

**DEVELOPING
DISABILITY IN WALES
AND AFRICA
BETWEEN
2012 AND 2014
BY
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Developing DWA between 2012 and 2014 Executive Summary

Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA) started with a half day briefing concerning Disability in Africa. Its primary aim was to raise the profile of Disability and Development within the Wales Africa Network (WAN). The event took place by on December 2nd 2010 and was organised by a consortium involving

1. Disability Research and Training Consultancy (DRTC)
2. Wales Africa Community Links (WACL)
3. Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People (CVCDP), now known as Diverse Cymru
4. Small and Medium International Development Organisations (SMIDOS)
5. CBM - the Overseas Disability Charity

From this first meeting an “ad hoc” steering group, of people came together and three initiatives have developed:

- a. A series of training events, concerning disability and related issues, throughout the Welsh international development sector.
- b. A campaign resulting in ten WAN groups submitting Expressions of Interest to develop disability orientated projects. These have resulted in two collective bids, which have been submitted to Trusts and Foundations for consideration.
- c. Research into a possible awareness campaign based around a theme of Disability Arts in Wales and Africa.

This paper outlines a programme to take DWA forward. It starts by identifying the need for disability work in Africa, and highlights that:

- More than 80 per cent of disabled people live below the poverty line, in developing countries.
- 98 per cent of disabled children in developing countries don't attend school.
- Only two per cent of disabled people in developing countries have access to basic services and rehabilitation.

It places disability within the Millennium Development Goals. It also identifies that such a strategy might require a change in the way we understand development, disability, and community ownership. This may apply particularly to the Welsh partners who are used to engaging with disabled people through a formal welfare system. The discussion continues around the need for information and debates, involving African partners, as to how disability can be tackled in an appropriate way.

DWA has a Vision of a world where disabled people are full, active, and participatory members of mainstream society. Consequently the focus of its work will be social justice for disabled people and their families in Africa. This will be enabled by a cycle of training, awareness raising, project development and implementation, followed by evaluation that can provide information. This fresh information will be used to fuel the next cycle. Although the sequence of cycles will start with Welsh groups and organisations, as DWA develops, it is planned that they will increasingly incorporate African partners.

During the three years in question, DWA is envisaging the following areas of work:

1. Training and Teaching
2. Awareness Raising Campaigns
3. Supporting Project Development
4. Collecting and Collating Information on Disability and Development Activities in Africa.
5. Newsletter and Published Material.
6. Research and Consultancy Projects.
7. Participate in Disability & Development Forums.

Although this work will be primarily in Wales, it is envisaged that the beneficiaries will be both Wales and Africa. The sharing of information and approaches to disability work is seen as beneficial to all concerned. Although the key issue for DWA is Disability and Development in Africa, there is also room for Wales to learn and develop new skills and ideas.

The budget, for this grant-aided application, covers the core cost of DWA over three years and totals £150,000. The employment of a fulltime Coordinator is assumed, working mostly from home. Some of the proposed activities, such as a Disability Arts in Wales and Africa project, will need sponsorship from specific funds yet to be identified. In the longer term, however, DWA sees itself increasingly operating as a Social Enterprise.

DWA is not currently a registered charity. Consequently Diverse Cymru will act as a host organisation for financial, legal, and administrative, affairs. It will also support DWA by providing a Cardiff base for meetings and office support.

Developing DWA between 2012 and 2014

Introduction and Background to DWA

Disability in Wales and Africa (DWA) brings together organisations and individuals interested in promoting Disability and Development in Africa. Its activities are based around the Wales Africa Network (WAN); a loose confederation of over 120 Community and Organisational Links between Wales and Africa, working under the broad umbrella of the Millennium Development Goals. The Network is seen as a channel through which DWA aims and objectives are to be fulfilled. This may be through developing advocacy activities, supporting specialist disability services, or ensuring disabled people's inclusion in "non-disability" activities. DWA also seeks to use the Network as a hub for the sharing of ideas and information; creating a data and resource base that could be used by others involved in this work beyond the Wales Africa institutions.

The five initiating organisations behind DWA are:

1. Disability Research and Training Consultancy (DRTC)
2. Wales Africa Community Links (WACL)
3. Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People (CVCDP), now known as Diverse Cymru
4. Small and Medium International Development Organisations (SMIDOS)
5. CBM - the Overseas Disability Charity

This group organised a half day briefing concerning Disability in Africa on December 2nd 2010. From this beginning an ad hoc steering group came together, and three initiatives have developed:

1. A series of training events, concerning disability and related issues, throughout the Welsh international development sector.
2. A campaign resulting in ten WAN groups submitting Expressions of Interest to develop disability orientated projects. These have resulted in two collective bids, which have been submitted to Trusts and Foundations for consideration.
3. Research into a possible awareness campaign based around a theme of Disability Arts in Wales and Africa.

The Need for DWA

In Wales 23% of the population experience some form of disability or long term illness¹. This is higher than England or Scotland, largely fuelled by industrial injuries and an ageing population, and is often seen as a “welfare issue”. In Sub-Saharan Africa disability incorporates a higher proportion of younger people, often pushes people outside the indigenous system of communal and family support, and has been ignored by many mainstream development programmes. The African Child Policy Forum uncovered the following data on disabled children. Between 1999 and 2006 35% of 2-9 year-olds in Djibouti, 31% in Central African Republic and 23% in Sierra Leone lived with one form of disability (i.e. cognitive, motor, seizure, vision or hearing)². Whilst this situation has been generated, in part, by increased post birth survival prospects, we need to understand that disabled children generally become disabled adults. In economies that can't support a northern style welfare system, how is their inclusion going to be enabled?

The World Health Organisation (2011) estimates that over one Billion people, equating to 15% of the global population, experience some form of disability³. This is higher in poorer, and lower in richer communities. However, statistical analyses of people's medical conditions, does not reveal the lived experiences for disabled people. World Vision, in their disability inclusion training pack, Travelling Together⁴, identifies;

- More than 80 per cent of disabled people live below the poverty line, in developing countries.
- 98 per cent of disabled children in developing countries don't attend school.
- Only two per cent of disabled people in developing countries have access to basic services and rehabilitation.

However, the same training pack identifies, when discussing Health and Rehabilitation services, that;

- 80 per cent could have their needs met in the community; only 20 per cent would require specialist attention.

A similar theme is developed when we realise that none of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will be fulfilled unless they include the needs of disabled people. Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), that is incorporating community assets to support disabled people, is highlighted as a mechanism through which this can be achieved. The following is based on a document released in association with the International Day of Person with Disabilities, for 2010⁵. It shows how CBR and MDG requirements are integrally linked.

Goal 1: Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of disability. People with disabilities face discrimination and are frequently denied education, employment, health care, and even food. Additionally disabled people regularly incur extra costs associated with their disability.

Goal 2: Achieving Universal Primary Education

Disabled children are less likely to start school, have lower rates of staying, and don't get promoted, when compared with their non disabled peers⁶. Additionally, the link between low education and disability is stronger than with gender, rural residence, or poverty.

Goal 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

Many women with disabilities face double discrimination. They are less likely to access education, or formal employment, and are at increased risk of violence and abuse. Disabled women often end up as single mothers, and women will often care for a disabled family member.

Goal 4: Reducing child mortality

It has been suggested that the mortality rate for disabled children, in some countries, may be as high as 80%. This compares with 20% under-five mortality as a general figure in the same countries⁷. Additionally cultural practices may teach the leaving of disabled children to die⁸.

Goal 5: Improving maternal health

Disability and morbidity can result from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Disabled women also become mothers and sometimes need particular consideration during the pregnancy, the childbirth process, or when bringing up children.

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

Infectious diseases can be disabling; for example, HIV and neuropathy and dementia. People with disabilities have high risk of contracting HIV. Research in Mozambique found that disabled people are routinely excluded from HIV and AIDS programmes, because of reluctance to acknowledge their sexuality⁹.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Poor sanitation, water, and natural disasters, can cause illness and disability. Many disabled people face barriers in accessing community facilities, such as wells and latrines, and are often excluded from disaster management activities.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The basic discrimination faced by disabled people is the same the world over. Cultural, economic, and social factors provide backcloths to the discrimination and generate different responses. Whilst the North may be able to provide medical and therapeutic expertise, in support of disabled people, it has been suggested that the more community orientated approach of CBR initiatives, may complement the ethos of Independent Living¹⁰.

The need to integrate disability into mainstream development appears easy to agree with, but difficult to practice. Wales has developed a welfare system, both voluntary and statutory, that has become the means through which disabled people's needs are managed. This has led to a culture that frequently engages with disability issues through legal rights, and professional knowhow. Independence and personal choice are seen as strategic benchmarks towards disabled people's social inclusion. Regardless as to how good or bad these services are, the net result is that many Welsh people do not engage with disability issues outside of these structures, leaving many disabled people marginalized.

In Africa disabled people are also isolated and outside mainstream, but the cause may be different and the solution likewise. The main source of "welfare" may not be the state or "third sector" organisations. It will often be found in the families and communities. The problem is not just a lack of support services but, more importantly, the current cultural, social, and economic factors. Additionally, as a community develops, disabled people often get left behind. This manifests itself in disabled people regularly being amongst the poorest of the poor, socially isolated, and not having their needs considered. However, overcoming these problems requires disabled people's needs to become central to the workings of the community, rather than an "add on".

The issue for DWA does not start with African communities becoming more inclusive of disabled people. It is rather begins with supporting Welsh communities, and their African partners, to work with disability and the needs of disabled people. This will almost inevitably be where there is no, or very little, structured welfare provision. The experience may require a change in the way we understand development, disability, and community ownership. There are examples of African communities finding ways of supporting their disabled members. These are often

local and use local resources. Welsh and African partners need to learn from these experiences and together develop the tools to do the same. The information, which needs to be shared, is not a list of policies and practices agreed by a large organisation, such as Oxfam or Save the Children Fund. These are designed to help such organisations decide which projects to support, or not. Nor is it the sometimes abstract, academic, and flagship, ideas provided by "[Ask Source](#)"¹¹. What would help the development process, within a community linking context, is a data base of projects and initiatives, with an evaluation as to how they have worked.

Although information, and the sharing of ideas, is a good way of helping people to learn, DWA recognises that its ultimate target is Africa, rather than Wales. Despite the desire of WAN activists to create a fairer world, the Network is based on the premise of "Wales for Africa". Welsh culture and technology is generally perceived as dominant and the operational hub is clearly in Wales. Whilst acknowledging a current need for this situation to prevail, DWA sees it as, at best, undesirable. This provides the challenge of enabling the debate, which has started in Wales, to move out to Africa. DWA believes that the network has an even stronger purpose in Africa, than in Wales. South to South links need to be developed to complement the North to South ones.

DWA acknowledges the energy and enthusiasm being generated through WAN activities. This has both raised Welsh awareness of the need for further development in Africa. It highlights the critical need for disabled people to be included within the ongoing development process. WAN activities can play a significant role in this process, most notably because it is essentially a grassroot movement. However, DWA also believes that this is unlikely to happen, in a substantial way, without specialist support. This is largely because of cultural, economic, and social differences. Nevertheless, DWA believes that, through the experimentation and sharing of ideas and information, a resource can be established to encourage others to engage with disability issues in different ways. Finally DWA identifies that special attention is needed to ensure that the collated data empowers African WAN partners to engage with disability issues and develop their own answers to the questions being asked.

The Vision and Function of DWA

DWA has a Vision of a world where disabled people are full, active, and participatory members of mainstream society. To move towards this, DWA will start by increasing understanding, within WAN, of Disability and Development issues. The focus will be social justice for disabled people and their families in Africa. This will be underpinned by encouraging a strong advocacy and support role of disabled community self help groups. However, DWA also wants to work alongside other disability initiatives which seek to work towards its Vision. These may be, for example, by assisting to develop medical or surgical support, or enabling a greater variety of, and more effective, therapy assistance. Additionally, improving education, training, and employment opportunities for disabled people, are ideas that DWA is likely to be interested in. Finally DWA wants to hear from initiatives which attempt to include disability issues, and the needs of disabled people, within the agenda of other sectors of society. For example a women's group or the development of village water pumps.

DWA approaches disability as a community development issue. The factors that enable the inclusion of disabled people are a web of advocacy, professional service, and community acceptance. People are disabled by being excluded from mainstream activities. People experience disability directly, as a disabled person, or indirectly as a close relative or friend. DWA wants to encourage WAN activists to acknowledge, and confront, a full range of disabling experiences as we move towards the Vision.

DWA will implement a two prong strategy when supporting WAN projects:

- I. The development of strong disabled community groups, able to effectively advocate for, and support, their member's needs.
- II. The development of mainstream communities with the capacity to respond to the needs of their disabled members.

The DWA process begins with the training and development of WAN activists in Wales. There are three ways in which this is envisaged.

- a. Training and Teaching, both inside and beyond the Network.
- b. Disability Awareness Raising Campaigns.
- c. Consultancy Services, supporting the development of disability inclusive initiatives in Africa.

The training and teaching are not only concentrating on general disability awareness. DWA envisages a potential role in preparing Welsh disability service providers, such as Occupational Therapists or Teachers, to adapt their skills to the African context. Good preparation will increase the impact of people who are normally in Africa for a very short period of time.

As DWA work continues, information, concerning tried and tested ideas, will come back from Africa to Wales. The information will be collated into a data base and made available on the internet and through CDs. There will also be regular newsletters to share the latest DWA activities and initiatives. As this information is made available WAN activists, in both Wales and Africa, can participate in discussions and debates around disability issues. DWA may look at the possibility of developing an email based forum to facilitate this. Models for consideration can be noted in Health Information for All by 2015¹² and Child Health for All by 2015¹³. Through this flow of information, ideas, and project implementation, DWA will develop a Resource Centre and consequently be able to access Research and Consultancy contracts to generate its own income.

With this Resource Centre, DWA can become an active link between the WAN disability network and the wider disability and development movement. This may be by participating in the BOND Disability and Development Group, or the Welsh International Development Hub. DWA also wants to involve Welsh and African academia in its work. This may mean sharing the material coming through the Resource Centre. What can we learn from WAN experiences? Alternatively, are there attributes from Africa that could be of interest to the Welsh disability welfare system? Can CBR, developed to promote disabled people's inclusion and equality in the South through a fuller community involvement, have something to teach us in the North?

Below is a chart showing how DWA will operate. The inner circle shows Welsh based activities. However, as information starts to be collated, and circulated, the second circle involves African partners. It is planned that this will encourage the equalization of North South relationships, and the development of South to South Links. As both cycles roll on, DWA develops its Resource Centre concerning grassroots disability and development initiatives and, from this hub, it can support its involvement in the perimeter activities.

The DWA Three Year Timetable

The table below shows how the activities of DWA are expected to span out over the three year period.

Services and Activities	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Target Over Three Years
Training and Teaching	Six Days of Training Sessions. One Academic Module Preparation Work.	Ten Days of Training Sessions. One Academic Module Implemented .	Fifteen Days of Training Sessions. One Academic Module Implemented and Preparation Work on Second Module.	Thirty One Days of Training Sessions, An Academic Module Implemented and a second being Developed.
Awareness Raising Campaigns	Wales Africa Disability Arts Campaign	Campaign to be Agreed	Campaign to be Agreed	Three Campaigns Promoting Disability Equality through DWA
Supporting Project Development	Work with Ten WAN Projects	Work with Twelve WAN Projects	Work with Fifteen WAN Projects	Worked with at least Fifteen WAN Projects
Collecting and Collating Information on Disability and Development activities in Africa.	Survey of WAN Disability Activities and findings reported	Data Base developed, using research finding and placed on Web.	Data Base Developed Further.	A Functional and Fully Accessible Data Base through the Web and Other Mediums.
Newsletter and Published Material.	Two Newsletters (per year) One Article for Journals and or Web	Two Newsletters (per year) Two Articles for Journals and or Web	Two Newsletters (per year) Three Articles for Journals and or Web	Six Newsletters. Six Articles for Journals and/or Web.

Research and Consultancy Projects		One Research or Consultancy Project	One Research or Consultancy Project	Two Research or Consultancy Projects
Participate in Disability & Development Forums	The Bond DDG. The Welsh International Development Hub. Supporting WAN Activities (as appropriate). Supporting Disability Activities in Wales (as appropriate).	As Previously Identified	As Previously Identified	The Bond DDG. The Welsh International Development Hub. Supporting WAN Activities (as appropriate). Supporting Disability Activities in Wales (as appropriate).

DWA plans to employ a Co-ordinator. An important part of the Coordinator's work will be to utilise the DWA network to achieve its projects' aims and objectives. A first step in this process is the creation of a committee, with the capacity to drive the project forward.

As will be noted, DWA is not starting its programme from a cold origin. It is already established as part of the Welsh International Development scene, regularly attends Community Link, and Health Link, meetings. It has already floated the idea of developing an Academic Module. Finally it has attended meetings related to the Bond Disability and Development Group (DDG).

DWA presently uses Diverse Cymru in Canton, Cardiff, as its host for financial, legal, and administrative, purposes. However, as it becomes more established, the project expects to seek its own Charitable and Company status. This is assumed to be during the three years being discussed. The Co-ordinator's office is assumed to be in their home, with meetings and office support in Diverse Cymru

Beneficiaries of DWA

DWA will start by working directly with Welsh based people and organisations. By increasing the capacity of WAN activists, to engage with disabled communities, it will find itself working indirectly with disabled communities in Africa. DWA will use its contacts within the formal British and European Disability and Development Sector to increase the WAN potential to gain funding and support. The African partners will be encouraged to do the same in their respective areas.

As the information from African initiatives and projects starts to be collated and publicised, this will benefit the entire Wales Africa Network. Although the focus will be on disability, the information will be useful to other community and service development initiatives. Additionally, through the sharing of ideas and information, DWA can start to enable the African projects to find African solutions to African problems. South to South Links, which don't rely on the North to co-ordinate them, become increasingly possible. Africa may benefit from Welsh technical know how, and resources. However, the process needs to empower the African communities to implement, and own, their self-created solutions to their disability issues.

Disability professionals and activists, in both Wales and Africa, will gain from the sharing of ideas and experiences. African disability services will gain from having greater access to technology and resources, improving the lived experiences of African disabled communities. Nevertheless, the disability inclusive agenda is for both Wales and Africa. The Disability Arts in Wales and Africa campaign will be targeted to raise awareness of African disability issues. However, it will also provide a forum to enable Welsh disabled people to highlight the discrimination and barriers they face.

The wider Disability and Development arena will benefit from having a Resource Centre providing information regarding tried and tested ideas, initiatives, and projects. This will be based around grassroots experience, rather than larger organisational policies or government objectives. It is hoped that this will not only broaden people's thinking concerning disability and development, but also raise the profile of this work.

The DWA Three Year Budget

A budget for the three years can be read below. This is based on three year grant funding to covering the core costs. Some of the activities mentioned in this document will clearly require additional funding and will need to be applied for as separate items.

DWA Project Budget

Items of Revenue Expenditure	Year1	Year2	Year3	Total
Co-ordinator's Salary	26,240	27,552	28,930	82,722
Salary On Costs	3,936	4,133	4,339	12,408
Travel Expenses	4,000	4,200	4,410	12,610
Accommodation and Subsistence	3,000	3,150	3,308	9,458
Email, Web, Telephone and Fax	750	788	827	2,364
Stationary	500	525	551	1,576
insurance, Auditors and Legal Costs	1,000	1,050	1,103	3,153
Membership and Affiliation	1,000	1,050	1,103	3,153
Training Material and Publication	1,000	1,050	1,103	3,153
Hosting Support Fee 10%	4,143	4,350	4,567	13,060
Revenue Costs Sub Total	45,569	47,847	50,239	143,655
Items of Capital Expenditure	Year1	Year2	Year3	Total
Computer Equipment	1,000	200	210	1,410
Office Equipment Sundries	500	100	105	705
Training Equipment	500	100	105	705
Charity and Company Registration	500	100	105	705
Developing Web Page	2,000	400	420	2,820
Capital Costs Sub Total	4,500	900	945	6,345
Total Expenditure	50,069	48,747	51,184	150,000
Sources of Income	Year1	Year2	Year3	Total
Sponsor 1	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
Sponsor 2	20,000	20,000	20,000	60,000
Sponsor 3	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Total Projected Income	50,000	50,000	50,000	150,000

DWA Beyond This Proposal

This proposal is based around a grant aided initiative. However, the future of DWA probably lies in its ability to operate as a Social Enterprise. It is acknowledged that there will be an ongoing need for some grant support, yet there is also potential to develop a number of the activities along a business ethos. The training projects, particularly the academic modules, may be produced as something to be bought by interested parties. The consultancy work, supporting WAN activists, particularly where DWA is being asked to apply to potential sponsors or provide management support, could be converted into an income generating activity. Finally the research and consultancy role clearly has business potential. What is being sought is the funding to establish the project/organisation, and the time to develop it as a sustainable initiative.

It is being asserted that one of the main reasons why disability has been outside the domain of mainstream development is the lack of suitable information. The needs of disabled people have become the responsibility of trained service providers in industrialised countries such as Wales. This has had advantages, such as the development of medical and therapy support and the targeting of social and economic resources. The downside has been that ordinary people often don't engage with disability as part of everyday life. Returning disability to the community has not been easy in Wales, despite the legislation.

However, within Africa, we are starting further back in the process. Frequently there is no service provider to take responsibility for disability issues. Wales for Africa cannot be an avenue through which Welsh ideas are implemented in Africa. Much of Africa does not have the resources to implement them, even if they are shown to be the answer. We must have an understanding of ideas that work within the various African contexts. Finally we need to use the Wales Africa Network to relocate this disability and development debate. It must move from Wales to Africa.

DWA is an initiative which needs to operate alongside others such as Health and Education. Consequently, a great deal of its work will be in collaboration with organisations, such as Wales for Africa Health Links. The question is not whether there should be a "Disability" Millennium Goal. It is rather whether any of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, not to mention those of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities¹⁴, can be achieved, unless the needs of disabled communities are mainstreamed.

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