authority figures to support the demand for an affirmative action program. The project enabled SADEP to raise visibility of the rights of the disabled and to provide an opportunity for them to network while getting their voices heard by policy makers.

The other activity implemented by Disabled for Education & Economic Development Support (DEEDS) was aimed at enhancing the capacity of disabled persons to effectively participate in the constitutional reform process in Kenya. DEEDS also supported lobbying for structural and institutional reforms that would make institutions more responsive to the needs of the disabled. DEEDS organized two capacity building

workshops on participatory democracy and advocacy benefiting over 100 persons. It also prepared and developed key advocacy materials in Braille for the blind. These materials were distributed widely to the people working with disabled persons to help in lobbying.

DEEDS also formulated a national disability agenda that was presented to the legislative and policy-making organs of the State. This agenda was presented to the Constitution of Kenya Review Commission to ensure the incorporation of the views and interests of persons with disability into the on-going political process in Kenya. The project strengthened links between the disabled community and policy makers in Kenya. It also triggered a healthy and robust debate on the rights and freedoms of persons with disability in Kenya.

USAID/Kenya has also been supporting training for persons with disabilities. Since last year, three disabled people have benefited from our participant training program. We will continue to make it possible for disabled persons to compete favorably for such training programs as legislative drafting and democracy scholarships, as well as widening the scope of such opportunities.

Mission staff would like training on sensitivity to people with disabilities (PWD) and identifying activities and programs that has the potential of increasing the outreach and understanding of the Disability Policy. There is a general resistance within Kenya to deal with PWD and to include them in development projects. Hopefully such training will change perceptions of USAID staff and increase participation of PWDs in USAID activities.

USAID/Kenya would appreciate guidance as to how we can integrate PWD within our ongoing program implementation. We believe the PWD activities discussed above are a good short-term response. We would, however, like to increasingly mainstream PWD activities over the next several years.

LIBERIA

Program for the Physically Disabled in Liberia

The Center for the Rehabilitation of the Injured and Disabled (CRID) conducted a UNDP sponsored survey in August 1997 to assess the gravity of disability in Liberia. According to this survey, the prevalence of disability in Liberia is 16.4%. Considering Liberia's estimated population projection of three million inhabitants with a disability prevalence rate of 16.4%, more than 450,000 people have some form of disability. Injuries sustained as a result of the Liberian civil war account for 43% of physical disability in the country and are primarily associated with lower limb amputees.

In recognition of the plight of the physically disabled in Liberia and the urgent need to make available the requisite specialized services, the Government of the United States of

America, through the Leahy War Victim Funds, provided a grant to UNICEF totaling US\$1,474,860 to support physical rehabilitation in the country.

The funds provided to UNICEF were utilized to support the operations of the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center and the Community Based Rehabilitation. The funds were also utilized to construct a modern Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit in Ganta, Nimba County, and procure the needed equipments. This Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit now stands as a beacon of hope for the physically disabled and has provided a recourse for them to regain their dignity and status in the society.

The Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center located in the Pipeline Community of Monrovia, primarily caters to children and admits on average twenty children at a time. This center provides a strategic option for the referral of those physically disabled children residing within the perimeter of Monrovia.

The Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center provides corrective surgery, physiotherapy and prosthetics to its physically disabled clients. Under the management of the Physical Rehabilitation Program by UNICEF, the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center provided corrective surgery and physiotherapy to 90 clients (68 females and 22 males) and 135 (68 males and 67 females) respectively during the period July 1999 to November 2000.

The Community Based Rehabilitation Project was implemented in five of Liberia's originally thirteen counties by the Christian Health Association of Liberia. This Project focused on the identification of the physically disabled within communities, provided training to family members in physiotherapy, conducted community sensitization aimed at creating the enabling condition for the physically disabled to be accepted and respected as bona fide members of the society, and provided referral for the physically disabled where appropriate.

Under the Community Based Rehabilitation Project, more than 1,000 physically disabled were identified in the five selected counties. Some of these physically disabled received home-based physiotherapy and showed improvement while others were referred to the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit for appropriate management.

Following the inauguration of the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit in October 1999, the Unit began to provide the needed services to the physically disabled. By September 2000, while the Physical Rehabilitation Program was still being managed by UNICEF, the Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit had provided prosthetic limbs to a total of 390 clients, including 221 males and 169 females.

As of October 2000, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) began the management of the Physical Rehabilitation Program through a Grant from the Leahy War Victim Fund.

Under the management of the Physical Rehabilitation Program by the United Methodist Committee of Relief (UMCOR), the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit has to date

provided prosthetic limbs to a total of 732 clients (550 males and 182 females) while the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center has provide corrective surgery and physiotherapy including prosthetics to 245 clients (124 males and 121 females) and 572 clients (280 males and 292 females) respectively.

Currently, there are three physically disabled staff members, a female and two males, with the program. The two physically disabled males are working with the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center. The Head of the Benedict Menin Rehabilitation Center Workshop is a bilateral lower limb amputee. The physically disabled female works with the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit.

There are plans to recruit a male amputee to work as one of the bench-workers at the Ganta Prosthetic and Orthopedic Unit.

MADAGASCAR

Both USAID and the Embassy have worked with one disability partner, the Ikoriantsoa Foundation, a national umbrella group for over 80 associations of disabled persons in Madagascar.

In 2000, the Mission funded the participation of the Ikoriantsoa Foundation's Vice Chairperson to attend the Women with Disabilities and Beijing + 5 seminar in New York. In 2000, the US Embassy, using USAID-funded Human Rights funds provided a grant to the Foundation for the publication of a guide on disabled persons. In 2001, the US Embassy, using USAID-funded Human Rights funds provided a grant to the Foundation for an awareness campaign on disabled persons

Our Action Plan states that "In order to build capacity to promote the integration of disability issues into programming, the Mission will provide training on programming for people with disabilities to the relevant staff members, using the training mechanisms developed by the Agency".

Because of program and resource constraints, the Mission has not been able to implement this training and we may need USAID/W's help to do so.

MALI

USAID/Mali's Executive Office works from time to time with a computer support company that employs disabled persons.

In addition to the new mission order, USAID/Mali modified its MAARD forms by inserting language to comply with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Moreover, the USAID/Mali and WARP office building has been equipped with disabled

ramps, bathroom apparatus to aid the disabled, and all the telecommunication and computer equipment purchases are 508 compliant.

USAID/Mali and USAID/WARP will continue to look for opportunities to award contracts to firms employing individuals with disabilities.

REDSO/ESA

Since the submission of the Agency's Second Annual Report on the Implementation of the USAID Disability Policy in February 2000, REDSO/ESA has strengthened its contribution to USAID's disability efforts on several fronts.

This status report was developed by the Program Development and Implementation Office in consultation with each of the Strategic Objective Teams, Non-Presence Country Offices, and the Executive Office.

Accessibility

The interim USAID office complex in Nairobi, which houses REDSO/ESA, USAID/Kenya and the OFDA Africa Regional Office, is largely accessible for people with mobility disabilities. There is an access ramp from the parking lot and into the building as well as an elevator. Approximately half of the restrooms in the building are accessible for people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids.

REDSO/ESA expects to move into the new USAID building in 2005 and the building is expected to be fully accessible for people with physical disabilities as a result of a design process which has accorded careful attention to accessibility issues. REDSO/ESA is a center for regional and continent-wide training and support; therefore, an accessible office complex is of prime importance to USAID staff and partners.

Mission Disability Partners and Activities

REDSO/ESA and the NPCs are supporting activities for people with both physical disabilities and mental impairments.

As a result of collaboration between the Leahy War Victims Fund (LWVF) and REDSO, the Omega Initiative has been launched in sub-Saharan Africa. The Omega Initiative works to bring about the end of social and economic exclusion of people with disabilities in Africa. Omega's key goal is to channel targeted resources in support of the implementation, extension and strengthening of existing or proposed rehabilitation services for civilian victims of war and other people with disabilities in Africa.

REDSO/ESA's key partner in the Omega Initiative is Pact who manages the umbrella grant program. Other partners include:

VVAF We are currently supporting the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) to provide technical assistance on prosthetics/orthotics and rehabilitation issues throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, VVAF is implementing a rehabilitation program in Ethiopia which will 1) improve and expand an orthopedic workshop in Dessie in the Amhara Region by building a gait-training area and providing physiotherapy services; and 2) refurbish the orthopedic workshop and physiotherapy unit at the Feluge Hiwot Hospital, Bahir Dar (Amhara Region).

Handicap International/Belgium The Omega Initiative launched a sub-grant with Handicap International/Belgium (HI) in October 2002. HI will provide technical and capacity strengthening support to the CRHP (Rehabilitation Center for People Living with Disability) in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. This program will support the CRHP so that it can 1) provide appropriate services including physiotherapy treatments, orthopedic devices, walking and mobile aids, and follow up to the persons living with disability in Kinshasa and its periphery and 2) re-assume its key role in training and coordination as fully-functioning reference center. Special attention will be paid to the involvement of patients' families and relatives and to the strengthening of the links of the CRHP with existing community-based networks.

Handicap International/France The Omega Initiative will sign a grant with Handicap International/France in November 2002. The purpose of this grant will be to build a sustainable network of prosthetics and orthotics services to address the rehabilitation and reintegration needs of persons with mobility-related disabilities in Sierra Leone.

REDSO/ESA's disability programming also includes attention to mental impairment through grant support from the regional conflict management program to NGOs supporting children, adolescents, and adults with mental disorders. Save the Children/Denmark in Uganda and Adventist Development and Relief Association in Rwanda are providing psychosocial and other support services for children affected by armed conflict, including those who have been abducted by rebel groups or are genocide survivors. Similarly, through Victims of Torture funding, survivors of torture and political violence in Burundi are receiving counseling and psychological treatment to assist their recovery from the effects of violence. While not true of all the participants in these programs, some would meet the criteria for living with mental disabilities.

On another front, in the Burundi NPC program AFRICARE is strengthening the advocacy skills of an informal group of dedicated disability activists.

Finally, an advisor representing the Leahy War Victims Fund and Displaced Children and Orphans Fund is based in REDSO/ESA and provides technical assistance to REDSO, the NPCs, and bilateral missions on physical and mental disability programming.

Future Plans and Needs

REDSO/ESA will continue to seek opportunities to strengthen its disability programming in the coming year. Most of those opportunities are likely to come through the NPC

programs as the rates of disability in those countries are likely greater as a result of the on-going armed conflicts, although statistics and reliable data are spotty, at best. For example, the launch of the Sudan Program health transformation design process in late CY2002 offers an opportunity to respond to physical and mental impairment in the Sudanese population in an integrated, holistic manner in the health sector. Under the Omega Initiative, high-priority countries include Eritrea, Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, and Uganda and further funding decisions will be made in coming months.

As it seeks additional opportunities for disability programming, REDSO/ESA could benefit from the exchange of experience and lessons of other missions who have integrated people with disabilities into traditional USAID sectors such as food security or health.

RWANDA

During the last year, the Mission has dedicated over \$1.5 million in resources to assist those Rwandan individuals who have been physically or psychologically impaired by the 1994 genocide. This is a significant amount given our total mission FY 02 development assistance account of approximately \$22 million.

Specific activities of our partners:

IRC (International Rescue Committee) is currently working to increase the capacity of relevant national and community-based institutions to develop, coordinate and implement appropriate prevention and support mechanisms for victims of sexual gender-based violence (SGV) IRC focuses on SGV cases that occurred during the 1994 civil war and genocide;

TREATI (Trauma Research, Education, and Training Institute, Inc.) was recently awarded an 18-month grant to conduct an activity entitled "Advancing Healing and Reconciliation, Preventing Retraumatization: A Program for Survivors of Torture in Rwanda". The objective of this activity is to inform citizens and Rwandan leaders on what is trauma and how to prevent trauma; and,

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is conducting a youth-focused outdoor experiential therapy activity with a goal to foster long-term reconciliation and societal regeneration by developing a sense of self-worth, team building and participation of individuals. Most participants in this activity are aged nine to eighteen years old and suffer from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, resulting from witnessing events related to Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

Despite this involvement through its partners, the mission does not have an official disability plan. Therefore, as part of our current strategy planning exercise, we will make every effort to ensure that this will be addressed. I hope for the next report, I will be able to respond with even greater positive results.

SENEGAL

USAID/Senegal does not have a specific disability plan. We believe that people with disabilities are best served when they are integrated into mainstream development activities. We recognize, however, that special efforts are sometimes necessary to ensure that people with disabilities are able to participate in development programs. Therefore, our private sector SO uses the extent to which an activity seeks to improve the socio-economic conditions of handicapped persons and promote their participation as a selection criterion for funding proposals. As we plan a new basic education program, we will incorporate disability issues such as ensuring that the design of the schools we build take into account the needs of disabled children.

USAID/Senegal has a grant with Handicap International to increase landmine awareness and assist victims of landmines and other handicapped individuals in the conflict-torn Casamance region of Senegal.

Current activities related to disabilities are:

- The private sector SO has provided entrepreneurial and technical training to disabled aspiring entrepreneurs.
- The health SO's activities to improve ante-natal care and eradicate polio contribute to reducing future disabilities.
- The Casamance conflict resolution SPO provides medical, educational and economic assistance to landmine victims and other people with disabilities (through Handicap International) and prioritizes disabled people for housing reconstruction assistance.

People with disabilities are active participants in our programs. We do not see any obvious structural barriers to participation in our programs and in fact, steps such as using award criteria to promote participation of people with disabilities serve as a strong positive incentive. However, additional information about the constraints people with disabilities face in participating in USAID-funded programs would allow us to better address those constraints in the design and implementation of our activities.

SOUTH AFRICA

USAID/SA has a number of interventions to report.

USAID/SA financed the participation of the Director, Office on the Status of Disabled Persons, which is now in the Office of the President, in the prestigious and heavily subscribed Senior Executive Program (SEP) which is a joint undertaking by Harvard and WITS universities. Both the director of that office, Shuaib Chalklen and his wife, who also uses a wheelchair, participated in the program in 2001.

One of the housing NGOs supported by USAID's Housing /Urban Environment Program has developed and constructed accessible low cost housing units. (We can send a picture if desired.)

As part of its response to the floods of 2000, USAID/SA financed the reconstruction of 30 schools in the Limpopo (formerly Northern) Province. One of the provisions of the agreements financing the reconstruction was that all of the schools assisted be made wheelchair accessible. They now are.

The most substantive and far-reaching intervention supported by USAID/SA is in the development of the "Code of Good Practices: Key Aspects of the Employment of People with Disabilities" published by the Department of Labor in August 2002. The Code is a guide to employers on promoting the equal opportunity and fair treatment of people with disabilities in accordance with the Employment Equity Act. This Code, supported by assistance from USAID's Economics team, has the potential to be an important instrument in limiting employment discrimination against people with disabilities. The Code is a far reaching state of the art tool for helping employers and employees understand and implement the provisions of the Employment Equity Act with regard to people with disabilities. It should be considered a landmark accomplishment by the SA government in its effort to rid the country of employment discrimination of all sorts. (We can e-mail a copy of the Code of Good Practices if you do not already have it.)

USAID/South Africa is well positioned and resourced to respond to the needs of people with disabilities within the context of current programs. As a matter of policy USAID/SA endeavors to include and assist people with disabilities as part of ongoing programs. An additional increment of funding directed at this target group, although tempting, would run counter to what the Mission is trying to achieve.

TANZANIA

USAID/Tanzania is committed to including in its programming people with disabilities and those who advocate and offer services on behalf of the people with disabilities.

USAID's approach has the following components:

1. To seek means of making the USAID/Dar program more accessible to the disabled.
2. To have Mission SO Teams work with partners and encourage them to identify and work with NGOs that are interested in issues of concern to people with disabilities.
3. To work with GOT partners to increase their awareness of the issues which people with disabilities are concerned.
4. To ensure that USAID offices and residences (as necessary) are equipped to ensure the safety, comfort and access of people with disabilities.

In our Rural Roads Project, we work with District authorities (Political and non political officials). The project operates in 4 regions with 18 district councils. In one of the district councils we supported a blind District Councilor who was attending a USAID/T funded training program in tendering and contract management to have obtain Braille material to enable him to participate in the training successfully.

The Mission has continued to provide support to people with disabilities whenever the opportunity arises. The assistance, which was provided to the blind councilor in 2000, amounted to \$507.

SO Teams and partners are encouraged to work more closely with people with disabilities and whenever possible share the information on how best to support such initiatives in the areas they are working on.

ZAMBIA

In general USAID/Zambia's programs do not discriminate against people with disabilities. However due to special needs that people with disabilities have, the Mission is working under the Special Self Help Fund with the Zambia Federation for the Blind and the DISCARE Wheel Chair Center.

The Zambia Federation for the Blind is being assisted to transcribe a document entitled 'Introduction to Human Rights' into braille. The transcribed manual will be delivered to 35 libraries in the country for the use of the blind. In order to facilitate the transcription and production of the manual the following equipment is being sourced: computers with braille capacity, a photocopy machine, braille software, etc.

The DISCARE Wheel Chair Center is being supported in production of wheel chairs for the physically disabled to enhance their mobility. These wheel chairs are sold at an affordable price, while some are donated to those who cannot afford them.

In order to further include people with disabilities in the development program the Mission requires the following:

- Separate funding to support specific programs for people with disabilities
- Technical support
- Training for the staff to be involved in the disability policy implementation

In conclusion, in a country where the poverty level is as high as 70% of the total population, people with disabilities are even more vulnerable due to the fact they lack skills and education to enable them earn a living. Therefore targeting a program for such a vulnerable group is necessary to reverse this trend.

Education for Democracy and Development Initiative (EDDI)

Ambassador Girls Scholarship Program. Several countries working with EDDI targeted girls with disabilities. For example, the Nigeria program has targeted this population. They are in the process of implementation for the Nigeria program. Funding level - \$600,000. In Benin, scholarships have been awarded to blind, physically challenged and hearing-impaired girls.

Also, EDDI has funded to the tune of \$4.5 million, Community Resource Centers (CRCs) in Nigeria. The first one has been launched in Abuja. Five more to be launched. The CRC in Abuja has a special room for those with disabilities named for the First Lady, Mrs. Obasanjo, with specially outfitted computers (i.e. braille keyboards), special software packages, handicapped ramp, etc. The other five will also be outfitted to accommodate those with special needs.

ASIA and the NEAR EAST

AFGHANISTAN

Currently we are only doing two small projects (through USAID/OTI's IOM-ATI project -- International Organization for Migration, Afghanistan Transition Initiative):

(1) Assistance to the Talaqan Disabled Association, Takhar Province. This was an early project of IOM-ATI, identified as a community priority in Takhar, and has already been completed. It helped the disabled association to establish an office, provide equipment for training of disabled persons (particularly war vets) in cobblery, blacksmithing, sewing, knitting, and carpentry. The grant was originally estimated at \$25,000, but was executed for \$9,811.

(2) Assistance for some printing, and nationwide independent distribution of Killed Weekly News Magazine through the local NGO DSHA (Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan). The magazine covers a number of key topics of interest to Afghans. Different sectors are covered every week (electricity, traffic police, municipality, parks and gardens, transportation), with reconstruction issues being covered weekly. A large portion of the magazine is dedicated to opinion letters. The magazine devotes three pages to women's issues, two pages to health and education, but does not cover religious issues. There are four sections devoted to regional issues inserted in the magazine as well. In support of disabled persons, the grantee has produced a fleet of newspaper pushcarts suitable for use by disabled persons who sell the newspapers and receive income. Two grants to DSHA total an estimated \$43,000.

BANGLADESH

Over the past year, USAID/Bangladesh has:

1. Provided funding under our human rights program, for six Bangladeshi persons with disabilities to attend the Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) 6th World Assembly 2002 in Japan from September 15-19, 2002. (Further details are provided in attachment.) A copy of the address delivered by one of the participants is attached.

2. Initiated a relationship with the premier disabled peoples organization (DPO) in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Protibandhi Kallyan Somity (BPKS), for informal cooperation on a variety of internal and programmatic issues. For instance, USAID has shared with BPKS the Agency's disability policy and BPKS will meet with HR officers for the Mission and the Embassy about access and employment-related issues. Programmatically, BPKS has offered to advise USAID's DAP partners, CARE and WorldVision, on accessibility of water and sanitation facilities and is interested in participating in a recent USAID's Islamic Outreach initiative whereby our partners voluntarily contribute to a training program for Bangladeshi imams.

2. been designing our new Basic Education Strategy in such a way as to retain "access" issues as an objective (whereas the government and other donors appear to have moved on to "quality" issues while leaving the access questions for children with disabilities largely unaddressed). We have already awarded a grant to Plan International to work inclusively with preschool and primary school children and their families. The activity is conducted in cooperation with Helen Keller International and the Centre for Disability in Development and sets specific targets for the number of children to be assisted. The attached document provides background information on disabled children in Bangladesh that is factored into our education strategy; it also describes the activity to be conducted by PLAN.

CAMBODIA

USAID/Cambodia is in process of finalization of a Mission Disability Plan. The MDP will incorporate the fundamental principles on which the USAID disability policy is based, including:

- Inclusion of people with disabilities within USAID and USAID assisted activities
- Consultation with individuals and organizations in the community of people with disabilities
- Awareness raising on disability issues and activities within USAID and USAID assisted activities
- Continued and increased cooperation with US and foreign PVOs and NGOs committed to persons with disabilities
- Encouragement of interagency collaboration and networking among donors and other diverse entities with a view to increasing impact and sustaining efforts

- Expansion of the application of the fundamental principles of the Mission Disability Plan to all assisted activities

Cambodia's population of disabled is comprised of two main components: those Cambodians disabled by conflict, disease and trauma (variously estimated at from 3% to 10% of the population) and those affected by the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic (more reliably estimated at 2.8% of the population). The draft MDP acknowledges and addresses the needs of both components.

The Mission's primary contact in the Cambodian disability community is the Disabilities Action Council (DAC). The DAC is a semi-autonomous national coordinating organization, primarily funded by USAID, with the mission to promote, coordinate, initiate, and secure the rights of and services for disabled persons and to strengthen capacity in the sector.

The Office of Public Health supports the following organizations to in response to Cambodia's HIV/AIDS epidemic:

- The Policy Project supported the Cambodian National AIDS Authority (NAA) to advocate and coordinate passage of national legislation to prohibit discrimination against people living with and those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The Policy Project works to destigmatize people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS through an innovative program targeting monks and elders at local Buddhist pagodas. Monks are highly respected community members and can act as catalysts to change social views on HIV/AIDS and people living with HIV/AIDS. The Policy Project actively seeks to employ HIV+ staff in its programs.
- The Khmer HIV AIDS National Alliance (KHANA) works through local NGOs to support community based programs for the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- The Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC) provides community based clinical services offering information, education, testing and counseling in HIV/AIDS, STD and adolescent health services.
- Partners for Development (PFD) includes in its programs an innovative HIV/AIDS education and awareness component in primary schools.
- Family Health International (FHI) supports local organizations that care for AIDS orphans and street children, who are particularly vulnerable to abuse and infection.
- Population Services International (PSI) carries out social marketing, education and awareness programs focused on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- CARE International implements a primary prevention program to increase HIV/AIDS awareness at the community level.

- CARE International and Family Health International (FHI) also support programs of peer education, awareness and counseling amongst high-risk urban populations.

USAID/Cambodia coordinates with a variety of donors in HIV/AIDS including WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, JICA, DFID and GTZ. USAID/Cambodia participates in the CoCom Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Ministry of Health, and in the Donor's Quarterly Partners Meeting.

The Office of General Development supports the following organizations:

- Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF) operates four regional rehabilitation centers. Internationally certified staff at these four centers manufacture and fit new and replacement prosthetics and orthotics, and provide wheelchairs and other assistive devices to Cambodians disabled by conflict, disease and trauma. Extensive rehabilitation facilities at each site include physical therapy and community follow-up.
- American Red Cross (AmCross) provides technical and financial assistance to the National Center for Disabled Persons (NCDP) for a community based rehabilitation program (CBR) and for the IRS program, a database and training program that prepares and links disabled persons with employment and training opportunities.
- Handicap International for support to the Disability Action Council. The DAC with its membership developed the draft of the Cambodian Disabilities Law, the draft law on inclusive education and standards for the provision of services. DAC has worked to prioritize activities internationally, for the sector and for the DAC Secretariat. DAC has developed a website that provides improved international and local access to information on disabilities issues in Cambodia and offers a means for contact between funders and implementing agencies in the sector.
- World Relief and Catholic Relief Services provide micro-finance services, with a health education component, in rural and urban areas. People with disabilities benefit directly from the financial services provided and all members benefit from the HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs

USAID/Cambodia participated in a variety of seminars and workshops on disability issues. USAID/Cambodia coordinates with a variety of donors in the disability sector including WHO, UNICEF and JICA. USAID/Cambodia and the DAC were once again instrumental in the planning and celebration of the International Day of the Disabled held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on December 3, 2001.

EGYPT

The USAID Disability Policy encourages the use of existing Agency resources for the inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs). It calls for the integration of persons with disabilities into our regular on-going and new activities, no special programs are requested. USAID/Egypt has complied with this guidance.

The Mission Director's Conference, held in Crystal City, Virginia, in the first quarter of 1999, was an opportunity for Mission Directors to become familiar with USAID's Disability Policy which was presented at the conference. USAID/Egypt shortly thereafter assigned a Mission Disability Coordinator, Ms. Aziza Helmy, Senior Development Specialist, to monitor implementation of the Policy.

The AID/W Disability Coordinator Ms. Janet C. Allem paid a visit to the Egypt Mission in June 1999, during which time she met with Mission Management, SO Team Leaders and the Mission Disability Coordinator to further explain and advocate implementation of the Agency's Disability Policy. She also met with representatives of NGOs that support PWDs to get a better insight on the situation of PWDs in Egypt and the facilities and services, or lack thereof that are available to them.

The following are some examples of USAID/Egypt activities that have been inclusive of PWDs, or have acted as preventive measures to preempt disability.

A. Improved Basic Education

Grant with Sesame Workshop for ALAM SIMSIM (Egyptian Sesame Street) - Funding: \$8.4 million

USAID has funded the Egyptian "Sesame Street" (ALAM SIMSIM) to help improve children's readiness for school, particularly among the disadvantaged, and to promote girls' education. With nearly universal reach and penetration to more than 90% of the population in only two years, the series is uniquely positioned to promote critical messages on gender, stereotyping, disabilities, health, hygiene and the environment. Among the existing curriculum goals is the creation of segments which feature the mainstreaming of children with special needs and disabilities, representing all cultural, ethnic, socio-economic and/or religious backgrounds. To date, segments have focused on the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, and children with Down's syndrome, and have shown children in their daily activities, such as visiting the library or participating in school sports.

USAID/Egypt recently funded a new ancillary village-based parental outreach and training program for disadvantaged communities. It is expected that the experience of the village-based training and outreach will yield additional information for the producers of Alam Simsim on the needs of children with disabilities who may be secluded at home. This may provide the producers with important information for development of future

segments and/or materials to better meet the needs of the target population including disabled children.

B. USAID Support for the Egyptian Polio Eradication Plan:

USAID/Egypt has been helping the Egyptian immunization program for the last decade. Great progress has been achieved in most of communicable childhood illnesses covered under the immunization program. Polio cases have been declining. In 2001 there were 5 cases down from 36 cases in 1998.

The global target set by the World Health Assembly in 1988 was to eradicate polio by year 2000. This target was extended to the year 2005. WHO officials collaborated with UNICEF, USAID and Ministry of Health and Population staff to undertake annual national Polio campaigns and to strengthen routine vaccination coverage.

In September 28, 2002, First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak inaugurated the first round of polio national immunization days (NIDs). She initiated the three-day effort by immunizing the first child and urging all families with children under age five to immunize them. The opening was attended by several Ministers and representatives of supporting donors, including WHO, UNICEF, Rotary Egypt and USAID.

More than 9 million children were immunized, representing 99.3% of the targeted children. Vaccination teams went from door-to-door immunizing children. Approximately 33,000 vaccination teams to go door-to-door were recruited from MOHP staff. More than 15,000 youth, NGOs, unions and social clubs also contributed to the campaign. Community activities and announcements, TV and radio spots announcing the vaccine days, and newspaper articles and TV shows discussed the campaign. During the campaign mega phones moved from street to street to announce the event to families. WHO organized the participation of eleven international experts to observe the campaign. Eleven Egyptian physicians working under the USAID contractor, John Snow, also observed the activity and assisted the international experts in providing an accurate assessment of the campaign. The external observers were satisfied with the fieldwork and reported no shortage of vaccines in any of the 15 governorates visited. They also commended the high level of community mobilization and MOHP staff enthusiasm.

Egypt is receiving international attention in this area because it is one of only seven countries which still reported cases of polio last year; five cases only for Egypt. Since October 2001, no more polio cases have been reported in Egypt.

The estimated budget for this special campaign was about LE 7 million. USAID offered to provide \$2.5 million from the Healthy Mother/Healthy Child project (HM/HC) local support budget.

C. NGO Service Center Support to Activities for Citizens with Special Needs

The NGO Service Center activity is one of the main activities contributing to USAID/Egypt's Special Objective 21 which calls for Strengthening Egyptian Initiatives in Governance and Participation. Activity implementation began in April 2000. To date, the NGO SC provided five sub-grants supporting activities for the disabled as follows:

1. The Egyptian Association for the Prevention of Blindness received a LE 10,000 grant for funding a "Blindness Prevention" campaign. The association, in collaboration with eight other NGOs, carried out 12 health "caravans" in a slum area in Cairo with two million inhabitants. The activity focused on demonstrating the importance of providing regular health service and an eye clinic for the community. Local leaders and youth conducted awareness-raising sessions for community members on eye diseases that could lead to blindness. In response, a total of 77 members of the community signed a petition and submitted it to the parliamentarian for the district requesting the establishment of an eye clinic in the area. In addition to the public awareness sessions, 1,345 patients received medical examinations and some received treatment and eyeglasses. This activity was completed in August 2001.
2. The Jesuits and Brothers Association for Development (in Minya Governorate-Upper Egypt) received a grant of LE 347,524 from the Center, augmented with LE 117,280 in local contribution. The activity's long-term objective is to empower the disabled to participate effectively in the community, and in the labor market. Through the grant, the association will work on establishing a network of 5 NGOs to work on the issue; conduct 10 conferences in 5 districts for the network members, the disabled and their families; conduct a field study on the recruitment of the disabled (5% according to the law) and present its results to the decision makers in a conference, to be attended by the disabled and their families, and promote the recruitment of disabled through a TV program.
3. Love and Giving Association for Citizens with Special Needs (Gharbiya-Lower Egypt) received a LE 10,000 grant to carryout a constituency-building/public awareness campaign for children with special needs. This activity has just been completed in June 2002. The activity included holding a number of seminars that focused on problems of special needs children; establishing a resource center equipped with reference and training materials for NGOs active in the area of special needs, and establishing a data base of organizations working in the area of special needs.
4. El Salam Coptic Association (Gharbiya-Lower Egypt) has just been awarded a grant in the amount of LE 672,890 to advocate for the social and health rights of mentally retarded. The main objectives of the activity are: 1) amend the Health Insurance Law and system to include the mentally retarded; and 2) amend the Social Insurance Law and system to provide social pension to the mentally retarded. Also, the activity aims to have the People's Assembly issue a new law that will give the mentally-challenged the right to marriage.
5. Hospital Day Organization for Development and Rehabilitation (Cairo-Egypt) has just been awarded a grant in the amount of LE 399,899 to establish a network advocating for the self reliance of citizens with special needs and participating in the formation of

policies and decision making related to citizens with special needs and their employment. Also work on the social integration of individuals with special needs and their families in the society.

D. Other Activities

1. Under the Mission's Small and Micro Enterprise Program \$75,000 were awarded as loans to 220 PWDs by the Assuit Businessmen Association.

2. In October of 2002, USAID/Egypt sponsored the participation of a delegation of four participants including a disabled child in the 6th International Congress on "Including Children with Disabilities in the Community" that was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This important international meeting provided a useful forum for the Egyptian delegation to learn about policies and programs that promote the inclusion of children with special needs in all realms of community life.

INDIA

Regrettably this is not an area that we've had an opportunity to more deliberately focus on up until now - with our newly approved Mission Strategy that will be effective as of October 1; however we expect to be able (subject to getting education funding support which is now principally expected to be ESF) to do more in this area especially as it would relate to alternative or bridging school support programs for vulnerable populations like girls, tribals, scheduled castes and other minorities (including the disabled). This is an issue of growing interest/attention in India - in the public and private sectors - and we'd appreciate HCD keeping us posted on any particularly effective strategies and models for integrating the issue into our program planning.

JORDAN

USAID/Jordan fully supports the Agency's Disability Policy, and in response has developed, in February 2001, general guidance and a plan for addressing disability concerns within the context of our Washington-approved USAID Strategy in Jordan.

Background and Mission Plan:

The current USAID/Jordan program was conceived and remains tightly focused on three major development issues facing the country, namely (1) too little water; (2) too rapid population growth; and (3) not enough jobs. All activities funded under the bilateral program must address one or more of these three concerns.

Retaining a tight program focus makes sense not only from a development perspective, but it is also necessary given the ratio of staff to program size at USAID/Jordan.

Within the existing strategic construct, and in cooperation with other units of the Embassy, such as the Public Affairs Section (PAS) there are areas in which we look for opportunities to advance the Agency's disability concerns. Some of the most obvious ones include training programs, microfinance activities, and the health portfolio.

These examples are illustrative only and give some sense for how USAID disability policy concerns are addressed within the context of the ongoing USAID program in Jordan. This basic policy statement and disability plan is updated from time to time to take into account new opportunities that may emerge or new information that may become available.

USAID/Jordan is currently in the process of developing a new country strategy, which will focus more on the social aspects of development and alleviating poverty, taking into account Agency-wide policies such as those related to gender and disability.

Our main partners with regards to disability issues are the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development as the government agencies dealing with issues related to the disabled. On occasion we also find opportunities with the Ministry of Labor and the Municipal government of the capital city, Amman.

Although USAID/Jordan does not have project activities specifically targeting the disabled, our portfolio benefits all Jordanians, and thus the disabled are beneficiaries of our various activities within the parameters of our three Strategic Objectives of improved health services, improved water resources and wastewater services, and enhanced economic opportunities.

Training -- Qualified prospective participants are selected without reference to disability, whether for training in-country, third country, or in the U.S.

One outstanding example has been the training of Mr. Mohammad Tarawneh, Director of the Special Buildings Code Department of the Greater Amman Municipality, who participated in a U.S. program designed to present him with American perspectives on a variety of disability issues. The main goals of the program were to: 1) look at policies and regulations at the city, state and federal levels, including ADA building codes; 2) look at public transportation policies and guidelines; 3) get introduced to advocacy programs on behalf of the disabled; and 4) visit "living centers" and review employment programs .

Himself a person with a disability, the study tour provided Mr. Tarawneh with exposure to many U.S. Federal agencies working on behalf of disability agencies, as well as organizations providing technical services and medical training to underdeveloped and developing countries around the world. He was able to see first hand programs related to disability access, efforts to promote the hiring of disabled persons, and efforts to promote and assist in independent living for the disabled.

The trip provided Mr. Tarawneh with many essential contacts and possible linkages that will assist him in his efforts to implement similar standards and programs in Jordan. In fact, Mr. Tarawneh is currently organizing a regional conference on human rights which will include sessions on the rights of people with special needs. We attained considerable leverage from this activity, since Mr. Tarawneh is a policy advisor to the Mayor and is in a position to influence municipal, and perhaps even national, policy changes in such key areas as building codes. As this is implemented over time, it will surely create thousands of job opportunities for people who presently are well educated and trained, but cannot work due to lack of proper access to workplaces.

Microfinance Programs -- our ongoing microfinance programs are benefiting disabled Jordanians. For example, disabled Jordanians have been able to access various USAID-funded microfinance funding facilities. A woman with hearing impairments in Wadi Mousa, a town near Petra, was able to obtain a microfinance loan to start a business of producing handicrafts.

Currently, there are approximately 55 microfinance borrowers with disabilities. One striking story is that of Mr. Salim Al-Qaysi (63 years old) who is blind. After hearing of the Ahli Microfinancing Company, he visited their offices to apply for a loan to expand his small cigarette kiosk downtown of Amman. Mr. Al-Qaysi is well known to the regular passers-by of that area and has many friends among the merchants and workers of the adjacent shops and businesses. His frankness, openness, honesty and perseverance are what attracted the community members to this humble old man. After the regular site visit and evaluation procedures were completed, the Ahli Microfinancing Company extended Mr. Al-Qaysi with a \$1000 loan to expand the variety of products he sells in his kiosk. Due to this he was able to achieve higher sales, bigger profits and more friends. He also honored his repayment commitments through his efficient management of his financial affairs, and was able to reach the third cycle of microfinance loans reaching almost \$3000. While Mr. Al-Qaysi was not blessed with the grace of sight, he was gifted with the power of insight.

Small Project Assistance (SPA) -- The USAID-funded SPA program managed by Peace Corps supports grassroots development through program initiated by Peace Corps volunteers in conjunction with the local community. Each year, several Peace Corps volunteers work with disabled Jordanians, on the job or as teachers and teachers aides in special schools.

For example, with a SPA grant, a Peace Corps volunteer worked with the Kerak Center for Care and Rehabilitation (in Kerak, southern Jordan) to build a special area with obstacles and conduct behavior modification training for adults with mild developmental disabilities. This project benefited around 250 people. Another grant was provided for construction of a therapeutic playground for the children and training for the staff at the Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged. Even more striking, the playground equipment was produced by the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf. This project benefited around 130 children and staff. The Khaldiya Society for Special Education was yet another recipient of a SPA grant, where the Peace Corps volunteer

worked together with the staff of the Society to build a wheelchair accessible playground and health enhancing equipment to improve the physical education classes for children with disabilities. Around 75 children benefited from this project. Another 150 intellectually disadvantaged children and young adults attending classes at the Young Muslim Women's Association for Special Education were also some of the beneficiaries of the SPA program. With the assistance of the Peace Corps volunteer, visual aid materials were developed to be used during life skills lessons. It must be noted that these programs will continue to benefit mentally and physically disabled Jordanians attending these institutions in the future.

Health Portfolio -- While the USAID/Jordan health activities do not directly target the disabled, our health projects benefit all Jordanians, including the disabled. USAID/Jordan's health portfolio focuses on reproductive health and primary health care.

Within the reproductive health area, comprehensive postpartum centers were built in hospitals to provide health services to both mothers and babies. All these hospitals have access for the disabled, and most certainly serve them. Children born with disabilities are provided the necessary health care and then referred to the pediatric section of the hospital for necessary additional care pertaining to their specific case.

An ongoing Primary Health Care Initiatives (PHCI) project aims at renovating all public health care centers throughout Jordan, and improving all primary health care services. This includes prevention of disabilities and dealing with them within the capacity of primary health care services. The majority of PHCI renovated centers are wheelchair accessible.

Public awareness and outreach programs provide information on reproductive health and family planning methods as they relate to overall health status, which includes preventing disabilities resulting from marriages among relatives or due to other health issues.

In terms of health reform and insurance, our health reform activity is tasked with collecting data on the uninsured and insured, and on the flow of health expenditures in Jordan, in addition it will present to the government different scenarios for health insurance including dealing with high risk cases in general. The activity aims to address social needs and needs of the disadvantaged but most importantly to help the MOH find ways of cost recovery and sustainability.

Poverty Alleviation -- The USAID-funded Jordan Poverty Alleviation Project has completed a feasibility study to establish a Center for Autism in Jordan. The Ministry of Social Development is reviewing this study for possible funding from the Government of Jordan budget. The project is also reviewing a potential public-private partnership grant that will support integrating disabled Jordanians into the private sector by assisting them in setting up kiosks to sell specialized products, such as telephone calling cards. This activity is expected to start later this year.

Requirements to Advance Efforts:

USAID/Jordan prides itself in being a tightly focused program. We have identified the major challenges facing Jordan -- too many people, too little water and not enough jobs -- and have been working to solve these issues for the past several years. Disability issues have not been viewed as major impediments to social and economic development. Therefore, substantial support has not been provided in this regard.

Another constraint to our advancing our support in this area is budget and management requirements. Our current operating budget and staffing levels do not allow for this type of expansion of our portfolio.

Any programs dealing with sensitive issues such as disability require the full commitment of the host government and local organizations. Unless the Jordanian government works towards developing and implementing policies that call for improved accessibility and integration into the society of the disabled, then none of the already financially struggling agencies and private sector companies would be willing to take on an additional burden. In addition, in view of the prevailing "shame culture" among families of the disabled, a rather challenging behavior and culture change program must be implemented before other types of activities are initiated.

LEBANON

Under USAID Lebanon's new Transition Strategy 2002-2005 there is an Intermediate Result (IR 1.5): Increased Safety and Victims Assistance in Landmine Affected Areas. This Lebanon's Humanitarian Demining program has four prongs: Mine Awareness, Victims Assistance, Social and Economic Recovery, and Demining Operations.

The on-going program with the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) is doing work in the following areas:

1. Rehabilitation and social integration of individuals with different forms of disabilities;
2. Prevention of various forms of injuries, impairments and disabilities,
3. Addressing the needs of the social welfare sector with particular reference to:
 - (i) orphans,
 - (ii) children in orphan like conditions,
 - (iii) children and youngsters with learning difficulties,
 - (iv) children and youngsters at risk of social dysfunction, and
 - (v) other population groups at risk of impairment and disabilities particularly displaced children.

The program is done through a process of empowerment, training, creation of small-scale income generating activities, development of appropriate organizational and management structure (Cooperative structure) and provision of technical and material; assistance.

Almost 2,000 individuals are directly benefiting from the Jezzine community center, in addition to the indirect benefits it brings to the whole region of Jezzine through improved economic activities.

MONGOLIA

The Mission does not have a direct grant with ANY local NGO, including those involved with disability issues. Although the Mission does not collect disaggregated data on this issue, it is likely that the disabled are included among the clients of the two major USAID-funded microfinance programs in Mongolia, XAAN BANK and XAS BANK. These programs represent the most successful sustainable microfinance efforts in Mongolia to date, and the client base runs into the tens of thousands.

USAID is a relatively modest donor in the Mongolian context. We seek to enhance impact by coordinating closely with other donors and not duplicating other ongoing activity. Very recently (April 2002), the Asian Development Bank launched a \$1 million grant program in cooperation with Japan for a project to expand employment opportunities for poor disabled persons in Mongolia. The program documentation includes a useful analysis related to economic issues assorted with Mongolia's disabled population that can help inform our own strategy process. Also, there are a relatively large number of NGOs, both local and international, that address the concerns of the disabled in Mongolia.

USAID/Mongolia is almost certainly the smallest USAID Mission in terms of size of staff, consisting of a single USDH, three FSN professional and three FSN support. Within the constraints imposed by this staffing level (as well as a corresponding mandate to "focus and concentrate"), we hope to be more mindful in the future about the concerns of the disabled. The microfinance programs mentioned above possibly represent one opportunity, and we will seek to better understand the extent to which this may already be happening under our existing microfinance portfolio. We will also monitor other donor activity in this area to avoid any possible overlap or duplication.

NEPAL

USAID/Nepal has awarded a grant to the Center for Victims of Torture. We are also considering working with victims of the conflict (i.e. people missing limbs).

PHILIPPINES

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) is relatively advanced in addressing disability concerns. The GRP has a National Council for the Welfare of

Disabled Persons (NCWDP), the national agency mandated to formulate policies; coordinate the activities of all agencies, whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns; develop programs for persons with disabilities (PWD) and delivery of services to this sector. The NCWDP is tasked to monitor the implementation of several laws to ensure the protection of PWDs' civil and political rights. These laws include the Republic Act No 7277 (Magna Carta for Disabled Persons), Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 (Accessibility Law), Republic Act 6759 (White Cane Act) and ILO Convention No. 159 (vocational rehabilitation of persons with disability). It has also been tasked, through Proclamation No. 125, to coordinate activities and to monitor the observance of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons (1993-2002) in the Philippines. Proclamation No. 125 was issued by then President Ramos on January 15, 1993, to enjoin both government and private entities to organize projects based on the NCWDP agenda for action for PWD.

The Mission's current and only disability activity is the "Kapit-Tinig" (Reach for Your Voice) Program of the Link Center for the Deaf (Link Center) which was formally signed on October 1, 2002 and has an LOP of three years, until September 2005. It is centrally funded for \$75,000 under the Other Vulnerable Children Fund. The program will build partnerships among public and private schools to develop academic and support services for deaf students in public schools, and identify public schools in Metro Manila where the development of special education units/programs for deaf and other physically impaired students could be supported. The main beneficiaries are deaf students in public schools, relevant faculty, hearing students in partner private schools, and parents/caregivers of deaf students.

SRI LANKA

Our current DG program is on hold till we complete a DG assessment in November 2002. We intend to re-issue a DG RFA in Jan 2003. Our previous DG program did not directly involve any partners who featured work with people with disabilities or have included people with disabilities in their activities. However, the Sri Lanka Mission has a program to supply prosthetic and orthotic devices to amputees (victims of conflict) under the Mission's Humanitarian Assistance SO. The assistance is provided with money from the Leahy War Victims Fund. I suspect this is being reported under that particular earmark.

VIETNAM

The Vietnam Health and Humanitarian Programs report on the following accomplishments:

I. CRS Inclusive Education project:

Goal: To ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities and their families in their communities by increasing awareness of their needs, training educators to meet their needs in general education classrooms, and strengthening community support.

The project accomplishments are as follows:

- CRS and the National Institute for Educational Science (NIES) have developed an Inclusive Education curriculum for pre- and primary schoolteachers. The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) has introduced the curriculum into the National Teacher Training College in Hanoi.
- In target provinces of Quang Ninh, Ninh Binh and Hoa Binh “community steering committees, teachers, and parents are demonstrating in specific ways how the lives of young children with disabilities are being improved. Community awareness and support for children with disabilities has increased, as have community level development of local infrastructure for inclusive education”.
- Provision of teacher training for 1500 classroom teachers has led to “improved quality of teaching and attitude toward children with disabilities. Increased family – school planning and support to include children with disabilities has led to inclusive, age appropriate placement in natural proportion for 2845 children previously excluded from education. This has led to an overall improvement in the lives of targeted children”.
- In August 2001, MoET finalized its strategy for making Inclusive Education part of the national education program, and presented the CRS-NIES project as the model for expansion. In September 2002, USAID approved extension of the project to help strengthen the MoET capacity for expanding inclusive education nationwide through increasing technical capacity and leadership in Inclusive Education, and institutionalizing tools for implementation and management

II. Save the Children

Integrated Health and Education Program for Children with Disabilities

Program Objectives:

- To increase availability and access to maternal and child health services (MCH), rehabilitative health services and IE (Inclusive Education) programs. To strengthen the quality of MCH services in the prevention, early detection of disabilities and referrals to rehabilitative services.
- To enhance the capacity of education authorities and teachers to include children with disabilities in mainstream schools, adapt education methods to serve all children and promote inclusive attitudes towards CWDs (Children With Disabilities).

- To enhance the capacity of parents, primary caregivers, and community members to support their children's development, build community awareness around disability and to integrate CWDs into the community.
- To improve the capacity of all institutional partners at provincial, district and commune level to develop and sustain a quality, affordable integrated health and education program model at community level for CWDs.

III. WCDO Accomplishments

- In 3 provinces, the disabilities program has undertaken raising awareness activities on how People with Disabilities (PWD) can integrate and participate in society. Project volunteers and PWDs have conducted: workshops, trainings, social activities, sports, and information dissemination (posters, pamphlets, calendars).
- In 3 provinces, the program has assessed needs, selected, conducted basic education, and placed around 1000 Adolescents with Disabilities (AWD) in vocational training both in formal centres (technical schools) and small businesses (apprenticeships).
- In 3 provinces, the program has successfully placed over 80% of formal and informally trained AWDs in on-going employment (mostly small businesses) earning suitable income and impacting whole family livelihoods.
- In 3 provinces, the program has developed and trained a network of volunteers who support and monitor AWDs in vocational training and employment, as well as care for the welfare of AWD families, help maintain AWD peer support groups, and train AWDs in basic life skills.

IV. Pearl S. Buck International Vietnam

Inclusive Education project for Hearing Impaired and Deaf Children in Vietnam

(Three sub-projects)

GENERAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Identified children with disabilities and placed them in inclusive classrooms with the proper assistive devices and trained inclusive teachers.
- Developed the training manuals for inclusive education and sign books.
- Trained for provincial key lecturers and district key teachers to enable them to play the key roles on inclusive education and promote the development of inclusive education in the province. Trained on inclusive education for regular teachers to enable them to become inclusive teachers.

- Collected the national common signs and indigenous regional signs to promote the development of Vietnamese Sign Language.
- Organized Social Activity Days and Sport Festivals to raise awareness on disabilities.
- Trained deaf workers on assembly of hearing aids and other vocations.
- Conducted the Ear and Hearing Disorder Survey to gather accurate prevalence statistics on ear and hearing disorders on which to make recommendations for further services development.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THREE SUB-PROJECTS:

1) Sub-project: Inclusive Education for Hearing Impaired and Deaf Children

- Inclusive education project for hearing impaired children has been implementing in 39 districts out of 63 districts of 6 provinces, three in the North and three in the South.
- 1,575 hearing aids assembled by Vietnamese Deaf workers trained by project and distributed to hearing impaired students.
- Conducted the comprehensive screening for 814,686 preschool and primary school students. Identified 14,846 children suspected with impairments, including 7,001 children with intellectual problems, 3,173 children with hearing impairments, 2,844 children with vision problems, 1,103 children with physical problems, and 725 children with other problems.
- At the present, 1,067 hearing impaired and deaf children studying in inclusive classrooms in 227 schools.
- Developed training manual for inclusive education and trained for 1,141 inclusive teachers.
- Trained for 25 provincial key lecturers, who play the key role in the project to provide training for other inclusive teachers and supervise the implementation of the project in province.
- Trained for 149 district key teachers, who play the key role at district level and support the project implementation in district.
- Organized the First National Inclusive Teachers Conference with 297 participants.
- 1,696 common signs collected through National workshops on Sign Language. 1,737 indigenous regional signs collected from Hanoi, Hai Phong and Ho Chi Minh Deaf Clubs.
- Support the development of Deaf Clubs in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh and project provinces.
- Raising awareness on deaf and hearing impairment through the Social Activity Days organized quarterly at project sites and the Deaf Sport festivals organized in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city.

- Organized hearing test and hearing loss prevention and care training for caregivers of orphans and children living in 4 orphanages and three communities.

2) Sub-project: Inclusive Education for children with disabilities in Cu Chi district, Ho Chi Minh City

- Support the establishment and development of Special School for Disabled Children by training for 10 teachers and provision of teaching equipment.
- Identified 535 children with disabilities, including 304 with intellectual problem, 118 with hearing impairment, 70 with visual problem, and 43 with physical problem.
- 40 hearing impaired children and 20 intellectual problem children placed in Special School for Disabled Children.
- Placed 381 children with disabilities in inclusive schools, including 287 intellectual problem, 66 low vision, 21 physical problem, and 7 hearing impaired children.
- Provided proper assistive devices for disabled children, including 69 hearing aids, 43 medical glasses, hand and leg orthopedics.
- Trained for 394 inclusive teachers, including 14 teachers of hearing impaired children, 58 teachers of low vision children, 287 teachers and headmasters of intellectual problem children and 35 Community Workers.
- Provided vocational training on sewing and motorcycle repair for 8 disabled youths.

3) Sub-project: Ear and Hearing Disorder survey

- 24 Ear Nose and Throat doctors and audiology technicians were trained by WHO experts on the survey implementation.
- Completed the field work and examined for 13,758 people from 2,701 families in 6 provinces.

V. WVI

For the CBR project WVV conducts in District 8, HCMC, the following are the major accomplishments:

1. Establishment and support of a network of community-based caregivers for rehabilitation services (this includes home-based physical therapy).
2. Increased/changed awareness of community members regarding disability and how to assist children with disability, leading to decreased stigmatization and discrimination.
3. Development of local project working groups (including a CBR supervisor), dedicated to identifying, assessing, and supporting children with disability. This led different government sectors to cooperate/coordinate to work for the same purpose.
4. Establishment of children's clubs as a place where children with disability can meet on a daily basis, and receive appropriate physical, mental and social stimulation.

5. Establishment of a technical resource center at a local health center for parents to take their children for physical therapy or to receive information regarding disability/rehabilitation.

WEST BANK and GAZA

USAID/West Bank has two projects that involve people with disabilities: The first is a grant provided through our DG civil society program to the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children. The grant actually supports deaf women's efforts to advocate on behalf of themselves and other disabled members of Palestinian society. The second is a cooperative agreement we have with the YMCA – East Jerusalem. This cooperative agreement is provided through our Community Services Program. While it is not solely focused on supporting the disabled, this cooperative agreement has directly benefited the physically challenged among Palestinian society. We have just awarded \$5.5 million to YMCA for the purpose of emergency employment generation through the construction and rehabilitation of YMCA facilities including those for the physically challenged in the West Bank and Gaza.

ATFALUNA SOCIETY FOR DEAF CHILDREN

The hearing impaired women living in the Gaza strip can rest a little easier knowing that some of their needs will be met, thanks to a USAID funded grant. The grant, "Protection of Deaf Women – A Community Model" provides essential vocational training, civic education and literacy training to 80 young hearing impaired women from the Gaza strip. The grant has assisted in empowering the young women to become more involved in the community while concomitantly reducing negative stereotypes towards people with hearing challenges. Many new opportunities have arisen for hearing-impaired females, allowing the women to advance both socially and economically.

Cultural Norms Challenged

During one of the closing workshops at a conference sponsored by Atfaluna, the women took a very vocal stand about marriage beliefs and rights. There are long-standing beliefs within the Palestinian community that deaf individuals should not marry hearing individuals. The women addressed the need for people to be able to choose their life partners without pressure to marry within the disabled community. The women quoted scientific studies that have proven the efficacy of marriages where one partner is deaf and the other is hearing. One deaf woman shared her experiences of being married to a hearing husband. She spoke of the love in her marriage, the negative reactions she and her husband have had to contend with, and their beautiful child. Perhaps this workshop will educate members of the hearing community so they will act as advocates for their hearing-impaired peers. It is clear that the deaf women are now able to understand that they do have rights, and included in their rights is the freedom to choose to marry a person regardless of their disability or lack of one.

Equal Rights Demanded

Atfaluna conducted a special training session through their vocational division that aimed to educate deaf women about their rights. The group of women who attended the training assimilated the information and soon found themselves mobilizing the entire deaf staff at Atfaluna School. The women organized a public demonstration calling for equal treatment among staff members at the Atfaluna Society. Among their requests were salaries commensurate to those of their hearing colleagues. The demonstration facilitated by the deaf women communicated strongly the need for the Board and Executive Management Office of Atfaluna to act, sensitively, responsively, and equitably with their deaf staff members. As a result of the employees' actions, the Atfaluna administration has devoted a considerable amount of time towards improving the benefits of their deaf staff members. To date, seven deaf employees have received salary increases and three additional deaf employees were promoted to higher ranking positions within the organization.

Political Involvement

Continuing with their newfound sense of empowerment, the deaf women who work at Atfaluna visited the Palestinian Legislative Council to meet with PLC member Dr. Kamal Al Shrafi. Dr. Shrafi was impressed with the women's ability to clearly communicate with him when dealing with sophisticated social and political issues. The women discussed their concerns over legislators who were not advocating for the rights of their disabled constituents. Additionally, Dr. Shrafi was encouraged to increase the number of television shows that are broadcast with sign language interpretation.

Many individuals within the Gaza strip have been impressed with the outcome of the grant project funded by USAID. Clearly, Atfaluna Society has met many of its goals to mobilize and empower the deaf community. Additionally, the deaf women associated with Atfaluna have worked hard to break the stereotypes that in the past isolated them from parts of mainstream Gazan life. These women are proving that they are as intelligent, capable, and knowledgeable as their hearing counterparts – a lesson that is important for their communities to know, understand, and acknowledge.

EAST JERUSALEM YMCA YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Educational, Recreational, and Economical Integration of Disabled (Physically Challenged) Youth

Accomplishments from December 1st 1999 to September 30th 2002

1. Public Awareness Activities: 109 various public awareness activities were conducted. The activities included workshops for disabled youth, families, schoolteachers, as well as theater plays, seminars, and celebration of the world's disabled day. 6,684 disabled youth, family member, and teachers participated in these activities; of them 3,215 were females.

2. **Distribution:** The distribution of 3,940 T-shirts, 3,100 calendars, and 50 gifts. The T-shirts and Calendars raised issues related to the empowerment of disabled youth in the Palestinian society.
3. **Center Rehabilitation:** A Disabled Rehabilitation Center in Gaza was provided with equipment. The Center benefits 50 disabled youth; of them 12 are female.
4. **Disabled Sport Leagues:** The program provided assistance to 10 sports leagues working with the disabled. Each sports league provides services to 150 physically challenged youth.
5. **School Modifications:** Disabled access facilities were constructed in 80 schools in the West Bank and Gaza. These modifications benefited directly 191- physically challenged students (including 85 females) in these schools. The modifications will encourage other families to send their disabled children to the schools in the future.
6. **Public Buildings Modifications:** Access facilities were constructed in 28 different locations in the West Bank. The facilities included ramps, toilets, and bars. The access facilities will benefit the physically challenged youth and the elderly. The estimated number of physically challenged and elderly using these facilities is 26,000.
7. **House Modifications:** 23 houses were modified to facilitate the life of poor, physically challenged youth in Gaza. In most cases, the physically challenged youth have no appropriate toilets in their houses.

Activity Name	Accomplished Quantity	Beneficiaries	USAID Contribution	Estimated working days created
Public Awareness Activities	109	6684	11,400	0
Distributions	6	7090	16,071	0
Rehabilitation Center	1	50	5,917	0
Disabled Sport Leagues	10	1500	30,289	0
School Modifications	80	191	230,000	5370
Public Buildings Modifications	28	13000	72,877	1700
House Modifications	23	23	65888	1760
Total:	257	28,538	432,442	8830

EUROPE AND EURASIA

ALBANIA -

* Our efforts have been limited to looking for appropriate opportunities to address the disabilities issue. Albania has a very rigid social structure in which persons with

disabilities traditionally are protected by families and rarely seen in public. We sense changes are underway: more medical assistance is being sought and special schooling for the disabled is being started.

* For the future, we will continue to monitor the situation and be open for opportunities for intervention.

ARMENIA

USAID/Armenia, through a grants program implemented by World Learning, has been supporting Armenian NGOs working with the disabled since August 2001. Over the past year, 6 grants, ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 have been awarded to organizations located in Yerevan and the regions. The projects carried out by the NGOs include: lobbying for laws that provide disabled children with equal access to public school education; tutoring and children's clubs that integrate disabled children into the community; public awareness campaigns on disability; legislation advocating for the rights of the mentally ill; and skills training for the disabled. Several of the NGOs employ persons with disabilities on their staff. In addition to the grant, the NGOs all receive institutional capacity building training.

2001 Grant recipients:

Lusastgh Social Benevolent Union – Vanadzor

Mission: The integration of disabled persons into society, advancement of their rights to education and employment.

Astghik Disabled Children's Parents Union – Yerevan and Regions

Mission: To promote intergration of disabled children into society. To promote the adoption of laws on disabled children.

Havat Disabled Women's Union – Gyumri

Mission: To protect the rights of disabled children and promote their social integration.

Mental Health Foundation – Yerevan

To coordinate efforts of specialists working in the field of mental health to improve services for the mentally ill.

Bridge of Hope – Yerevan and Regions

Mission: To assist the integration of disabled children into public schools and into society in general.

Havat Social Union of Mother's of Hard of Hearing Children – Yerevan

Mission: To help children with hearing problems, to promote their education and physical development. To give material support to families of children with hearing problems.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

USAID/BiH has an unwritten policy of considering people with disabilities in its infrastructure projects. For example, all reconstructed buildings, such as clinics, schools and offices, provide access to people with disabilities (ramps, elevators and restrooms) to the extent possible.

BULGARIA

USAID/Bulgaria does not have an explicit Disability Plan but the people with disabilities are always a target group in our community level assistance programs. Below please find some examples of the projects we have implemented and the achievements we have made.

1. USAID/Bulgaria, through the Democracy Network Program, supported a number of small groups throughout Bulgaria working with people with disabilities. Democratic Citizenship Coalition has a program to proactively involve young people with disabilities in their training activities for NGOs in small municipalities. Grant makers funded several groups working to integrate people with disabilities into their larger communities. IRIS assisted with advocacy issues affecting disabled persons.

USAID funded grantee National Social Rehabilitation Center; Bourgas implemented the “Social Integration Program for Young People with Disabilities” which was launched in November 2000. Working with people between 18-45, the program has a threefold purpose, support group, training and advocacy. The group meets monthly to discuss issues and challenges they face; they advise and encourage each. They also participate in a series of art studios where they learn craft skills to make objects, which they are selling at local hotels and tourist areas. Successful advocates for increased accessibility, the group was able to persuade the municipality to put wheelchair access ramps on two of seven city crossroads. The municipality, with ongoing encouragement from the group, is working on the other five crossroads.

As part of its advocacy training program, IRIS specialists work with a core team from the Bulgarian Center for Independent Living and their coalition of 25 NGOs throughout Bulgaria advocating for disability rights, to achieve a transformation of the policy and law on disabilities. In its 2000-01 effort, the group successfully advocated for a change in the law that now includes a new anti-discrimination provision. While this was a step forward, their aim which continues is to work for a totally new piece of legislation that is in line with EU legislation and reflects consultation with the disabilities community in Bulgaria. The Center has been invited to join a Parliamentary council on labor and social policy, giving them increased opportunity and access to advocate.

USAID/Bulgaria's Pilot Community Fund and Social Enterprise (SE) Program works for the inclusion of the people with disabilities into society. 23 Bulgarian NGOs that provide

social services to marginalized groups were included to participate in the Social Enterprise Program. The objective of the program is to provide technical assistance, business training and recoverable grants to NGOs to develop viable social enterprises. Seven of the organizations work with people with disabilities and 2 of the organizations are for parents of children with disabilities.

Described below are the organizations with their location, target group and social enterprise idea.

Targovishte Mental Health Association	Targovishte	People with psychological disabilities (either former or present patients) and their relatives.	New SE. Start a production that will be within patients and ex-patients specifics and abilities. Create a center for them.
Centre for Mental Health "Chovekolubie"	Pazargik	People with mental health and psychiatric problems.	New SE. Production of souvenirs. Job creation and labor therapy for the people with disabilities.
Association of Parents of Children with Cerebral Palsy	Varna	Children with cerebral palsy and children with congenital and hereditary impairments and their parents.	New SE. Production and distribution of vegetables to provide alternative employment for children with disabilities and their parents.
BAPID	Pernik	People with intellectual and physical problems with mild and moderate intellectual retardation.	New SE. Production of packing bags; jobs and skills provision for mentally disabled children.
Association of disabled people "Nadegda"	Dobrich	Disabled people - I category	New SE. Establish a computer club providing different processing services and computer training for their members
Regional Diabetic Care Union	Bourgas	Diabetic people and their relatives	New SE. Open Diabetic Step cabinet & Daily Station and Hot Care Line Information – social services for the diabetics
"Eyes on four paws" Foundation	Sofia	Blind people on the territory of Bulgaria.	New SE. Establish a school for guide dogs in Bulgaria, where the following auxiliary activities will be developed along with the core activity:
Psychological Center for Research (PCRD)	Sofia	People with physical, mental and sensory disabilities.	New SE. Social enterprise will focus on conveying formally and informally the positive aspects of inclusion by giving practical, informal and E-formal education and training.
Center of Independent Living	Sofia	People with physical disabilities of working age from Sofia and groups and organizations of people with disabilities from all over the country.	New SE. Provision of paid social services in the community to people with physical disabilities of working age in Sofia area. The incomes will come from fees for services and from

			delivery of paid training and consultations for other organizations, institutions and universities as well as from publications.
--	--	--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Most of the representatives of the organizations that participate in the training seminars are people with disabilities. They are entirely integrated into the training seminars and have accessibility to all the services and accommodation that they need. The only blind person that participates in the training is always accompanied by an assistant. The organizations that work with people with disabilities by developing a social enterprise will have a threefold effect:

- Inclusion, access, equality
- Job placement /improvement of skills
- Income generation for the people with disabilities

As active participants in the program the organizations for people with disabilities will play an important role in demonstrating a model for income generating activities and job placement for people with disabilities that will further empower and strengthen their mission of changing the society perception towards disable people.

As part of the strategy planning for the period 2002-2007, USAID/Bulgaria has stated its intention to work more deeply in the social sector and has developed a social sector strategic objective which will target the most vulnerable groups in Bulgaria society among which are the disabled people.

CAUCASUS Region

Report: USAID/Caucasus Activities Benefiting Persons with Disabilities

Summary:

USAID/Caucasus Mission programs are providing assistance to persons with disabilities (PWDs) through grants to organizations and institutions that provide services to PWDs. Even though USAID/Caucasus Mission does not have a disability plan, we are promoting Agency Disability Policy of non-discrimination against people with disabilities, in programs funded by USAID. Whenever possible USAID programs stimulate the engagement of host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in promoting non-discrimination against and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

USAID Implementing partners report on support to disabled individuals benefiting from their activities in the larger context of their work, but not as a specific reporting requirement. Approximately 25 NGOs implementing USAID/Caucasus programs include assistance to PWDs, in one form or other. Two Strategic Objectives (SOs) of

USAID/Georgia and one Strategic Objective (SO) of USAID/Azerbaijan program support persons with disabilities and institutions assisting PWDs. These are detailed below in the section "key activities and accomplishments to date".

USAID/Caucasus programs benefited blind, deaf, wheel chair-bound, mentally disabled adults and children, and vulnerable groups affected by drought, earth quakes and socio-political conflicts in south Caucasus (Georgia and Azerbaijan).

In order to further efforts to include people with disabilities in the Mission's programs, it will be helpful to receive Guidance from USAID/W. Additional resources may be required to target special programs for persons with disabilities.

Key activities and accomplishments to date

- USAID/Georgia

SO 1.3 Accelerated Development and Growth of Private Enterprises/Micro-enterprise lending:

USAID's rural credit, micro-credit and land reform programs (ACDI/VOCA, Constanta, Terra Institute-Land Market Development) provide services to applicants regardless of disability. For example, USAID partner microfinance institution- Constanta Foundation's client in Batumi is a wheelchair-bound entrepreneur who runs a family business with other disabled family members, packaging soap and cleaning supplies. In Tbilisi, two blind microfinance clients use borrowed funds to finance their operation which produces plastic electrical plugs. The bulk of USAID-supported microfinance lending goes to small-scale trading operations, many of which are run by civilian victims of war. When clients for these programs have special needs, USAID's program implementers provide support to help disabled clients participate in the programs. For example, a deaf client at Constanta was able to use a sign language interpreter to negotiate a loan agreement.

Due to the high level of corruption in Georgia, it is not advisable to give special benefits or tax exemptions to special categories of people, as past experience has shown many such experiments end up being exploited or misdirected.

SO 2.3 More Efficient and Responsive Local Government/Civil Society Strengthening Horizonti, a Georgian NGO created and supported by USAID provides small grants and technical assistance to emerging NGOs working in different fields. The following organizations received grants from Horizonti to provided assistance to persons with disabilities.

"Shelter for Disabled Persons in Gremi, Georgia": The NGO TEMI is using the USAID grant (\$7,000) to run a shelter for disabled and persons suffering from mental illness. The shelter currently houses 40 persons. The NGO used a part of the grant to buy several cows for use by the shelter. The cows provide milk and the milk products

(cheese and matsoni -Georgian yogurt) for both consumption in the shelter and for sale at the local market. All proceeds from the products sold at the local market go back to the shelter.

“School for Parents for the Prevention of Sickesses and The Rehabilitation of Disabled Children” : NGO Ortosi (\$3,880) helped establish a “School for Parents” which would provide young parents with basic medical information and early diagnose of potentially disabling and serious illnesses of children. During the last six months, the school provided direct consultations to 73 patients. In addition, daily phone consultations were available to those unable to travel to the school in person. Five hundred copies of the brochure “Advice for Young Parents” were published and distributed to parents of sick and disabled children. TV programs on the State television’s channel-1 reported the work of the “School for Parents” and the NGO’s work in this area.

“Protection and Advocacy on Behalf of Socially Unprotected Children with Disabilities”- The NGO International Foundation for Society Development– SDIF (\$ 3972 Grant) supported the following two projects: study of conditions of children with disabilities in state institutions and their needs, and recommend amendments to the laws providing protection and care for children with disabilities to the Parliamentary Committee on Legal Issues. SDIF created a database of the disabled children’s needs in an effort to find people or groups willing to support disabled children. SDIF established contacts with US based SEE International that provided for the travel of American Ophthalmologists to Georgia to examine and treat the children. SDIF also obtained the donations of a computer and an audiometer to a school for children with speech and hearing disabilities. SDIF in cooperation with the Georgian Young Lawyers Association studied the laws providing for the protection of children with disabilities and presented draft amendments to the Parliament of Georgia for legislative action.

“Development of Disabled Teens in Telavi Georgia”: NGO Akhali Sitsotskhle (Grant \$4,000) - The city of Telavi in the Kakheti regions of Eastern Georgia had no schools or programs to assist young people with mental and physical disabilities. The NGO Akhali Sitsotskhle (new life) helped establish a program targeted towards teenagers with mental and physical disabilities. The program included modern teaching methods coupled with rehabilitation, medical and physical therapy.

“Educational Center for the Blind in Gori, Georgia”: The NGO Kartlis Deda (Mother of Georgia) used the USAID grant (\$3,935) to implement the project “Lampari” (The Lamp). The project helped establish an education center with a small library. The center helped refurbish an office space with five tape-recorders, earphones, audiocassettes, and audio books. The center assists the blind to master Braille as well as study the Georgian, Russian and English alphabets. Two teenagers who completed studies in the center have continued their studies at the Tbilisi School for the Blind.

Under the SO 2.2 Legal Systems that Better Support Implementation of Democratic Processes and Market Reform/ROL Strengthening USAID grantees (ABA/CEELI and IRIS) are providing sub-grants to a number of Georgian legal advocacy NGOs. One such

group is the NGO “Article 42.” Article 42 provides legal advice, services and advocacy on behalf of Georgian citizens who are in need of legal services but are unable to pay for them.

In 2001, Article 42 Tbilisi office provided legal consultations to 13 persons with disabilities (9 consultations concerned outstanding pension delays 4 -- social security issues). Seven cases were brought to court, of which 1 was a criminal law case concerning the fact of beating of a person by the police and 6 were civil law cases concerning outstanding pension debts. In 2002 Article 42 Tbilisi office provided consultations to 30 persons with disabilities (24 consultations concerned civil law issues and 2 concerned criminal law issues). At present 3 civil law cases, 2 property and moral damage compensation cases and 1 case concerning pension debt are pending in the court. Kutaisi office provided consultations to 80 persons with disabilities. 3 civil law and 2 criminal law cases are presently in the court. Gori office provided legal consultations to 6 persons with disabilities (mainly concerning pension issues). 3 cases were brought to court and in one case CPC lawyers addressed administrative offices on behalf of a disabled person.

SO 3.1 Reduced Human Suffering in Targeted Communities/Humanitarian and Disaster Assistance: Mercy Corps manages the East Georgia Community Mobilization Initiative Program (E-GCMI) in Georgia. Through Mercy Corps’s Grants (\$ 427,805) NGO and community projects assisted 17,829 disabled children and adults. The main goals of the programs are social integration and deinstitutionalization of disabled children, their education and health care. Implementers established a center for disabled adults and elderly, where disabled persons are employed and produce various goods (notebooks, candles, soap, etc.). Beneficiaries are able to get vocational therapy and earn their living at the same time.

As a result of community mobilization work of E-GCMI, the following projects have been implemented for disabled groups: rehabilitation of canteen, baths, laundry and sewer system, repair of water supply and collection system in the Weak-Sighted Children’s State Boarding School, rehabilitation of schools and kindergartens (Note: school and kindergarten rehabilitation were not primarily intended for disabled beneficiaries, but 36 disabled children benefited as a result of the projects).

Under the USAID-funded Georgia Winter Heating Assistance Program (GWHAP) 54,110 invalid persons and 6,873 war veterans received subsidized electricity in the last two winters. A local NGO, the Disabled Women’s Association managed the public information aspects of GWHAP.

SO 4.2 Cross-Cutting Programs-Participant Training

Participants with disabilities are included in USAID-sponsored training programs wherever possible. In CY 2001, a person with disabilities participated in the Social Reform Training Program held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The program brought together organizations serving persons with disabilities and the representatives of the Ministries of Health, Labor and Social Protection, Ombudsmen’s Offices in the region. The objective

of the training program was to build support for disabled children and adults to become part of regular health, social service and employment systems in Georgia.

USAID-sponsored training events include providing training of individuals who assist persons with disabilities, building advocacy and management capabilities of local organizations that represent the disabled. This year the representative of the Center for Disabled "Tanadgoma" was funded by USAID to participate in the 5th Plenary Meeting of Southern Europe Disability Committee, held in Rome, Italy. Legislative Support and Development for Disabled Persons training program is planned for the fall of this year.

- USAID/Azerbaijan

SO 2.1 Civil Society Better Organized and Represented

Rule of Law - ABA-CEELI organized a conference on Defending People with Mental Disabilities in both criminal and civil cases during October 2001 for fifty attendees. Among the attendees were judges, lawyers, law students and a legal association aiding PWDs. During 2002 IFES's civic education programs in the regions of Mingachevir, Barda and Ismayilli have included some 89 people with disabilities. ISAR during 2002 worked with some 14 organizations to organize and provide programs for PWDs including mainstreaming initiatives. The total number of beneficiaries for these programs is 2916.

During 2002, Internews has produced and aired 9 stories on disability issues. IFES works with both the Union of War Veterans and the Union of Disabled Women. ISAR works with eight NGOs of disabled people and six NGOs whose programs are aimed towards disabled people. NDI works with the Nagorno-Karabakh War Veterans Association who has members who are disabled from the War.

On September 2, USAID/Azerbaijan Country Office held a meeting with partners to devise a plan for inclusion of PWDs in their programs. It is also planned to include within PMP data collection a breakdown of the number of people with disabilities and number of disability partner organizations supported by USAID/Caucasus efforts.

CENTRAL ASIA Region

In the countries of Central Asia, as in much of the former Soviet Union, persons with disabilities encounter a difficult environment and serious lack of opportunity. Many of the old institutions that attempted to assist people with disabilities took a patronizing approach; and today even support from those institutions has been severely curtailed as a result of constrained public sector budgets in the Central Asian republics. New and often more progressive non-governmental organizations that represent disabled people have formed in recent years, and offer new models for programs that address the needs and rights of the disabled.

USAID/CAR considers programs that address the needs and rights of the disabled to be a high priority. While USAID/CAR does not have a stand alone vehicle devoted solely to the disabled, many of our existing programs and projects include activities that directly respond to the requests for assistance from groups of disabled. The following list indicates some of these activities, and demonstrates the breadth of programs we support for persons with disabilities.

We will continue to look for opportunities to assist groups that address issues related to the disabled, through our ongoing programs and particularly our small grants programs with NGOs.

GRANTS TO NGOS

In Kazakhstan, USAID through Counterpart Consortium provided the Kostanai Oblast Branch of Deaf People's Society with a grant to support and buy equipment for their club. Grant funds will be used to purchase and install equipment and the community will contribute labor and materials. Also in Kazakhstan, USAID supported the Disabled Women's Society "Bibi Ana" to create an information and legal support service center for disabled women.

In Uzbekistan, USAID has assisted the Umidvorlik Support Center for Disabled Children and their Families. USAID has assisted the center to develop a program for parents who have children with limited abilities; and to develop a health-related program for women who have disabled children. The center has produced books, films and interactive seminars for its clients.

Also in Uzbekistan, USAID has supported the KRIDI Club (Club for Rehabilitation and Integration of Children with Disabilities). The club is a network of five grassroots organizations in Tashkent, with over 2,000 members, that works to empower children with disabilities and their parents, and to make Uzbek society more accessible for children with disabilities.

In Uzbekistan, local communities are commonly organized into strong local associations known as "mahallas". USAID has assisted numerous mahallas and local organizations to offer special training for parents, and special rehabilitation services. In southern Kyrgyzstan, USAID has assisted residents' associations to rehabilitate waterworks, including public bathhouses, to be able to accommodate disabled people. USAID has made grants to over 25 local community organizations in Uzbekistan alone to assist in such projects as legal education for disabled people, infrastructure improvement in schools for blind and disabled children, and establishment of learning centers and study groups, including computer literacy.

In Kyrgyzstan, ACDI/VOCA worked with a community to build a new auditorium for a school with a high number of deaf students and deaf parents. Re-building the auditorium allowed the school to purchase and use equipment specially designed for the deaf students.

TRAINING AND NGO SUPPORT

In Kazakhstan, Counterpart Consortium provided training to assist NGOs delivering social services to people with disabilities to improve their organizational capacity. After seminars and consultations in fundraising at Counterpart's Civil Society Support Center, the "Raduga" Public Association of Mothers of Disabled Children initiated a charity auction to collect funds and attract public attention to the problems facing disabled children and their families. Local media thoroughly covered this issue.

Parents of disabled children in Khorog, Tajikistan decided to form an initiative group to help address their children's needs. After attending a USAID-assisted training workshop on NGO development, the parents formed the Ngo "Nur" which means ray of hope. The members of Nur developed a project proposal to create an educational center for disabled children. They submitted this proposal to Save the Children who supported the program with an \$8,000 grant. The Khorog City government donated the space for the center. The education Center for Disabled Children officially opened in Khorog and now 35 children attend the center.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR SERVICES

The Family Medicine Center in Astana, the capitol of Kazakhstan, established a support center for children with disabilities, in collaboration with the Center for Children's Social Adaptation. Twice a month, FMC staff meet with parents to discuss particular issues related to raising and caring for children with disabilities. As a result of the Center's support and educational training program, four children were admitted to a special school. The FMC program was developed in partnership with Pittsburgh medical institutions under the auspices of the American International Health Alliance.

KAZAKHSTAN

A number of our USAID-funded democracy programs are engaged in activities that assist local organizations serving the disabled in Central Asia. They are being carried out under SO 2.1, "Strengthened Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Targeted Institutions".

In Kazakhstan, Soros Volunteer House has mobilized its volunteers to help organize several festivals for disabled children. Such events promote a sense of volunteerism and citizen involvement in community-based activities and strengthen civil society. This benefits entire communities as well as marginalized groups, especially disabled children.

In Tajikistan, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) will target disabled children for participation in their democracy summer camps next year. This will give disabled children an opportunity to get involved in civic education activities, and to learn more about principles of a democratic society, such as human rights, conflict

prevention, gender rights, and others. The summer camp will also include disabled person's rights among the topics.

Counterpart Consortium implements the Civil Society and NGO Development Program in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The program strengthens local NGO and community capacity for citizen mobilization and community outreach. NGOs and community groups that support the disabled are among the beneficiaries of the program. The following are a few success stories from the Counterpart program.

- In Nukus, Uzbekistan, The Creative Center of Support for Disabled Children, Shans, has had difficulty paying transportation costs for children from poor families when visiting the Center. To overcome this difficulty, the NGO conducted an advocacy campaign to provide 18 deaf and mute children, and their families, with free transportation. As a result, the NGO obtained the commitment of two transportation providers for free service (from April-June 2002 Counterpart quarterly report).
- In Kazakhstan, the society lacks a philanthropic culture and funding of NGO social projects through donations is still relatively new and infrequent. The Astana Agency of Social Technologies and Development, a civil society support center, in cooperation with a group of local NGOs, carried out a fundraising campaign in Astana with participation of parliamentarians, representatives of state executive bodies and over 70 non-governmental organizations. The campaign generated over 13,000 KZT (\$85) in donations, the proceeds of which were given to the Malotimopheev Home for the Aging and Disabled. Although they raised a small amount of money, this joint NGO-government effort went a long way toward breaking down societal stereotypes about charity (from Jan-March Counterpart 2002 quarterly report).
- Difficult social and economic conditions in Kazakhstan have led to a reduction in social benefits for disabled persons in Kostanai city. As a result of the training from the Kostanai Civil Society Support Center, the NGO Youth Support Association conducted a participatory appraisal and developed a community action plan to address the problems of the blind in that community. The appraisal uncovered several problems, including poor security, high transportation costs and lack of higher education opportunities. As a result of the appraisal, the Kostanai Civil Society Support Center and the NGO Youth Support Association lobbied local government officials and organized public hearings. As a result of their efforts, the city authorities initiated free transportation for the blind, buses began to announce stops, and traffic lights were equipped with voice signals. Moreover, a number of blind children graduated from schools and were enrolled to the local university (from Jan-March Counterpart 2002 quarterly report).

KOSOVO

USAID/Kosovo Community Infrastructure and Services Program (CISP 167-0310.00 - SO 3.1) is designed to address critical infrastructure needs identified by communities throughout Kosovo.

We have not implemented projects with Handikos or projects for which people with disabilities are direct beneficiaries.

In our infrastructure rehabilitation projects such as schools, health clinics and cultural centers we have always included in the scope of work the construction of the ramp, to enable access of people with disabilities to those services.

MACEDONIA

USAID/Macedonia has not noticed that programs discriminate or that the disabled have been included. Nonetheless, USAID Macedonia will look for opportunities to be more proactive within the program. The building/office has been improved to allow access to the disabled.

ROMANIA

Background: Romania's difficult economic conditions and serious budgetary constraints have contributed to difficult living conditions for persons with disabilities. Services for persons with special needs continued to be under-funded and hence inefficient. Outside of large institutions, social services for persons with disabilities are almost nonexistent. The state system to support persons with disabilities requires major reform efforts including interventions targeting both decision makers and service providers. Starting in 2000, small steps have been taken to reform the system for the assistance of persons with disabilities. However, there remains a lot to be done in order to reform the social services for the disabled.

Although USAID/ Romania did not or does not fund activities that address solely persons with disabilities; significant components of the Mission's activities are targeted toward vulnerable persons with a special focus on institutionalized children.

USAID/ Romania Programs: The USAID activities in support of children with disabilities are implemented through the World Learning-ChildNet program and are grouped in two major areas: 1) improved policies and procedures and, 2) direct services for disabled children.

1. Three significant results or on-going actions worth mentioning as successful USAID efforts to change the policy and procedures affecting children with disabilities:

a) A unified evaluation commission for children with disabilities and a unitary set of criteria for the classification of the disability levels. Children with disabilities, both those in institutions and families, used to be evaluated at the county level by three different Commissions: Commission for Child Protection, Medical Commission for Diagnosis, and the Commission for Special Education. All these commissions have been unified under one commission that will perform both the complex evaluation and the design of the individualized rehabilitation plans for each child. USAID, in collaboration with UNICEF, assisted the National Authority for Child Protection and Adoption to work with other relevant Ministries (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Ministry of National Education and the State Secretariat for People with Handicaps) to elaborate the unitary set of criteria for the classification of disability levels for children and the methodology for the implementation of individualized rehabilitation plans. Based on the criteria, GOR plans to establish a new legal basis for providing services to children with disabilities.

b) Draft of the training curricula for the newly formed evaluation commission. ChildNet contributed in a significant way to draft and pilot the training curricula for the members of the commission for complex evaluation of children with special needs in six counties.

c) Define alternative solution for the institutionalized children with disabilities. ChildNet, in collaboration with UNICEF, is in the process of evaluating and reforming 18 of the worst placement centers for disabled children toward finding alternative solutions for the 1,163 resident children and, subsequently, closing the institutions.

2. Direct Services for Disabled Children: USAID funded organizations that, in partnership with county or local authorities provide direct services for disabled children. The main focus is the de-institutionalization and family reintegration of children with disabilities and the prevention of abandonment. The range of services varies from implementing services that are new for Romania, such as respite care, to training for life and vocational skills for disabled teenagers and setting up therapeutic center. Current sub-grants target 717 children with disabilities and their families and will be implemented at the community level.

The actions mentioned above were supplemented by focused participant training activities that were aimed at creating support for the necessary changes in the system of services for persons with disabilities.

During November-December 1999, a group of 16 policy makers and service providers representing both the public and private institutions traveled to the U.S. and visited model alternative services for the disabled, such as day care centers and group homes, with improved and more cost effective service approaches. The group was exposed to managerial and financial management techniques in addition to gaining a better understanding of the important role of alternative family and foster care. Participants

were also able to observe various facets of policy formulation and the provisions of services for the disabled.

As a result of USAID assistance, Romanian officials and service-providers have utilized newly acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes to begin implementation of a new reform strategy with funds from the EU. This strategy will promote alternative models to residential institutionalization, overall system decentralization, demedicalization, expanded community involvement, public education, outreach and advocacy.

Futures Plans: USAID/ Romania will continue to provide support to vulnerable groups, including the disabled, and work with the Government of Romania and other organizations to reform the provisions of services to and the treatment of the disabled. Our efforts and interventions will be carried out in partnership with the other international donors, the local authorities and organizations, as well as community representatives.

LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL

USAID/Brazil does not have a formal disability plan. The former Mission Director, who departed post in mid-August of 2002, met with Government and NGO institutions to discuss efforts underway in Brazil to address the needs and rights of the disabled. She also explored potential USAID assistance, but was unable to identify an appropriate initiative within the Mission's existing portfolio, strategy, and target areas (most existing programs in support of the disabled are found in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, which are not target areas under the existing USAID/Brazil strategy).

Brazil does not have a well defined national disability policy in place. Scattered pieces of legislation mandate free access to public transportation for disabled persons; priority parking spaces; and curb cuts and wheelchair ramps in public buildings. However, even these bills are not rigorously enforced.

The Mission's At-Risk Youth strategic objective includes activities that support disabled children and adolescents, aimed to increase their access to institutions and schools that traditionally assist at-risk youth through computer-related and other technology-based training. We will continue this effort as part of our recently approved FY2003-08 strategy.

USAID/Brazil is a small Mission, which lacks the personnel and financial resources necessary for a stand-alone program focused on disability issues. We are, however, cognizant of the needs and rights of disabled persons, and work to incorporate related considerations into our existing portfolio wherever appropriate. A formal Mission Plan

to ensure that this policy is adhered to, however, is missing. We will be working to remedy this situation during the coming months.

ECUADOR

USAID/Ecuador does not have a disability plan in place to explicitly include people with disabilities in its programs. Nonetheless, under the Special Development Assistance Activities (SDAA) (i.e. small productive and/or education projects up to \$7,000). USAID/Ecuador financed activities supporting people with disabilities, such as special equipment for a deaf children institution, facilities for a foundation working on hypotherapy for disabled children, equipment for a wheelchair factory, and others. Unfortunately, we do not have disaggregated data to verify the percentage of disabled people that are beneficiaries of these programs.

Internally, the Mission has made several advances. Mission staff includes one person with disabilities. USAID facilities were changed in the entrance gate, the elevators and adequate office space to accommodate this staff person and visitors. Evacuation plans now consider specific instructions for people with disabilities. In addition, in FY 2000, the Mission sponsored three Ecuadorian people (2 from the Ministry of Education and one from the National Council of Disabilities-CONADIS) to participate in the “Sixth International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community”. Also, a member of USAID/E staff participated last December in the United Nations expert group meeting on disability-sensitive policy and program monitoring and evaluation. USAID/E intends to sponsor the participation of a member of a local NGO (FUVIRESE) for the Seventh International Congress on Supporting Children with Disabilities in Argentina in October 2002.

As a separate highlight, it is worth mentioning that the President of Ecuador was recently awarded with the Franklin Roosevelt Award at the United Nations for the country’s important efforts developed to integrate and include people with disabilities in the community. Ecuador was the first Latin American country receiving this award. Ecuador through the National Council of Disabilities (CONADIS) created a special law to integrate people with disabilities in society. The experience and work of CONADIS in this area has constituted a model for other Latin American countries.

The Mission needs time and resources to develop a Disability Action Plan to assure that people with disabilities are mainstreamed into mission programming. In FY 03, with the recent increase in our OYB, the Mission will take steps to address disability in its programming operations. For example, an assessment team is due from USAID/W in November to examine the in-country health situation. This might provide further analytical support for future intervention in disability programs. Time permitting, it is also our intention to develop an action plan over the next year.

EL SALVADOR

Over the last decade, USAID/El Salvador has strongly supported programs benefiting the disabled and the war wounded. The Mission continues to support programmatic interventions across its portfolio that benefit the disabled. Our recent support for programs for the disabled is described below.

A. Human Capacity Development (HCD) Activity (519-0432)

Completed

a) Sixth International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community (October 2000):

USAID/El Salvador sponsored the participation of ten (10) Salvadorans in the Sixth International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community. The Congress took place in October 2000, in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and was hosted by the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL) and the Alberta Association for Community Living (AACL). Participants represented several sectors that work in the area of disability:

- * The National Council for Persons with Disabilities, under the Office of the Salvadoran First Lady
- * The Salvadoran Institute for Rehabilitation of the Disabled
- * The Ministry of Education (MOE)
- * Parents of children with disabilities
- * A person with mild retardation

Two staff members from the USAID/El Salvador Office of Economic Growth and Education (EGE) accompanied these participants.

As a result of this training intervention, each participant developed and implemented a plan of action within his/her organization to promote awareness of the importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

b) Assistance to the Office of the Salvadoran First Lady (mid 2002):

USAID/El Salvador provided assistance by carrying out an extensive and intensive research to respond to a special request from the current First Lady Flores about U.S. public schools with resource rooms for gifted and mildly disabled children. She was interested in this information in order to coordinate an observational visit to the U.S. with representatives from the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Salvadoran Institute for the Protection of Minors (ISPM) in order to promote similar interventions in El Salvador. As a result of the investigative inquiry, USAID/El Salvador recommended contacting the Federal Resource Center for Special Education (FRC), which supports a nationwide technical assistance network that responds to the needs

of students with disabilities and/or gifted children, especially students in under-represented populations. In addition, several public schools on the East Coast noted for the level of inclusive programming were recommended for possible visit.

Currently

a) Training Activity with the Kennedy Foundation:

The scope of work for a new contract for the implementation of the HCD Activity includes training seminars for 100 pre-school teachers from the MOE. The purpose of this training program is to provide teachers with knowledge, skills, and tools for early detection, referral, and dealing with learning disabilities, as well as practical methodologies on how to incorporate these children into classroom activities. We plan to carry out these seminars during the first half of the 2003 calendar year. The Kennedy Foundation has offered to pay the costs of program design and cost-share implementation.

b) Technical Assistance to Don Bosco University:

Two staff members of the Office of Economic Growth and Education are providing technical assistance for the scholarship program in orthopedic technology (orthotics and prosthetics) at the Don Bosco University. The scholarship program is funded under the Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund, through the Central American Tripartite Landmine Initiative administered by PAHO.

USAID/El Salvador staff members are working with the team at the Don Bosco University, and in close coordination with the German cooperating agency (GTZ), to improve and streamline documentation and processes for recruitment, screening, and selection of candidates for the scholarship program, as well as to design a follow-on component for participants.

B. Early Childhood and Family Education Activity (EDIFAM) (519-0433)

Completed

a) Curricula for Early Childhood Education and Pre-School Education (May 2002):

EDIFAM, through a Grant Agreement with UNICEF, developed a new curriculum for informal education for children three years old and younger (early childhood education), as well as for formal education for children ages four to six (pre-school education). The curricula, designed to be used at home, in child care centers, and in the pre-school system, include elements for early detection of children at risk and/or children with learning disabilities. The curricula will be validated in 2003 and fully implemented in 2004.

b) Training program for pre-school teachers (July 2002):

This training program funded under EDIFAM and coordinated through the HCD Activity, consisted of three modules, 40 hours each, delivered in May, June, and July 2002. It was designed to provide rural pre-school teachers from the Ministry of Education with methodologies and techniques for early detection of and dealing with children at risk, including children with disabilities. The modules covered the following topics:

- * Children at social risk: characteristics and basic interventions
- * The ABC of Child Development, from 0-6 years old
- * Pedagogical Periods, methodologies and resources

The forty teachers trained, as well as MOE officials, found this training program valuable, practical, and useful. The MOE is providing follow-up to the program and the teachers are enthusiastically applying the new techniques in the classroom. EDIFAM is planning to finance similar training programs for an additional one thousand pre-school teachers from the rural areas in fiscal year 2003-2004 through a buy-in with the HCD Activity.

Currently

USAID/El Salvador signed a cooperative agreement with Save the Children to implement early childhood development (ECD) activities in 24 rural communities. Under this cooperative agreement, Save the Children is working with pregnant women, caregivers, and ECD promoters to carry out an evaluation of the development rate and risk probabilities of 946 children (under the age of six) to detect developmental (physical, cognitive, emotional) disabilities, at an early stage and recommend adequate remedial actions.

C. The Cooperative Association of States for Scholarships (CASS)

Completed

In 2000 and 2002, the CASS Program awarded a total of four scholarships (two per year) for the hearing impaired, to study in Mount Aloysius College, Pennsylvania, for a two-year A.A. Degree program in Computer Applications for Deaf.

The scholars come from economically disadvantaged families living in rural areas. Upon their return to El Salvador, the CASS follow-on program will provide them with assistance for job placement and support for the community development activities they undertake.

E. Planned Activities under the Education Program

1. Excellence in Classroom Education at the Local Level (EXCELL) Program

This new intervention under the Social Sector Reform Project, will work with the MOE in three major areas: (a) Technical assistance and training to strengthen MOE's capacity to improve decentralized management and implement reforms; (b) Technical assistance and training to Principals of 250 rural and semi-urban public schools; and (c) Enhanced analytical capacity for educational policy research. USAID/El Salvador expects to have a Cooperative Agreement signed o/a February 2003. The program description for the Request for Application (RFA) indicates that the general approach to be adopted by the recipient organization should effectively promote disability inclusion in all program activities.

2. Development of the new education strategy

In December 2000, the EGE Office conducted a focus group with representatives from key Salvadoran institutions that work with persons with disabilities, as part of the consultation process for the design of a new Mission strategy. The process for the strategy was interrupted due to the earthquakes in January and February 2001; however, inputs obtained from the focus group will be revisited and updated when the Mission resumes the process in 2003.

D. Earthquake Recovery Program (519-0458)

Two disastrous earthquakes hit El Salvador in January and February 2001. USAID/El Salvador Earthquake Recovery Program (ERP) was approved for rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance. Key program themes under ERP include "building back better". Therefore, it is required that all construction projects funded under ERP are designed based on international standards with adequate accessibility for the disabled such as handicap ramps, width of doors, accessories for sanitary services. The program includes rebuilding or restoration of the following infrastructure in the rural area:

	<u>Targets</u>	<u>Accomplishments as of August 2002</u>
Schools	40	6
Child care centers	30	10
Clinics	7*	---
Houses	26,000	6,453
Markets	5	---
Municipal buildings	40	---

Includes the repair of the NGO Telethon Foundation Pro-Rehabilitation (FUNTER) at an estimated cost of \$282,000.

G. Healthy Salvadorans Activity (519-0430)

This activity has been designed to improve the quality and access of primary health care services primarily in rural areas to prevent poor prenatal care and unattended childbirth. Funding is provided for research to assess the prevalence, impact, and prevention of poorly understood causes of infant and child morbidity and mortality such as birth defects and congenital abnormalities.

Funding is also provided for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), since both mothers and children are at greater risk due to rising rates of these infections. Assistance is provided to: (1) train Ministry of Health (MOH) primary health care physicians and nurses in HIV/AIDS counseling and early detection, management, and treatment of STIs; (2) improve the MOH epidemiological surveillance of STDs and HIV/AIDS through the primary level of health services; and (3) implement with the MOH community-level educational programs on STIs and HIV/AIDS.

H. Landmine Survivors Network (LSN)

The Mission had the opportunity to meet in 2001 with representatives from LSN that came to El Salvador to establish the local organization that will provide support to landmine survivors and persons with limb loss. The Mission responded to their request for office furniture and equipment by referring them to the Excess Property Program managed by Food for the Poor.

JAMAICA

Strategic Objective # 4: Increased Literacy and Numeracy Among Targeted Jamaican Youth

Project Name: Uplifting Adolescents Project
Number: 5320177

The Uplifting Adolescents Project (UAP) is one of the projects under the Strategic Objective #4. It is a joint project of the Governments of Jamaica and the United States of America and is financed by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Jamaica. The project is in its second phase and hence is referred to as UAP2. UAP2 is a continuation of activities successfully implemented under Phase 1 of the project, which was managed by Development Associates. The primary responsibility of the UAP2 is the betterment of at-risk youth between the age of 10 and 18 years old who are not

enrolled in schools, have dropped out of school or do not attend school on a regular basis. The project focuses on improving the numeracy and literacy among targeted Jamaican youth, through Remedial Education, Pre-vocational Training and Reproductive Health. Phase 2 is being managed by an umbrella NGO, People's Action for Community Transformation (PACT), which has responsibility for administration, management, monitoring, and training of the selected 12 NGOs over a period, commencing November 2000. The Jamaica Association of the Deaf featured below is one of the twelve NGOs.

Brief History of Organization

services in courts of law.

Project Goal or Purpose

The number of students participating in the program is 357 (191 boys and 166 girls)

Highlights of the Program

Under the UAP2, USAID's funding has contributed to the following activities:

- Remedial education
- Training students in the philosophies and techniques of bilingual education for the Deaf. This training concentrated on the development of first language (Jamaica Sign Language – JSL) and transition to second language (written English).
- Training Deaf Culture Facilitators (DCFs) as tutors
- Training in strategic planning and community development
- Preparing students to write subjects for the Caribbean Examinations Council. These are examinations which will prepare students to matriculate for tertiary level training
- Working closely with parents to address issues such as: understanding JSL; children learn when parents listen; speech therapy; and issues on adolescent reproductive health.

MEXICO

1. With strong encouragement from and special funding provided to the Mission by the LAC Bureau, USAID/Mexico supported a large number of Mexicans to attend an

international conference on disabilities held in Canada a couple of years ago. Groups were sponsored from Mexico City, Oaxaca and the state of Hidalgo. One of the attendees eventually became President Fox's appointment in the President's Office for a new office that addresses programs and policies for people with disabilities.

2. As a follow-up to the Canada conference, USAID/Mexico, using its own South-South resources (designed to help Mexico show leadership in the LAC region through provision of Mexican technical assistance and training) supported Mexico's own national conference on disabilities. This annual conference, with attendance by several thousand, was able to show an international face for the first time as USAID/Mexico's funding was used to bring youth with disabilities from a number of LAC countries to participate in an "International Youth Forum" on disabilities. (We have fotos if you would like to place some in your report.)

The Youth Forum was very successful. We hope that the Youth Forum idea will be picked up by the next International Conference to be held in South America.

3. We supported Mexicans with disabilities to attend the same national conference in Mexico City through the granting of scholarships to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who could not afford to attend without financial help.

4. We also supported a conference side event - a field trip to the state of Hidalgo to see how that state is addressing disability issues. The field trip provided an opportunity for some of the conference delegates and for the international youth to see a very successful state-level program. The featured speakers at the Hidalgo side event were the wife of the Governor, who is the head of the Integral Family Development program of the state, and the Mission Director.

5. Under the Mission's new \$50 million Presidential Initiative for Training, Internships, Exchanges and Scholarships (TIES), announced by Presidents Bush and Fox on 6 September 2001 in Washington, DC during a state visit by President Fox, the Mission will fund a higher education partnership between Gallaudet University and the Mexican University Center. The partnership will establish a Master's level program to strengthen Mexico's capacity to provide appropriate, effective and meaningful education for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. The program will combine social and economic models of development promote increased productivity and empowerment of deaf Mexicans, with a focus on helping people with this disability better participate in NAFTA and other economic opportunities.

NICARAGUA

USAID/Nicaragua's Democratic Initiatives Program (SO 1) has provided two sub-grants under its civil society program to Los Pipitos, Nicaragua's largest NGO working with people with disabilities. The two grants totalled \$149,414 (provided in local currency). The grants were for activities to promote defense of human rights of disabled persons,

and to strengthen participation by disabled persons in drafting, passing and enforcement of public policies regarding disabled persons' rights. The projects provided support for formation of a national commission to promote and defend disabled persons' human rights, as well as creation and training of separate commissions in Nicaragua's departments. The titles of the two activities were "Human Rights, Rights for All. Rule of Law from a Disabled Perspective" (April 2000-March 2001) and "Human Rights: Rights for All, Phase II" (April 2001-March 2002). The projects were subgrants under USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 524-A-00-00-00023-00 with the Nicaraguan Development Center, titled "Strengthening Civil Society and Human Rights Program".

USAID/Nicaragua has continued the activity of developing teacher training modules in partnership with the Kennedy Foundation and also had an activity with a local NGO under our basic education program.

Kennedy Foundation (KF). Early in 2000, LAC approached USAID/N about collaborating with KF in the area of special education. KF's aim is to build partnerships in countries through regional work in teacher development. USAID's model schools, national training network, and programmatic link of in-service with pre-service training were favorable for such a partnership. In May 2000, a KF consultant gave a preliminary workshop for the Ministry's special education staff and model school teachers/administrators. Negotiations between USAID's basic education BASE II Project, the Ministry of Education and KF led to joint planning for the development of teacher training modules that will aid teachers in integrating children with mental retardation and other disabilities in the classroom.

In May 2002, a KF consultant brought modules developed in the US to Nicaragua and worked with Ministry staff, including some of our model school teachers and facilitators from Los Pipitos, a BASE-supported NGO that works with children with disabilities and their parents. A module on the legal framework was prepared by the Ministry of Education's special education department. KF is providing technical assistance for module development, while BASE is funding training and materials publication.

These modules will be used to train teachers to work with students who have mild and moderate mental retardation. They also help teachers work with students who are different, including those who have learning difficulties but not necessarily learning disabilities.

The Ministry of Education's special education department revised the materials and sent them to KF, whose specialists incorporated the changes and returned them to the Ministry last month. Beginning the first semester 2003, the materials will be piloted in the Normal Schools through our project's Model Schools, where students at the Normal Schools do their student teaching. BASE II will finance publication of the modules for the pilot and for use in the teacher quality circles, part of the national teacher training network. USAID is contributing between \$15,000 and \$20,000 into this partnership through the BASE II Project.

USAID/Guatemala will evaluate our training modules for possible use in Guatemala.

Los Pipitos, an NGO association of parents of children with disabilities, received a 2-year grant under the BASE II project to strengthen community participation in four primary schools. As their educational approach is inclusion, they trained teachers to work with children with disabilities in their regular classrooms, developing individualized education plans and incorporating them in classroom activities. Under this project, Los Pipitos designed and published student materials. This grant for \$113,000 ended in August, 2002.

PARAGUAY

Within our democracy-civil society program USAID/Paraguay is committed to the institutional strengthening and financial viability of selected NGOs that are active in the field of civil society participation, advocacy, oversight of public institutions and the provision of services.

One of our sub grantees, a local NGO named CENADE (Center to Assist People with Disabilities), is being strengthened by participating in this program. CENADE is very active in the field, having signed a pilot program with JICA, the Ministry of Health and the Governor of the Department of Itapúa (Were USAID also has selected health programs) to educate and train people with disabilities.

Under our maternal health program, our partners are working to provide health services such as pre and post-natal care, dissemination of information regarding anemia and other problems during pregnancy. This information helps to prevent disabilities, both in mothers and children.

Under the Disability Plan that is being developed, USAID/Paraguay plans to:

- i) disseminate USAID's Disability Law among our partners, grantees and staff,
- ii) through the Health SO within the maternal health program, continue to put emphasis on mothers and children diseases that could cause disabilities,
- iii) will explore the possibility of selecting others sub grantees that works with people with disabilities.
- iv) will explore the possibility (along with the Embassy's Public Affaires Office) to regularly advertise the rights of people with disabilities to promote social awareness of this issue.
- v) take any other actions deemed appropriate

PERU

USAID/Peru currently works with the National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE), which is the government agency that manages national and subnational elections in Peru. In November 2002, Peru will be holding subnational elections which will determine mayors and municipal councils at the district and provincial levels, and presidents and councils at the regional level. While municipal elections have been held for some time now, this is the first time that regional presidents and councils will be elected. In addition, these are the first subnational elections since the transition to democracy from the Fujimori regime. Finally, the elections are central to the Government's decentralization plan, a major objective of which is permit greater citizen participation in the political process.

To that end, one aspect of the USAID/Peru's program with ONPE is to promote greater electoral participation by disadvantaged groups, mainly disabled persons, women, and indigenous populations. ONPE will reach out to disabled persons through electoral training sessions, electoral information campaigns, and working through local public and private organizations to promote greater participation of the disabled. Specifically, this includes 1) training some 300 people in 6 cities to promote participation by the disabled; 2) sponsoring 30 workshops to train some 3,000 citizens with disabilities and 3) distributing informational materials via groups that work with the disabled. As a result, USAID and ONPE intend to 1) increase the electoral registration of disabled citizens and 2) increase the participation of disabled persons in the elections by 15% over the national elections of last year. The grant from USAID is made directly to the National Office of Electoral Processes. They in turn are using about a third of the grant to provide grant funds to local NGOs who will carry out the training, the activities to promote electoral participation, and the distribution of the information materials.

The Mission expects to focus its efforts on the enabling environment the will facilitate economic growth, enhance democratic governance, improve social conditions and reduce the production of coca. While such interventions do not lend themselves to a direct focus on disabled persons, these efforts will improve the quality of life of all Peruvians, especially the poor and disenfranchised.

Bureau for GLOBAL HEALTH

The Bureau for Global Health (BGH) is strongly committed to implementing USAID disability policy with regard to our staff and program. Several of the programs managed by BGH are designed to address the needs of people with disabilities, and prevent disabling and debilitating diseases. BGH staff and the programs managed by BGH have also worked effectively and extensively to raise awareness and advocate for programs to address the needs of the disabled, among other donors, U.S. government agencies and with host-country partners.

In response to your questions on our bureau's work with disability partners, and an update on activities and accomplishments over the last several years, I have attached a copy of the Patrick J. Leahy Were Victims Funds *Portfolio Synopsis 2002*. (www.leahywarvictimsfund.org). The report outlines Global Health's support to 11 country programs as well as several regional and worldwide initiatives. Additionally, the publication discusses a number of critical challenges facing both the Agency and our non-governmental partners implementing overseas programs.

One of the other critically important programs we support in the fight to prevent disabling diseases is polio eradication program. The World Health Organization estimates that over 5 million cases of infantile paralysis in serious disability have been averted in the global polio eradication initiative began in 1988. USAID has been a major contributor to this achievement. In addition USAID has entered into a cooperative agreement with the CORE Group, a consortium of 36 U.S.-based private voluntary organizations (PVOs) to increase PVO involvement in polio eradication. These PVOs provide a small amount of matching funds to complement the polio directive funds provided by USAID. Nearly all of the participating PVOs provide a modest amount of extra support to families with polio-affected children through these matching funds in the form of additional food, educational opportunities or physiotherapy -- a practice that USAID has encouraged. Detailed information on USAID activities and programs in this important area can be found at http://www.usaid.gov/pop_health/cs/cspolio.htm.

Bureau for ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE and TRADE

EGAT/WID (Women in Development) continues to follow the course set out in the previous Disability Reports. WID approaches all program matters on the principle of inclusivity and integration for people with disabilities with a focus on women and girls; and to continue relations and collaboration with Mobility International (MIUSA) and other internationally-focused disability organizations where appropriate in this pursuit.

In September 2001, an EGAT/WID-funded three-year cooperative agreement was awarded to Mobility International, USA (MIUSA) to support its program "Building an Inclusive Development Community: Gender Appropriate Technical Assistance to InterAction Member Agencies on Inclusion of People with Disabilities." Total authorized amount of the grant is \$707,451.

The purpose of the award is to a) increase participation by people with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities, in InterAction member agencies as participants, staff, administrators and beneficiaries; and b) increase implementation of the Disability Standards to the InterAction PVO Standards by member agencies, regarding inclusion of people with disabilities, especially women and girls with disabilities in organizational governance, management and programs.

Progress by MIUSA to date in implementing this program includes:

- assessment interviews with four Model Partner Organizations completed;
- development and field-testing of a template for the technical assistance model and curriculum;
- development of resource materials for technical assistance;
- completion of technical assistance training with two MPOs;
- outline completed, materials compiled and sections written for the “building an Inclusive Development Community” Manual;
- project database expanded and updated;
- topic-specific information and resource sheets developed;
- website updated and improved; and
- presentations on the program given to InterAction’s West Coast meeting and InterAction’s Annual Forum.

EGAT/ED (Education) has two endeavors that support the disabled:

-- The EGAT/ED SO2 team has a higher education partnership with Gallaudet University working with Centro Universitario Mexico on a framework for providing appropriate, effective, and meaningful education for deaf, and hard-of-hearing individuals in Mexico, and in the U.S.

-- USAID-funded work by Academy for Educational Development (AED) with the disabled, focusing on training activities, include the following activities in the past several years that directly or indirectly served or involved disabled persons.

- Trainees from Armenia and Uzbekistan attended the 6th and 7th International Congress on the Inclusion of Children with Disabilities. These events were designed to assist and de-institutionalize children with disabilities and promote their integration into society by training and re-orienting social and health care workers to be able to offer quality care and support to disabled children in their families and communities.
- Conference & exhibition on the contribution of NGOs to Armenia’s economic, democratic and social transition involved Armenian NGOs working in all spheres from throughout the country, including NGOs that serve the disabled.

- Meetings on NGO sustainability in Russia were held in Omsk, Kemerovo, Novosibirsk. Two of the participants represented organizations serving disabled populations in Armenia with the aim of strengthening these organizations, and thus their ability to deliver services to the disabled.
- Social Case Works and Managers Training at sites throughout Armenia will involve 750 social caseworkers. Service to the disabled is a part of those services these activities aim to improve.
- Training on the elimination of inconsistencies and development of NGO legislation in Kazakhstan included two participants from NGO organizations dealing with the disabled.
- Physically disabled students were among participants in the GTD/Masters Degree Scholarship Program and the START/Higher Education Support Initiative funded by USAID/West Bank and Gaza.

Bureau for DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT and HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF FOOD FOR PEACE

The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is dedicated to developing food security for all people, including those with disabilities. Many of FFP's emergency programs are in war torn and politically instable countries, in which large portions of the populations are disabled and are food insecure. In these situations it is FFP's goal to ensure food security and a healthy nutritional status for all people, especially the most vulnerable, which include disabled people. Food for Peace programs provide both food and opportunities to disabled people in many countries, such as Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia and Angola, that have been ravaged by war, and particularly landmines, and have left large portions of their populations disabled.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DCHA's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (DCHA/OFDA) is the office within USAID responsible for facilitating and coordinating U.S. Government emergency assistance overseas. DCHA/OFDA provides humanitarian assistance to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of natural and human-caused disasters worldwide. By design, DCHA/OFDA's focus on providing assistance to the most vulnerable populations during an emergency response includes those populations with disabilities, who often represent the most at risk members of already vulnerable groups.

DCHA/OFDA provides emergency shelter in the event of a natural disaster, where people have lost their homes, or in a complex emergency situation when conflict or insecurity

may prompt temporary population displacements. Not unlike other sectors, such as health, food security, and water and sanitation, disability is a core criterion of vulnerability that is used to identify potential shelter project beneficiaries, such as elderly-headed households, women-headed households, low economic status households, households sustaining a high degree of material asset loss, etc.

Climate prediction activities that DCHA/OFDA has supported in Africa contain a component of assessing the impact of climate on health in order to reduce water-borne and/or water related diseases such as RVF, dengue, cholera, diarrhea, malaria etc. Under these programs, health professionals are trained to use climate forecasts, which provide a lead-time to prepare for and predict potential health crises in order to take measures to lessen their impact. In addition, support to water and sanitation programs facilitates access to clean water, reducing water borne diseases. DCHA/OFDA also supports International Center for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Bangladesh (ICDDR/B), which trains health professionals in hospital management of diarrhoeal diseases, epidemiology, biostatistics, family planning, demographic surveillance, and child survival strategies, among other activities.

In Turkey, DCHA/OFDA is supporting the Istanbul Community Impact Project, a seismic hazard mitigation initiative designed to reduce loss of life, injury, and disability by educating people in how to avoid earthquake hazards. In addition, DCHA/OFDA has supported, and is currently supporting, several other hazard mitigation projects featuring the reduction of impacts on people and communities. For example, in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey, DCHA/OFDA supports the U.S. Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP), which focuses on informing the public of dangers from volcanic ash and cinders, and works mitigate these dangers. The office also supports projects that give vitamin A supplements to children along with measles vaccinations, which can prevent blindness.

OFFICE OF PRIVATE AND VOLUNTARY COOPERATION

DCHA/PVC supports 20 NGO capacity building programs that provide microenterprise development services to poor entrepreneurs. While these programs do not specifically target the disabled, many do provide services to disabled clients which help raise their incomes, build assets and improve their lives. CSS Bangladesh, an NGO partnering with World Relief, provides loans and health education through a "credit with education" program that has had a demonstrable impact on disabled clients. For example, access to credit transformed a blind beggar into a successful microentrepreneur who then recruited 30 other disabled villagers to create their own community bank under CSS Bangladesh. With DCHA/PVC support, World Relief is strengthening its NGO partners' capability to provide microenterprise services not only in Bangladesh, but also in the post-conflict environments of Mozambique and Rwanda where many microentrepreneurs are disabled survivors of civil conflict.

DCHA/PVC, through its Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program supports several endeavors that benefit the disabled:

Catholic Medical Mission Board in concert with Bristol-Myers Squibb's Secure the Future Program and the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference is working with 54 community based groups to provide orphan care and placement, care of the dying, and HIV/AIDs education in five countries of southern Africa. The program, entitled "Choose to Care" provides 54,500 South African patients dying of HIV/AIDs with appropriate homecare during the first year, the UN estimated 250,000 South Africans died of HIV/AID in 1999. The initiative began in February 2000, and since then, 45 schools in eight of South Africa's nine provinces now have HIV/AIDs education included in their standard curricula.

CURE International opened the AIC Bethany Crippled Children's Centre in 1998. It is a teaching hospital which gives care to disabled children. It offers rehabilitative and reconstructive care (primarily surgical) in orthopedic, neurosurgical and plastics. This hospital is operated in partnership with the Africa Inland Church Medical Council. CURE conducts orthopedic training programs in Kenyatta Hospital and seminars and other training to health care workers throughout Kenya. In the first two years of operation, in excess of 14,000 children have been treated and over 3,000 surgeries have been performed.

Assist International operates the Theranova - Orthotic and Prosthetic Center. The objective of the center is to provide orthotic and prosthetic devices to the children of Casa Minunata School, Oradea, Romania that have special needs as well as those in the community that require special devices. Theranova will also be a training institute for the manufacturing of orthotic and prosthetic appliances. Theranova is currently located in a small garage where the orthotic and prosthetic devices are manufactured and fitted for children attending Casa Minunata School. Assist International plans on building a new facility that will enable Theranova to expand its manufacturing capacity so that prosthetic devices can be provided to all those in need through the region.

Since 2000 and until its recent transfer of the Torture Victims Program, the Blind Children's Program, and the Child Survival Program, PVC conducted multiple programs to benefit disabled children and adults.

OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES

OTI provides community level small grants in pre/post conflict countries to aid in the process of peaceful democratic change. However communities sometimes identify the needs of the persons with disabilities when they meet to prioritize community needs. Examples of OTI activities include:

Afghanistan -- OTI has provided assistance the newly formed ministries of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan. As part of this effort, OTI provided office equipment to the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled to allow the Ministry to establish six

regional centers. The Centers will survey the countries disabled population and their needs. This activity was implemented with the collaboration of ICRC, Caritas, Serve and UNDP. Additionally OTI provided funding to the program activities of the Association for the Disabled in Talaqan. The total of three grants was approximately \$65,000.00.

Kosovo -- OTI rehabilitated and expanded the physical structure of the building housing a local association, HandiKos, for persons with disabilities. Value of this grant was \$42,000.00

Macedonia -- In Macedonia OTI implemented 10 grants totaling \$134,000. These grants directly targeted community level support for local associations of persons with disabilities, improved access and accommodation in public facilities, and related educational materials.

Report from the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs

U.S. Agency for International Development People with Disabilities FY 2002 - Highlights

The U.S. Agency for International Development is committed to carry out a continuing affirmative employment program, including recruitment, promotion opportunity, assignments, and training for people with disabilities.

USAID has developed a plan for hiring of individuals with disabilities as required by Presidential mandate and OPM implementing requirements. Specifically, Executive Order 13163, dated July 26, 2000, directed Federal agencies to implement a plan for Hiring People with Disabilities. The plan, *Increasing Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities to be Employed in the Federal Government*, provides a framework for federal employees as they recruit, hire, train and promote people with disabilities. The Executive Order set an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) government-wide mandate to hire 100,000 persons with disabilities over the next five years.

The USAID Plan established action items for increasing opportunities for people with disabilities. They include instituting strategies to meet the hiring goals for persons with disabilities. The Agency's plan targets six positions per year or a total of 30 positions over the next five years for persons with disabilities. External recruitment will be used to accomplish this goal. The plan covers three major areas: recruitment/hiring; giving full consideration to employees with disabilities for inclusion in development opportunities; and providing reasonable accommodations for qualified applicants and employees with disabilities.

Overall, USAID employs 96 persons with disabilities, which is 4.4 percent of its workforce of 2,179, as of September 30, 2002. Individuals with targeted disabilities totaled 13 or 0.5 percent of the workforce.

Noteworthy Activities Undertaken in FY 2002 to Improve Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities:

- During FY 2002, USAID hired ten qualified persons with disabilities in Civil Service pay grade levels, GS-05 through GS-14, and at Foreign Service grade level, FS-04. The employees were hired into the following occupations: contracts, environmental protection, auditor, program/project officer, physical security specialist, security assistant and secretary.
- During the reporting period, USAID maintained its partnership with the Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP) at the Department of Defense. Under the terms of the partnership agreement, CAP has provided and will continue to provide assistive technology and information, along with related devices and services, to USAID employees with disabilities to enhance

their work performance.

- USAID implemented extensive testing to evaluate its emergency evacuation procedures to ensure safe evacuation of all employees. Special attention was given to the prompt and effective assistance to individuals whose medical conditions necessitate special care.
- To commemorate National Disability Employment Month, the Agency sponsored a production titled, “NOT JUST RAMPS” to heighten non-disabled employees’ awareness of employees with disabilities and to promote positive attitudes for the abilities of persons with disabilities. In addition to the production, the Agency sponsored a Disability Awareness Exhibition that showcased paintings by artists with disabilities, and a demonstration of assistive devices. The Agency participated in Career Mentoring Day activities sponsored by the Department of Labor, Office of Disability Policy. The goals of the mentoring day activities were to expose young people with disabilities to a variety of career options, expand individual awareness, insight and perspective about the organization, and to provide Federal agencies with an opportunity to connect with a talented pool of future professionals.
- In the aftermath of the events of September 11, the Agency has been working with employees of its hearing impaired community to outfit employees with text messaging pagers to alert them to emergency situations in the building and to communicate next steps.
- The agency maintained its agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Occupational Health (FOH) services, which assists the agency with reasonable accommodation determinations.
- The Agency’s Disability Review Committee (DRC) granted twelve reasonable accommodation requests in FY 2002.
- The Agency launched the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs’ website which contains important information about the Agency’s disability program.

Trip Report for the 6th International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community, Edmonton, Alberta
October 22 -- 24, 2000

The 6th International Congress on including Children with Disabilities in the Community was held in Edmonton, Alberta on October 22 -- 24, 2000. Five previous Congress have been held in the United States under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. USAID has been involved with the last two conferences, but our impact on this event was unprecedented.

USAID offices, missions, and NGO projects sponsored a total of 55 participants from 13 developing nations, dramatically changing the nature of this event. Participants were speakers, moderators and discussants in all of the Congress events.

The contribution of the LAC Bureau was particularly impressive. Participants came from Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama. Teams included a representative from the National Office of Special Education in El Salvador, participants with disabilities and their parents, many very dynamic representatives from NGO organizations and a representative from the new president of Mexico's transition team.

Under the leadership of DAA Emily Vargas-Baron, the G bureau has sponsored participants to two successive Congresses. This year, for the first time, the War Victims Fund sponsored an outstanding team from Vietnam. USAID participants were very visible throughout this Congress. Two G Bureau-sponsored participants spoke to the full primary. They dramatically changed the nature of this event.

Individual missions also sponsored participants from Armenia, Romania, Egypt and Malawi. The Romanian team had representatives who had attended prior conferences lending continuity and perspective to developing country participation.

Upon recognition that developing country representatives were not receiving answers to some of their questions which were relevant to the unique circumstances of developing countries, a caucus was arranged to allow these participants to share their thoughts and experiences. This session was so animated that it spilled over into plenary session time.

The purpose of the Congress was to bring parents, advocates, service providers and policymakers together to gain knowledge of the international experience in community-based efforts of inclusion and to build teams that could then return to their home countries with ideas for implementation to support children with disabilities in their communities. Sessions were held on "Inclusive Education and the Current Trends Towards Market-Driven Education Systems", "The Implications of Biotechnology for Inclusion," "Emerging Challenges and Achieving Progress," and "The Role of National and Sub-National Governments and The Role of International Agencies." Breakout sessions were held on a variety of topics surrounding Education, Family Support, and Health and Well-Being and USAID's visible Disability Policy Team Coordinator

moderated a session on Family Support entitled "Who Will Value My Child? How to Facilitate Friendships and Networks of Support."

Several participants mentioned that this Congress was pivotal in helping to create country teams to address the needs of inclusion for children with disabilities. The shared international experience helped to focus these country level plans.

Trip Report for the 7th International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities -
San Luis, Argentina
October 28 - November 1, 2002

The *Seventh International Congress on Including Children with Disabilities in the Community* was held October 29- November 1, 2002 in San Luis Province, Argentina. This was the first time ever that this meeting was hosted by a developing country.

During the congress, people from developing and developed countries exchanged information about policies and programs that promote the inclusion of children with disabilities in everyday community life.

The theme of the 7th Congress was "The Lifecycles of the Child." More than 400 participants from 60 countries gathered to discuss policies and practices of inclusion for children with disabilities in early childhood, pre-school, school, and transition to productive adulthood.

USAID's presence, while smaller than in Alberta two years ago, was felt throughout this Congress. Two USAID staff, Janet Allem and Paul Bell made presentations. Janet Allem made the second welcoming speech in the first plenary session. Paul Bell spoke in a panel on Persons with Disabilities in Emergencies and Disasters. USAID funded participants were featured in three workshops.

Susanna Tadevosyan, sponsored by USAID/Armenia, in addition to being highlighted in the welcoming speech, led a workshop on "Transition from Adolescence to Productive Adulthood." Alfonso Morales, who was sponsored by USAID/Ecuador, in addition to being highlighted in the opening plenary address, presented the story of his organization's success in helping people with disabilities move to safer ground during a hurricane.

In all, USAID funded ten participants from five countries. The Europe and Eurasia Bureau provided tremendous support bringing eight participants in cross-sectoral teams from three countries.

All participants attended a tightly packed agenda of meetings on a range of topics relating to the inclusion of all children with disabilities in the full range of childhood activities. One parent presented the story of a school for golfing and its benefit for children with Down's Syndrome and other disabilities. Others spoke of their advocacy for children in their communities. Several mentioned frustration that national law was not necessarily met with local understanding. Participants shared their challenges, successes and e-mail addresses with one another.

The event attracted significant media attention. The former mayor of San Luis and current presidential contender Adolfo Rodriguez Saa closed the official event invoking a call to a new society that will have respect, tolerance and appreciation for diversity in all aspects of community life.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has hosted and sponsored these international children's congresses since 1994. USAID has served on the Steering Committee for these meetings since 1995. Our agency's Disability Policy, published in November 1996, supports the principles of inclusion that these Congresses work to make a reality.

It was announced that the next meeting, in 2004 will take place in June 2004 Stavanger, Norway. This event will be sponsored by the government of Norway with the support of the full range of ministries. It promises to break new ground in cross-sectoral thinking to empower children with disabilities where they live.

USAID/General Notice
POLICY PAPER
09/12/97

This policy paper articulates the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) commitment to pursue advocacy for, outreach to, and inclusion of people with physical and mental disabilities, to the maximum extent feasible, in the design and implementation of USAID programming, and provides guidance for making that commitment operational. It is the product of a comprehensive consultative process between USAID and its partners, and responds to issues identified in that process. Note that this policy applies to the use of Agency program funds only and complements USAID's personnel and staffing disability policies. The paper provides the basis from which a policy directive will be developed.

This policy paper does not represent a new initiative. Instead it describes the importance of considering concerns of the disabled within ongoing and future programs. Implementation of the policy will be within existing staff and financial resource levels as determined by each operating unit, and no additional financial reporting will be necessary.

The paper outlines the fundamental principles on which the USAID disability policy is based, including: (1) need for a comprehensive and consistent approach to considering people with disabilities, being sure to include women and children, within USAID and in USAID assisted activities; (2) outreach to and early consultation with persons with disabilities and the community of organizations concerned about them as part of ongoing participatory processes; (3) intent to work as development partners with US and foreign PVOs and NGOs committed to persons with disabilities and to facilitate relationships among these entities; and (4) encouragement of U.S. interagency collaboration and networking among donors and other diverse entities concerned about persons with disabilities with a view to increasing impact and sustaining these efforts.

POINT OF CONTACT: JANET ALLEM, (202) 712-4661.
U.S. Agency for International Development

Policy Guidance

USAID DISABILITY POLICY PAPER

Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523
September 12, 1997
USAID POLICY PAPER ON DISABILITY

I. USAID DISABILITY POLICY

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to the inclusion of people who have physical and mental disabilities and those who advocate and offer services on behalf of people with disabilities. This commitment extends from the design and implementation of USAID programming to advocacy for and outreach to people with disabilities. USAID's policy on disability is as follows: To avoid discrimination against people with disabilities in programs which USAID funds and to stimulate an engagement of host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in promoting a climate of nondiscrimination against and equal opportunity for people with disabilities. The USAID policy on disability is to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities both within USAID programs and in host countries where USAID has programs.

For purposes of this policy, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that affects a major life function, consistent with the definition of the Rehabilitation Act.

USAID commitment to disability issues is not new. A 1996 report ("Activities Addressing the Needs of Person with Disabilities," USAID document PN-ABY-746) described the many and varied Agency-sponsored activities in provisioning of prosthetics, treatment and prevention of blindness and special education, providing medical training of individuals who assist persons with disabilities, building advocacy and management capabilities of local organizations that represent the disabled, and the like. This policy is designed to build upon current activities and to enhance the effectiveness of the Agency's commitment.

The policy applies to Agency program funds only, and complements existing USAID disability policies which relate to staffing and personnel procedures. One of the best means of raising awareness in programs is to actively pursue those personnel procedures so that Agency staffing patterns reflect the intention of Agency programs.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) is generally not applicable to USAID's overseas programs. While the ADA applies to U.S. citizens (including USAID employees) overseas, it does not apply to non-U.S. citizens, who are the primary

beneficiaries of USAID programs. The USAID disability policy is thus in part an effort to extend the spirit of the ADA in areas beyond the jurisdiction of U.S. law.

II. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the USAID policy on disability are: (a) to enhance the attainment of United States foreign assistance program goals by promoting the participation and equalization of opportunities of individuals with disabilities in USAID policy, country and sector strategies, activity designs and implementation; (b) to increase awareness of issues of people with disabilities both within USAID programs and in host countries; (c) to engage other U.S. government agencies, host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in fostering a climate of nondiscrimination against people with disabilities; and (d) to support international advocacy for people with disabilities.

III. POLICY FRAMEWORK

A substantial segment (often ten per cent or more) of any population has impairments. Those individuals are often limited in participating in society by obstacles in the physical or social environment. It is widely recognized that the response to this problem must be a balanced combination of prevention, rehabilitation and measures for the equalization of opportunities. Individuals with disabilities and their caregivers often are taken out of the workforce. The reasons are many: discrimination, lack of educational, vocational rehabilitation or training opportunities, etc. These factors place further economic burden on poor countries where USAID has sustainable development programs. People with disabilities have the same needs as others for nutrition, family planning, health care, training and employment. Many mainstream programs, with minor modification at the design stage, help address these needs. For example, education programs can be developed which promote inclusion of children with physical or mental disabilities to the maximum extent feasible. Economic growth activities, such as small business loans lending, can be developed to assure that people with disabilities have equal access to credit. Infrastructure projects can be designed, with acceptable marginal cost, to assure barrier-free access.

In providing humanitarian assistance in post-conflict situations and disaster assistance, early strategically aimed programs both help address the immediate needs of people with disabilities and also provide a foundation on which these individuals more effectively make a positive contribution to the economic development of their country. The disabling injuries caused by landmines provide yet another compelling reason for such programs.

USAID promotes advocacy as an integral part of its democracy and governance objective. As a world leader in the civil rights movement for people with disabilities, the U.S. has seen a strengthening of many local organizations which have formed to support independent living and other disability initiatives as a critical need. In many countries, individuals with disabilities have been 'warehoused' in abysmal conditions with total disrespect for their rights. Those rights must be respected. As young democracies

decide where they will concentrate scarce resources, people with disabilities and those interested in the issues of people with disabilities must be among the voices that are heard.

Recently, in certain developing countries, indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in the concerns of people with disabilities have emerged. USAID's general policy with regard to partnership with private voluntary organizations (PVOs) encourages the use of U.S. PVOs to help strengthen indigenous NGOs ("USAID-U.S. PVO Partnership," April 12, 1995; Handbook 1, Policy Papers); inclusion of NGOs interested in issues of persons with disabilities should be considered for this kind of support.

USAID also recognizes the appropriate role of host country governments in creating the enabling environment for disability advocacy and services. Host governments not only create the regulatory environment, but they also assure quality standards and, for donor programs, provide the basis for sustaining these efforts.¹

IV. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

A. CONSULTATION

Each USAID Bureau, Mission and Center of the Global Bureau must determine the best ways to consult with the disabled and with those who advocate on behalf of, or provide services for individuals with disabilities.

Each USAID Bureau, Mission and Center of the Global Bureau must also determine best ways for consulting with appropriate host government officials to assure that issues are reviewed with respect to the enabling environment, regulatory concerns, quality assurance standards and maintenance of donor-financed disability activities. USAID will also look to organizations and individuals with in-depth local experience to assist in designing and implementing participatory mechanisms to ensure that USAID strategic objectives and activities incorporate, to the extent feasible, the priorities and values of people with disabilities and groups pursuing these issues and interests in the host country.

B. AREAS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The concerns of people with physical and mental disabilities should be considered in the variety of USAID programs for the poorest elements of society including but not limited to programs for children and women, especially early childhood interventions, child survival programs and curriculum development for special education within basic education programs; mass communication and printed materials; development of basic infrastructure (e.g., roads, water and sanitation, public transportation, telecommunications); development of small scale industries or workshops; introduction of new machinery; development of products the use of which requires specific skills; urban or rural community development; development of health care facilities or systems; development of formal and non-formal education, training, career development and job

placement services; family planning and health education programs; design and construction activities; and activities related to democracy and good governance, human rights initiatives, and income generation. Where appropriate, USAID may also encourage relevant policy dialogue with host governments.

C. SUPPORTING U.S. PVO AND INDIGENOUS NGO RELATIONSHIPS

Indigenous NGOs, as part of the host society, can serve as a voice for the interests and perspectives of the community of individuals with disabilities or groups interested in their issues. USAID will look to an increasing role for indigenous NGOs to carry out service delivery and to advocate on behalf of the interests of people with disabilities. USAID will actively encourage the formation of effective partnership relations between U.S. PVOs and indigenous NGOs interested in issues of concern to people with disabilities.

D. TRAINING AND ENHANCED AWARENESS

USAID employees and contractors will be trained in issues of relevance to people with disabilities so that, as appropriate, USAID programs reflect those issues. Grantees and contractors will be encouraged to provide relevant training to their staff. Footnote

1. The National Council on Disability (NCD) is an independent federal agency which was established to promote policies, programs, practices and procedures that guarantee equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities and to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve economic self-sufficiency, independent living, and inclusion and integration into all aspects of society, and to provide an annual report to the President and the Congress. The NCD issued a report on August 1, 1996, entitled, "Foreign Policy and Disability" which asked whether the United States maintains a coherent disability policy within its foreign policy and found in the negative. In fact, the report concluded that "those responsible for creating and implementing U.S. overseas policies and programs generally lack awareness of disability issues, cannot articulate our national policies with respect to people with disabilities, do not incorporate the interests of people with disabilities into U.S. foreign policy objectives, and do not see the importance of U.S. disability advances and achievements for people with disabilities in other countries." The NCD recommended:

- creating a comprehensive foreign policy on disability to advocate for people with disabilities through activities on international levels;
- extending U.S. disability law by legislation or executive order to include unambiguously the international operations of the U.S. government;
- employing domestic standards of nondiscrimination in U.S.-sponsored international activities;
- training U.S. foreign affairs agencies and their contractors to plan for programmatic accessibility; and,
- establishing the principle that no U.S. international activity should have a lower standard of inclusion than its domestic correlate.

USAID's Disability Policy Team

Coordinator: Janet Connatser Allem, Bureau for Management, Office of Management Policy and Metrics

Lloyd Feinberg, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, War Victim's Fund

David Nelson, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistants, Office of Democracy and Governance

Anthony Meyer, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade

Ed Lijewski, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, Office of Women in Development

Ruth Frischer, Bureau for Global Health

Curt Grimm, Bureau for Africa

Christina Corbett, Bureau for Asia and the Near East

Gloria Steele, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

Carla Royalty, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Maria Marigliano, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Elizabeth Baltimore, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

John Grayzel, Office Program and Policy Coordination