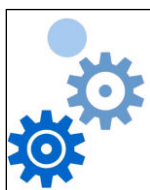


“MAKING IT WORK!” Good Practice case study



How to promote strategies to ensure disability issues are a constant priorities on key decision-makers' agenda?

Title:	Disability Working Committee (DWC)
Organization/project:	Tibet Disabled Person's Federation / Handicap International Inclusive Community Development Project
Location:	Pilot areas: Cheng Guan Qu, Medrogongka and Qushui counties of Lhasa municipality, Shigatse municipality, Chamdo county, TAR, CHINA
Scope:	County and municipality

Related articles of the CRPD

This practice relates to **article 21, 29** concerning Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information; participation in political and public life.

Related article of the China National Law of the Protection of Persons with Disabilities (2008)

This practice relates to :

Article 4 The State shall provide persons with disabilities with special assistance by adopting supplementary methods and supportive measures with a view to alleviating or eliminating the impact of their disabilities and external barriers and ensuring the realization of their rights.

Article 5 People's governments at and above the county level shall incorporate the work on disability into their economic and social development programs (...), and shall include expenditure on disability programs in budget arrangements with a view to establishing mechanisms of guaranteed resources. (...)

People's governments at all levels and departments concerned shall keep in close contact with persons with disabilities, solicit their opinions and fulfill their responsibilities in the work on disability.

Article 6 The State shall adopt measures to ensure that persons with disabilities (...) participate in the management of state affairs, economic and cultural undertakings and social affairs.

Opinions of persons with disabilities and their organizations shall be solicited in the formulation of laws, rules, regulations and public policies involving major issues concerning their rights and interests and the work on disability.

Persons with disabilities and their organizations have the right to put forward opinions and suggestions to state organs at various levels on the protection of the rights and interests and the development of the work on disability.

Article 7 (...) State organs, social groups, enterprises, institutions and self-management organizations in urban and rural communities should perform their respective functions on disability. State functionaries and other personnel engaged in the work on disability should fulfill their duties in accordance with law and try their best to provide quality services.

Article 8 China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and its local organizations shall represent the common interests of persons with disabilities, protect their lawful rights and interests, unite persons with disabilities and enhance education among them and provide service for them.

Article 15 The State shall ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy rights to rehabilitation services. People's governments at all levels and departments concerned shall adopt measures to create conditions for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, (...) thus enhancing their ability to participate in social life.

Article 17 (...) Local people's governments at various levels and departments concerned should organize and guide urban and rural community service networks, medical prevention and health care networks, organizations and families of persons with disabilities and other social forces in carrying out community-based rehabilitation programs.

Article 41 (...) People's governments at all levels and departments concerned shall encourage and assist persons with disabilities to participate in various forms of cultural, sports and recreational activities and shall create conditions to enrich the spiritual and cultural life of persons with disabilities.

Article 46 (...) The government and society shall take measures to improve the social security network for persons with disabilities, secure and improve the life of persons with disabilities.

Article 52 The State and society shall take measures to make facilities more accessible and to eliminate barriers in information communications so as to provide an accessible environment for persons with disabilities to participate in social life on an equal basis with others.

	<p style="text-align: center;"> SUSTAINABILITY DISABILITY RIGHTS PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL LIFE NETWORK DECISION MAKERS </p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Disability Working Committee Meeting</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Key words</i></p>

Background and context

According to the National Law for the Protection of Persons with Disabilities, different Governmental bureaus have the obligation to provide services for people with disabilities. **All the bureaus tend to work independently** and do not share the plans unless a request is coming from the Government. Networks only exist at the horizontal level because of administrative issues but there are no vertical networks within the different bureaus. **People with disabilities have comprehensive needs which need coordination among the different bureaus at the vertical level.**

Description of the practice

Network within the different bureaus able to fulfill the comprehensive needs of people with disabilities is one of the key elements of Community Based Rehabilitation approach. The Disability Working Committees are an existing mechanism at the national, regional, municipal and county level but often are not active. Thus the Inclusive Community Development project has worked with the partners to build a network and initiate regular meetings within the key different bureaus **using the Disability Working Committee platform.**

Process involved

1. Project has shared the idea of working with the 6 key Disability Working Committee members (Health, Education, Labor, Youth League, Women Federation, Civil Affair) with the partners (Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation, Lhasa Disabled Persons Federation).
2. A study tour) was organized to GuangZhou (mainland China by the project for the 6 key members at Lhasa municipality and the partners to understand the concept of Community Based Rehabilitation.

3. Meetings were organized after the study tour to get Disability Working Committee members feedback and clarify the mandate of the Disability Working Committee.
4. 3 project pilot areas were selected to start to work with local members on regular basis.
5. Later the practice was extended to Shigatse and Chamdo prefectures as the project start.
6. It was also discussed with the partner on the importance of having representatives from the persons with disabilities or their families through Self-Help Groups and Disabled Persons Organisations to attend in the committee meeting.
7. After approval from the partners, representatives from the Self-Help Groups were chosen and provided with specific training for effective participation.
8. Representatives of Self-Help Groups and Disabled Persons Organisations started the participation in the committee meeting.

The factors that made this practice possible

- Government support and attention at the local level is needed to be able to meet all the members together.
- Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation is ensuring the coordination, acting as the secretary of the disability Working Committee.

Some of the difficulties encountered

- According to the official document, 28 persons are appointed as Disability Working Committee members. The project could only start working with 6 members and later extend the scope.
- Timing that suits all the 6 members with important workload is a challenge. Individual meeting with Disability Working Committee members are organized when needed for some specific issues.
- Representatives of the bureaus attending the meeting are changing often because of limited staff. Thus there is not a specific person appointed to attend the meeting and there is no good handover of the previous meeting. It was emphasized to assign one specific person from each bureau, or a proper handover should be done in case there is a change in the person.
- Frequency of meeting and agenda should fit all the members to motivate them to continue to meet on regular base.

The effects / impact of the practice

- ✓ Through the **activation of the Disability Working Committee**, **horizontal networks** within the different bureaus were **set up and strengthened**.
- ✓ Inclusive Community Development project evaluation results showed that in Medrogonga, **Disability Working Committee members work more closely, share resources, which help to solve the budget issues**. The meetings enhance the relationship between bureaus. Before collaboration and coordination was very seldom. Now, issues related to people with disabilities are shared and each bureau can propose solutions to solve problems.
- ✓ Through the **participation of Self-Help Groups and Disabled Persons Organisations representatives** in some meetings, people with disabilities real concerns and issues are **brought up directly at a higher level and have better chance to be heard**. Solutions are more likely to be found. The practice also encourages and builds the people with disabilities' confidence.

Possible improvement

- To distribute formal document from the Government at regional and municipal level to give an obligation to the lower levels to meet on regular base and to submit the meeting report to them.
- To **systematically** involve representatives organisations of persons with disabilities to ensure that people with disabilities are involve in decisions that concern themselves.

Recommendations for the replication of this practice

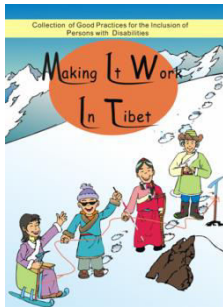
- Disability Working Committee meeting should be activated trough Government Department (not trough NGOs) to ensure long term sustainability.
- The Tibet Disabled Persons' Federation, being the Government department to protect persons with disabilities and also the Disability Working Committee secretary should ensure that local Disabled Persons' Federation takes the lead to advocate the local committee to meet regularly with the support from the chair person.

- Disability Working Committee meeting request should come from the chairperson to be able to gather and motivate the members to meet.

More information

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Full project report: [Collection of good practices for the inclusion of people with disabilities](#)

Criteria for the good practices: see page 8 (Part 1 of the report)

Recommendations from the good practices: Part 3 of the report