2014

Disability
in Wales
& Africa

DWA

Promoting Participation

Gemma James

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT AND THE WALES AFRICA SECTOR

Contents

Executive Summary

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have provided a guide to poverty reduction over the past 14 years, however, they missed out a key demographic when looking at groups that are adversely affected by poverty – disabled people and households with a disabled member. As the world looks towards the post 2015 agenda, disability issues is a key area gaining momentum and finally starting to get the attention it has missed out on. The World Bank have noted that disabled people are invisible in development initiatives, and hundreds of thousands of people who see themselves as potential and willing contributors to family and national economic activities are instead relegated to the margins of society where they are perceived as being a burden. With this in mind, what has Wales been doing to contribute to assisting this invisible and neglected demographic out of poverty, and how can we do more as the international attention focuses on disability and development issues?

This report presents a snap shot of what the Wales Africa sector is currently doing regarding disability; how each organisation would like to take disability and development forward; what support is required to do this; and the barriers that prevent others from including disability issues within their work.

Nearly two thirds of organisations who responded to this research, currently include disability issues in their work in Africa, and 87% said they would like to enhance or expand their disability work. This includes a diverse range of interventions such as mainstreaming disability, challenging stereotypes, getting disabled children into school, providing training for disabled people, and providing practical items such as wheelchairs and crutches.

Of the organisations that are not currently incorporating disability issues into their work, the majority said they would like to start doing so and would like support from Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA).

Only 2 organisations said they currently do not and cannot see themselves involving disability issues in their work in the future.

The main barrier cited for not involving disability issues in their work is lack of funding.

It is widely accepted that disabled people are among the most disadvantaged people in the world and are over-represented among the poorest of the poor. The evidence shows that some Welsh organisations, whose focus is mainly on education, health, livelihoods and so on, have responded to this by encompassing disability issues into their work; this is despite difficulties in funding disability issues, which have been neglected by many donors due to its omission in the MDGs.

There have been calls from aid experts for the Department for International Development (DfID) to produce an overarching strategy on disability, which would send an important message to its staff and other organisations that it is taking disability seriously.[1] The Wales Africa sector now needs a strong commitment from the Welsh Government in order to enhance, drive forward and support disability initiatives. DWA has an expanding role to play in coordinating disability best practices,

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[1] http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jan/15/disability-issues-development-agenda-aid-experts?CMP=EMCGBLEML1625 accessed on 15/01/14

technical support, as well as continuing to advocate the adoption of a social model of disability, but equally needs the support from the Welsh Government to do so.

About DWA

DWA started in December 2010 when a small group of people met to discuss how they could raise the profile of disability issues within the Wales Africa network, as a response to the recognition that disabled people and their needs were, to a very large extent, being left out of the sector's agenda. This was partly because of an unspoken tradition in Wales that disability is a specialist stand alone issue. Additionally, in Africa, it is often a case of disabled people are out of sight, out of mind, and therefore left behind.

Since then DWA has become a regular feature within Wales Africa activities, giving presentations, suggesting speakers, and running workshops at several events, as well as commissioning this research.

The Research Objective

As disability moves up the international development agenda, through such campaigns as Beyond 2015, these issues will become more in the public eye. As a response, DWA commissioned this research to establish the current level of involvement and extent that disability issues are incorporated within the Wales Africa sector.

This will assist DWA to influence future funding decisions to include disability; to influence the post 2015 agenda to include disability issues; and to assist organisations within the Wales Africa sector to incorporate disability into their work.

The Sample and Questionnaire

The research started with a sample of 58 organisations who were known to be based in Wales with their core work in Africa, their aim being to reduce poverty within their specific field.

Of the 58 organisations the response rate was as follows:

- 24 organisations responded (41%)
- 30 did not respond (52%)
- 4 declined (7%)

The reasons given for those who declined were:
1. The organisation had ended in 2012 with no likelihood of restarting in the near future.
2. Not interested in completing the questionnaire as no funding is attached.
3. No time to complete the questionnaire; the organisation does not work with disabled people; and no time to take anything else on.
4. Doesn't have the time to complete it.

For the 30 that did not respond, one factor that may have influenced this was the questionnaire was a Word document, rather than an online questionnaire. This was chosen due to the costs associated of having an online questionnaire. Feedback from respondents was that the form was not compatible with Apple devices and older versions of Microsoft Word. In some instances telephone surveys were carried out to combat this issue. This may have dissuaded others from completing the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was designed to be as easy to use as possible, to try to encourage more organisations to respond. There were 11 questions plus a personal details section. The questions were mainly tick box questions, with each question having space to write additional information. Only 4 questions were open text, 3 of which were only open text if the respondent answered in a particular way (i.e. if Yes, please give details etc). This method allowed the respondents to complete the form quickly, while providing detailed information where appropriate.

The research was undertaken in November and December 2013.

What is Disability?

The definition of 'disability' under the UK Equality Act 2010 is a person with a "physical or mental impairment that has 'a substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their [your] ability to do normal daily activities."[2] The act also covers people from the day of diagnosis with HIV infection, cancer or multiple sclerosis.

However, people's perceptions of disability are different, and people that meet the above definition may not class themselves as having a disability.

The definition of disability is blurred further when considering it in an African context.

For this research we did not give a prescribed definition of disability, instead, let organisations decide whether or not they included the cohort they work with as disabled.

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[2] https://www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010 accessed on 22/01/14

The Findings

Who are the organisations, where do they work and what do they do?

The links in Wales and Africa were a mixture of organisations, communities of a specific location, or places of work such as hospital / ward / university / school.

Figure 1 shows where in Africa the organisations worked.[3]

Uganda (7), Zambia (6), Kenya (5), Ghana (3) had the most organisations operating within them.

Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zimbabwe all had 2 organisations operating within them.

Benin, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Nigeria, Mali, Somaliland and South Africa had 1 organisation operating within them.
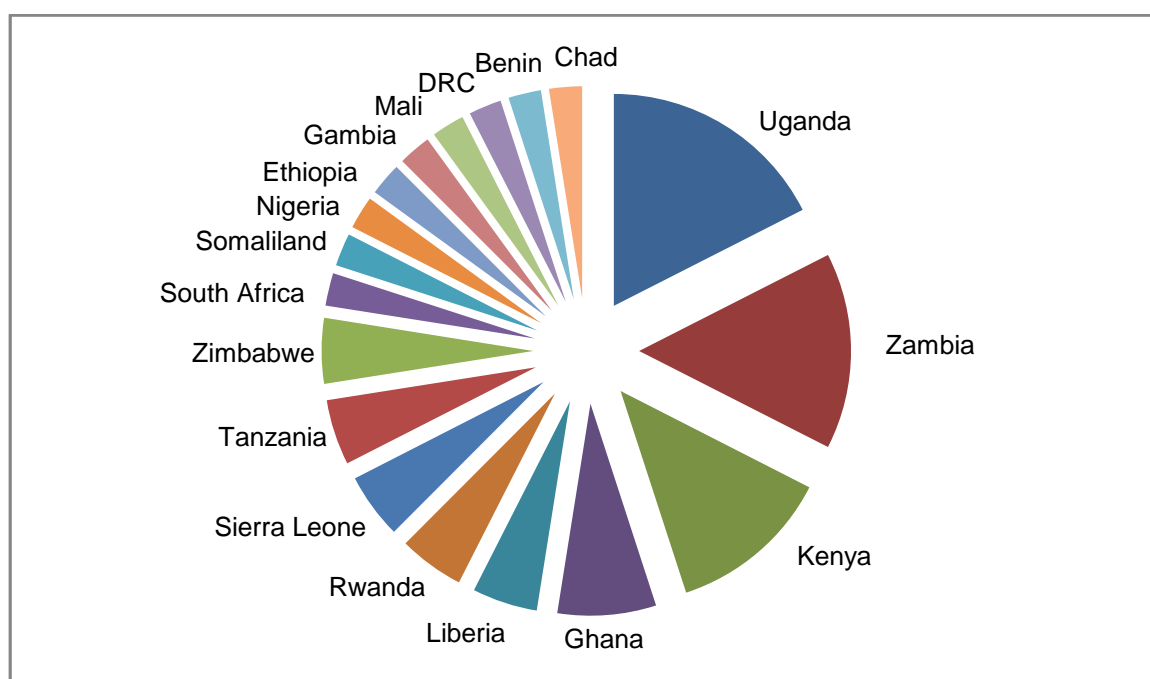

Figure 1 Countries Where Welsh Organisations Operate

The nature of the organisations' work is varied, with most spanning more than one category. Their work fell into the following categories:

- 21 Education
- 16 Health
- 14 Livelihoods
- 11 Youth
- 10 Equality
- 8 Environment
- 5 organisations worked in 7 other areas[4]

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[3] The information for 2 of the organisations was taken from their websites, as they didn't specify in the questionnaire the countries in which they operated.

When asked if the organisations belonged to any networks, 21 of 24 said they did, comprised of:

- 14 Wales Africa Community Links (WACL)
- 11 International Hub
- 10 Wales for Africa Health Links (W4AHL)
- 5 Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA)
- 4 Fair Trade Wales
- 6 belonged to 8 other networks[5]

14 organisations have a disabled staff member or volunteer either in Wales, Africa or in both areas, while 10 organisations said they did not.

15 organisations said that they do work with disability issues, however only 5 of these organisations belonged to the DWA network.

RECOMMENDATION 1: DWA to strengthen its presence in the Wales Africa sector, this will allow more organisations to become aware of DWA and the work it does. This to include increasing newsletter publications to quarterly editions; a regularly updated Facebook page; regular tweets; and to investigate other avenues of promotion such as through the International Hub, W4AHL, WACL, Fair Trade Wales and local networks.

Findings from organisations that work with disability issues

How do they address disability issues?

Of the 24 organisations surveyed three quarters said they ensure the developments they undertake have the capacity to include and involve disabled people, this included organisations that previously said they did not work with any disabled groups or families of disabled people.

Most organisations used a combination of methods to tackle disability issues, which are:

75% ensure developments have the capacity to include and involve disabled people
42% work with disabled people orgs or parent groups
42% provide practical support
38% encourage greater community ownership and support of disabled people and their families
21% provide community education on disability issues
4% other

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[4] The other areas include: Churches; Equipment distributing network; Upgrading and introducing technology; Peace; Engineering; Financial support; Entertainment.

[5] Other networks included: Wise network; health focus groups; BOND; WCVA; GAVO; Mid Wales Africa Network; Bryn y Cwm; Facebook networks.

- *Getting disabled children to school.*

- *We plan to teach making supportive furniture for disabled children using paper and cardboard.*

- *Helping the Disability Community Centre to develop along with sending a container with practical items.*

- *Survey of community disability needs is to be undertaken in January & February 2014 by two volunteer paramedics.*

- *With more financial support the blind school maybe able to accommodate more children and provide them with the excellent education the current school children receive.*

- *Fund disabled people into education; provide practical training for disabled people, or mothers with disabled children; provide practical mobility aids such as wheelchairs, crutches, walking sticks etc; and provide a free audiology service.*

- *To continue to work in local communities, including and involving people in those communities who have a disability.*

- *We aim to reduce stereotypes that exist and to raise awareness about disabled people. We will be looking to expand the work given to the disabled persons workshop, and will be looking at the results of the schools disability survey.*

- *We are going to look at specific issues that disabled children have in school and how to address them.*

There was a roughly equal mixture of the type of approach used, with most organisations using a combination of 1 or 2 of the following:

- Mainstream
- Specialised Disability Services
- Disability Community Groups
- Advocacy on Disability

Requestested support from DWA

Of the 15 organisations that are currently inclusive of disability issues, 13 have plans to expand in this area (see text box left).

All of the 15 would like support from DWA, with the vast majority saying they would like support in the following ways:

- Advice and Information
- Training
- Links to Disability and Development Sector
- Networking in Africa
- Networking in Wales

Additionally, 3 others said they would like the following support from DWA:

- It would be good to know what other groups are doing in this area
- Information on funding opportunities
- Would like to have more joined up working across networks, who is doing what and where

RECOMMENDATION 2: A package of support is created and rolled out that can be easily tailored to the needs of the organisations, to include each of the above components.

Findings from organisations that do not work with disability issues

Staff Demographic & Disability Work

There is a positive correlation between the organisations involved in disability issues and having a disabled staff member or volunteer.

Of the 10 organisations that said they do not have any disabled staff members or volunteers, 6 (60%) of these organisations said they have no involvement in disability issues in their development work compared to only 3 of the 14 (21%) with disabled staff members or volunteers said they are not involved in disability issues in their development work.

What causes this is unclear, it may be that organisations that have disabled staff members or volunteers are more likely to understand about disability issues and incorporate them in their work, or vice versa. An organisation that incorporates disability issues may be more likely to recruit or attract disabled staff members or volunteers.

RECOMMENDATION 3: Promote disabled people in the Wales Africa sector as staff and volunteers both in Wales and in Africa, via the newsletter, information leaflets and using disabled people in visual promotional material.

RECOMMENDATION 4: Learning is not a one way phenomenon, both Wales and Africa can learn from each other regarding disability, DWA to encourage links between the Welsh and African disability sectors to share successes.

Why not work with disability issues?

9 organisations said that they do not work with disability issues, however, 4 of these did say they provided support by ensuring the developments they are involved in have the capacity to include and involve disabled people.

The reasons for these 9 organisations not involving disability issues in their work are:

4 - have a specific remit / targeting other groups
1 – had worked with disabled people but they often need specific interest or support
2 - had not met any disabled people
1 – had not been approached for involvement
1 – would provide support if required

Excluding the 4 that work with a specific remit that targets other groups, the remainder all have a common theme that disabled people are not accessing their services; that disabled people in the community are hidden; or disabled people need additional support that is not currently available in the resources given. This is very important as it is recognised that disabled people are invisible to

development initiatives, yet they are disproportionately represented in terms of numbers of disabled people living in poverty.[6]

7 of the 9 said they had the capacity to work with disability issues, 1 did not have the capacity, and 1 sometimes has the capacity.

The most cited barrier for not working with disability issues was funding, this was followed by lack of access such as wheelchairs, ramps etc.
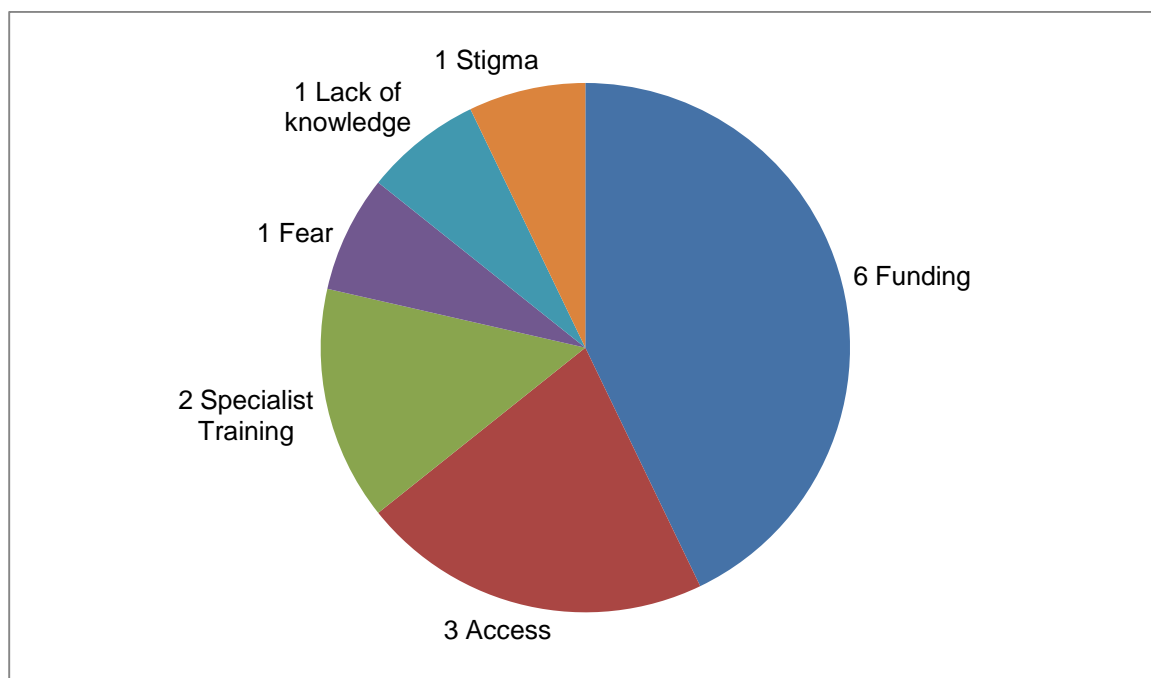

Figure 2 Barriers to working with disability Issues

Other barriers included fear; lack of specialist training on a particular disability in order to assist (e.g. sign language, Braille etc); lack of knowledge of how to provide assistance; and stigma that other service users may be deterred from using the service.

RECOMMENDATION 5: Advocacy around addressing these barriers, specifically funding, via a range of methods such as sharing best practice, information leaflets on tackling disability issues with a limited budget, advice sessions on potential grant streams for disability initiatives.

RECOMMENDATION 6: DWA to coordinate with the Wales Africa sector to lobby the Welsh Government to bring disability issues to the post 2015 agenda in central government.

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[6]
http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTSOCIALPROTECTION/EXTDISABILITY/0,,c ontentMDK:20183406~menuPK:417328~pagePK:148956~piPK:216618~theSitePK:282699,00.html accessed 15/01/14

The future

9 organisations are not currently incorporating disability issues in their work. However, the future shows a more positive picture.

2 organisations are proactively starting to work in the field of disability and would like DWA's support. In the first organisation, funders have specifically asked them to make their organisation inclusive of people with disabilities, and they currently have a need to find disabled people to take this forward; the second organisation is currently recruiting a trustee that would be able to strengthen their ability to work with disabled children and families.

3 organisations would like to work with disability issues, 2 would like support from DWA in order to do this, the other would like time to research what support DWA could offer.

1 organisation said that they are not looking to go into the field of disability issues, however, would like DWA to provide them with advice and information, this may lead them to incorporate disability issues into their work in the future.

1 organisation said they did not require DWA's support at this time, but would welcome volunteers with disabilities to get involved in their organisation.

2 of the 9 (including the one with no capacity) is not looking to incorporate disability issues in their work and does not require DWA's assistance at this time.

RECOMMENDATION 7: Create information sheets on different aspects of working in the field of disability issues e.g. how to make a service more disability friendly; how to recruit disabled service users; what funding is available for disability issues etc.

RECOMMENDATION 8: Contact the 7 organisations to provide support to develop their disability initiatives.

Recommendations

Recommendation Number:	Details	Page Number
1	DWA to strengthen its presence in the Wales Africa sector, this will allow more organisations to become aware of DWA and the work it does. This to include a newsletter every quarter; a regularly updated Facebook page; regular tweets; and to investigate other avenues of promotion such as through the International Hub, W4AHL, WACL, Fair Trade Wales and local networks.	7
2	A package of support is created and rolled out that can be easily tailored to the needs of the organisations, to include each of the following components: • Advice and Information • Training • Links to Disability and Development Sector • Networking in Africa • Networking in Wales Ideally this would be done within 1 month, to capture the enthusiasm of the organisations looking to enhance and expand their work.	8
3	Promote disabled people in the Wales Africa sector as staff and volunteers both in Wales and in Africa, via the newsletter, information leaflets and using disabled people in visual promotional material.	9
4	Encourage links between the Welsh and African disability sectors to share successes.	9
5	Advocacy around addressing the barriers (specifically funding) stopping organisations from including disability issues in their work via a range of methods such as sharing best practice; information leaflets on tackling disability issues with a limited budget; advice sessions on potential grant streams for disability initiatives.	10
6	DWA to coordinate with the Wales Africa sector to lobby the Welsh Government to bring disability issues to the post 2015 agenda in central government.	10
7	Create information sheets on different aspects of working in the field of disability issues e.g. how to make a service more disability friendly; how to recruit disabled service users; what funding is available for disability issues etc.	11
8	Contact the 7 organisations who are not currently undertaking disability initiatives but would like information and support to do so.	11