

Disability-inclusive PASDEP (DIP Project)

What is DIP

Disability-inclusive PASDEP (DIP) is a joint initiative of PANE and CBM that aims at ensuring the universality of development. The project has been designed to promote the inclusion of the issue of disability in the development effort of the country. The primary concern of the initiative is, therefore, to bring the needs of persons with disabilities in to focus in the process of the overall transformation of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) is instrumental to the realization of development of the country by eliminating poverty. The result to be achieved in the major sectors outlined in PASDEP is believed to lead to national development.

For this reason, DIP aims at making PASDEP inclusive of disability needs. The idea is that if PASDEP is about poverty elimination, it should address all the corners where poverty exists. In other words, since persons with disabilities suffer from poverty, this strategy should concern their interest too. The very purpose of DIP is, therefore, to ensure that PASDEP accommodates the development needs of persons with disabilities who usually represent the poorest section of the society.

DIP has two major components: advocacy and direct service delivery in selected areas. The advocacy component focuses on the general promotion of PASDEP towards designing and implementing PASDEP with special attention to the issue of disability. The specific aspect of service delivery concerns the need for some more practical involvement in giving support both to government effort and that of other organizations engaged in the same field. Some twenty schools have been identified as pilot projects for the support provision for 2008. As of 2009, a wider coverage of service provision will be planned.

Although the idea of DIP originally came from CBM, PANE also became interested in the proposal, bought the idea and is now implementing it with full commitment. In developing the concept, CBM conducted a preliminary assessment of PASDEP from disability perspective. On the basis of the assessment report, successive consultation workshops were held with interested stakeholders on how to address the issue of disability within the context of PASDEP. PANE and CBM, then, came to an agreement to jointly implement this project. Accordingly, DIP has been one of the PANE projects to be implemented in collaboration with all those interested in the proposal.

PANE and CBM have taken the initiative in implementing PASDEP in the interest of persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, it must be clear that any organization can join the effort in mobilizing whatever resource, technical, material or financial. PANE and CBM believes that Networking is a useful means of realizing development goals. Collaborative effort is usually more effective than unilateral endeavors. Consequently, DIP call upon all those who are interested in promoting disability-inclusive development to join the process.

As part of our effort to bring as many partners as possible, we will organize a network of those organizations engaged in similar processes. The network will set up a task force to oversee the operation of the project secretariat functioning under PANE. The idea is that the wider network to which all interested organizations are members serves as a forum of debate and discussion on major issues and sets down general directions of the project operation while the task force will function as an executive body. This model of arrangement will be put forward for discussion at the first meeting of organizations to be held soon. More over, the modality is subject to revision from time to time. PANE will actively implement the project on the basis of ideas and policy directions given by the network and task force. The network structure will go down to regions following the same line.