

December 2011

ADD
International



Stories of change



Photo: Emma Hines/innocent foundation

www.add.org.uk

Message from Tim Wainwright, ADD's CEO.

While working in Tanzania recently I met Milka, a truly inspirational woman. I was humbled by what this amazing person had achieved. Milka has a physical disability, she supports her grandchildren, who have tragically become AIDS orphans, as well as her sick husband. She is also a role model to both disabled and non-disabled women who go to her for advice - an example of how, with support, disabled people can become leaders of the communities that once rejected them.

When I asked why she gave so much to others, she said she was inspired by her own mother who had provided vital support when Milka became disabled following the birth of her first child.

Milka's story is by no means unique. A new report released by the World Health Organisation earlier this year confirmed that 15% of the population live with a disability (previous estimates were 10%), 80% of whom live in developing countries.

While there is still a long way to go, this newsletter brings you stories of change so you can see what a real difference your support makes to real people like Milka.

Thank you!

Tim

Photo on front page:
Varalakshmi from India
with her mother.

There are 1 billion disabled people in the world – 800 million live in developing countries - most live in extreme poverty yet are not included in poverty reduction work.

ADD's vision is of a world where disabled people have exactly the same rights as non-disabled people.

ADD's mission is to support disabled people in Africa and Asia to challenge disability discrimination.

ADD's aims are to:

- Support organisations of disabled people in Africa and Asia to become strong and effective
- Support disabled people's organisations to influence laws and change attitudes
- Influence charities and donors to include disabled people in all their poverty reduction work.



Miriam is a member of Kijura Disabled Women's Association in Uganda. She became deaf after catching measles when she was two. Through this ADD supported Association Miriam is learning sign language.

Only 2% of disabled children in developing countries go to school.

Excluded by other children, their communities and even their own families, disabled children face ignorance and discrimination when it comes to schooling. Without an education, disabled children grow up illiterate and therefore unemployable – destined to a life of poverty.

How can we change this? By changing attitudes.

ADD works with schools and teachers to educate them as to why they should include disabled children, and with governments to influence them to include disabled children in country education plans.

Through ADD's work in Mali for instance, 79 children with hearing, visual and mental disabilities were admitted into school for the first time this year. ADD also supported the disabled people's organisation (DPO) AMASOURD to successfully apply for funding to build a school for deaf children. The school will also benefit non-disabled children and promote inclusive education.

At national level, the draft national inclusive education policy, which ADD helped develop, was finally adopted by the government.

Case Study.

ADD's volunteer photojournalist Geoff Sayer first met Lucy and her mother Helen in 2006 when he visited Uganda for us. Lucy was not at school because her mother could not afford the medication to control her epileptic seizures, and Lucy couldn't bear the other children making fun of her. Helen said:

“When Lucy had a seizure at school, she would recover to find other children laughing at her. So Lucy feared the children and she became scared to go to school. I was afraid the teachers would not know how to look after her – so in a way it was easier for me to keep her at home.”

Geoff went to see Lucy (pictured below in the striped top) again earlier this year and said: “I was happily surprised to find that Lucy was now attending AKADOT primary school and was doing really well. This is brilliant for her as it is a step closer to realising her dream of becoming a nurse.”

Thanks to the awareness-raising activities of DPOs, 26 of the 1026 pupils enrolled at AKADOT school are disabled children.



Photo: Geoff Sayer

“I didn’t go to school because my parents thought it was not worth it. It was seen as a waste of time and meagre resources.”

Orokia from Burkina Faso

Orokia got polio around the time she was learning to walk. She remembers how sad she felt when other children left her out of the games they played. Now married with two children, Orokia feels that same disregard from her husband’s family who tried to convince him to take a “proper” wife.

Things changed when Orokia joined a DPO and took part in skills training and learnt about her rights as a disabled woman. Orokia became stronger and realised she was not alone and did not have to feel ashamed.

Today, Orokia is President of the women’s department of the national DPO. With new found confidence Orokia approached a non-disabled women’s organisation for membership; she was warmly received and now enjoys their respect and support. Orokia is not only the first and only disabled woman in the organisation, but she is also Vice Chairwoman and an inspiring role model for other disabled women.

Orokia is still sad and angry about the opportunities she never had, but now has the confidence to demand them as her right.



Photo: Karen Andrae/ADD International

Rejected by her father, ignored by children and excluded from education.



All her life **Jane** has experienced prejudice and discrimination – being called “pig” and other demeaning names.

Joining the Elgon Foundation of Persons with Albinism (EFPA) in Uganda put Jane in contact with people with albinism and other disabilities. At EFPA, the practical

help and the resolute peer support Jane received has taught her she is not a “pig” but a valuable human being.

One day while tilling the small piece of land her late husband had inherited from his parents, her brother-in-law turned up and began pulling out the vegetables Jane had planted. When she challenged him, he beat her.

Jane went to the local authorities and reported him. They reacted swiftly and arrested the man who subsequently received a two-week jail sentence.

ADD and EFPA challenge attitudes and raise awareness about albinism, its causes and medical consequences, and counter myths and preconceptions. Without this work, the local authorities would never have reacted so swiftly and decidedly against the abuse committed against Jane.

Given that EFPA’s work has only just started, Jane’s story is an encouraging step towards much bigger change.



74% of physically disabled people and 94% of people with an intellectual disability in India are unemployed. (International Disability Rights Monitor, 'Regional Report of Asia', 2005)

Barriers to the employment of disabled people include discrimination and a lack of understanding. Many employers wrongly assume that disabled people cannot work and banks believe that disabled people will default on their loans.

55 year old **Salda Pasha** (pictured left) lives in India. He had not worked for three years following a serious injury at work which led to gangrene and the amputation of his right leg.

Salda was desperate to work, but was unable to get a loan to start a business. So he stayed home feeling like a failure, unable to support his family.

Last year, Salda applied for a loan* through his local DPO of 5000 rupees (about £70) to start his own business. He buys wholesale fruit from Bangalore market, which he sells in his village at a profit of around 50 rupees (65p) a day.

Salda is excited to be working again, and to have the security and independence his income generates. Through his DPO, he has become aware of the local authority grants that are provided for disabled people, and hopes that, with time, he will secure one and be able to start his own small shop.

*a project funded by





“Before joining the DPO, I was at home, crying and begging, acting as a charity case. Now I am confident, I have a business and I support my family.”

Precia is 58. Three months after giving birth to her first son in 1971 she suddenly lost the use of her right arm. She could no longer lift it and had constant pain throughout her body, especially in her joints. Although over the years there has been a slight improvement, Precia still cannot use her arm.

When Precia joined CHAWATA, an organisation of physically disabled people in Tanzania, the biggest change was a shift in her own mindset. Through training and sharing experiences with other disabled women, Precia gained confidence and now earns her own income running a small business cooking and selling food in a school compound.

Precia is now seen as a very wise woman by the community, and both disabled and non-disabled women go to her for advice.

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You can help by passing this newsletter onto a friend or family member and introducing them to our work.

Photo: Andy Capie/ADD International



School for blind and visually impaired children in Tanzania.

This newsletter is printed in font size 14 to make it more accessible. If you would like to receive it in another format please call 01373 473064.

Some names have been changed to protect identities.

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