

# Brecon Molo Disability Inclusion Work

## A Venture Into Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

By

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# Brecon Molo Community Link

- Brecon, in mid Wales, and Molo in the Rift Valley of Kenya
- 1<sup>st</sup> visit from Brecon to Molo in October 2007
- Established three Focus Groups –Health, Education, Social Cohesion and Livelihood (including disability)
- Disability originally tasked to construct seven houses to accommodate disabled adolescents from the nearby Matumaini Children Centre.

# Community Based Rehabilitation

- “Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) was initiated by World Health Organisation ..... to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families; meet their basic needs; and ensure their inclusion and participation. ....
  - CBR is now ..... working to improve the equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of people with disabilities while combating the perpetual cycle of poverty and disability.
  - CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families and communities, and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services”.
- ([www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/en/](http://www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/en/))

# What Has Disability Work Meant For Brecon Molo?

- Two Awareness Raising Workshops in 2009 and 2011
  - 2011 Workshop Run by CBR Group from Embu
- Disability professionals exchanging visits between Brecon and Molo
- Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT)
- Getting to Know Cerebral Palsy (GtKCP)
- Community Health Support for Disabled Children (CHSfDC)
  - A one year programme funded via the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) – May 2016 to May 2017

# Working With The Disabled Community

- Project known as “Empowering the Disabled Community”
- Ran two training initiatives, to cascade the impact through “self help groups”
  - Getting to Know Cerebral Palsy (GtKCP) - for Parents and Community Health Workers
  - Disabled Community Workers (DCW) - for disabled people to work through their organisations
- The two initiatives were jointly funded by
  - Susila Dharma Britain =£2,500
  - Hub Cymru Africa =£5,500

# Empowering the Disabled Community

- GtKCP and DCW developed as 2 different training activities
- Getting to Know Cerebral Palsy (GtKCP)
  - A pre-prepared manual designed to be trained to would-be trainers and then cascaded through the community via parent groups
- Disabled Community Workers (DCW)
  - A generally open agenda which could be tailored to participants' interests and aspirations

# Molo Community Engagement

- Used the 5 communities of the Community Health Support for Disabled Children programme
  - Molo, Elburgon, Mariosioni, Sachangwan and Turi (with Karinget included in GtKCP)
- Worked with Molo Red Cross to liaise with
  - Disabled People Organisations
  - Community Health Workers
  - Parents of Disabled Children
- 2 people from Molo Red Cross were supported from Brecon via Skype, email etc

# Challenges Faced

- Communication;
  - Between Wales and Kenya
  - Local Management
- Understanding who was suitable to be trained
- Alignment of purpose and path (Disabled Community Workers training)
  - Trainers having to be very flexible
- Audience reflected the range of capacity and capabilities of a rural community.



# Community Impact Achieved

- As a result of the Empowering the Disabled Community training:
  - Self help groups have been inaugurated in the following – Molo, Elburgon, Sachangwan, Turi, along with Baraka
  - In some situations DPO and GtKCP groups have combined and in others remained separate
  - Some activities include table banking, purchase of chickens, goats etc
  - 2 or 3 groups continue to cascade GtKCP training
  - In Marioshoni and Keringet, people remain interested but as yet no formal group structures

# Consequential Initiatives

- November 2017 - Bees Abroad, through the Disabled People's and GtKCP groups:
  - Provided training in the manufacture of value-added bee products, such as lip balm
    - Also including a women's jewellery making group
  - Carried out scoping visit looking into the possibility of beekeeping
- March 2018 – 12 Screenings of disability awareness film, Lisilojulikana, with help from Purple Field Productions staff in Kenya

# What Does The Future Hold

- Brecon Molo is currently undertaking a review of all its activities and purpose
- Working with Self-Help Groups provides an opportunity for 'grass-root' development
  - But requires a strong regional coordinating base
- Still to find the most effective way to share information and motivate 'grass-root' community members
- Still plan to work with larger and government organisations

# What Can HCA Do

Facilitate more discussion and sharing of ideas around:

- Working with disabled people and their families
- Work directly with the community rather than just service providers - disability and other areas
- More emphasis on “community solidarity” between Wales and Africa
  - The Brecon “Empowering the Disabled Community” team of 5 included 3 disabled people, a parent of a disabled young person and a spouse to a disabled member

**“Disabled People’s Participation Should Be Expected, Not Just Accepted” (DWA)**