

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION FUND

Final Report

- Please try not to exceed 5 pages (Arial, 12pts) excluding attachments –

Organisation Name	Anglican Alliance
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Project Title	Resource Pack for faith leaders and community carers to support refugee/IDPs with disabilities
Problem Addressed / Thematic Focus	People with disabilities, refugees, Africa
Location	Official and unofficial refugee and IDP settings in Burundi and Zambia
Start Date	January 2014
Duration	6 months
Total Funding Requested	£19,439

Partner(s)	Bethesda Project Burundi – Zambian Anglican Council
Total Funding	Total: £ 29,599 (Anglican Alliance: £12,660; HIF: £19,439)

Innovation Stage	Invention
Type of Innovation	Product and service
Project Impact Summary	Resource pack for faith leaders and community carers to identify, profile, protect and advocate for and with refugees and IDPs with disabilities

Reporting Period	Final project report, November 2014
Total Spent	

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

Workshops and community engagement were held in refugee camps in Burundi and Zambia to collect information about the situation of people with disabilities and their carers, through use of identification and profiling tools. Meetings with camp authorities and agencies working with refugees gave additional insights from a local, national and global perspective. From this initial work, a resource was developed for faith leaders and community carers to better engage with and

support people with disabilities in a refugee context. The draft tools and resource were translated into French for use with refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda.

The resource was trialled in the same refugee camps, through workshops and community engagement and in a second camp in each country to learn from different context. The resource was then revised with the feedback from the refugee camps, country stakeholder workshops and virtual consultations with experts in disability, refugees, faith leadership and development.

In all workshops and community engagement, participants included people with and without disabilities, as well as a mix of age and gender, and faith groups, reflecting the refugee population, many different Christian denominations and Muslims.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Faith and community leaders and community carers (workshop participants), as well as camp authorities and agencies working with refugees, engaged with the project and learnt about disabilities and the potential contribution of and needs of people with disabilities within the local community.

Workshop participants identified and profiled people with disabilities in their communities and learnt about their situation, their capabilities and their protection and advocacy needs.

Main problems for people with disabilities were shared and prioritised by workshop participants. They then worked on the key issues, seeing what steps they could take to change things themselves and what they could influence others to change and how they would do this.

Workshop participants set up a local disability committee and developed an action plan to take forward disability issues. They plan to continue to identify and profile people with disabilities. Once all people with disabilities have been registered, they will hold meetings with them to identify and prioritise their needs and skills. They will create linkages with the local authorities and agencies. They will develop a constitution and register as an association to allow them to engage with regional and national agencies to get support for people with disabilities in the refugee camp. They will hold a stakeholder meeting to bring together refugees with disabilities, faith and community leaders, camp authorities, agencies working with refugees and disability organisations. This will be an opportunity to share the situation of people with disabilities in the camp and what the faith communities are doing. It will be a forum to discuss how camp authorities, agencies working with refugees and disabilities organisation can work with the disability committee to improve daily life for people with disabilities.

A resource and tools were developed and tested in different refugee contexts before revising for wider distribution and use.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology worked well. The virtual consultations provided expert input when planning the visits to the refugee camps and developing the tools and resource. However, the partners felt that more direct input would be beneficial, so country meetings became stakeholder meetings, to give an opportunity for wider

participation in the development of the resource pack and interaction between refugee delegates with and without disabilities, national and local faith leaders, camp authorities and agencies working with refugees. Some face to face meetings were used to draft of the identification and profiling tools and resource and to plan the first workshops and community engagement in each country. The workshops were as important as the community engagement as sources of material for the resource and its annexes.

In Kinama camp, Burundi, the overwhelming response to the profiling day meant that full data analysis was not possible before the second visit. Key issues were identified and the profiles returned to the disability committee to use to prepare care profiles and learn about local advocacy and protection issues.

Within the workshops, participants discussed issues of confidentiality, how information would be used and shared when they work with people with disabilities in the community.

MAJOR OBSTACLES

Changes to the Anglican Alliance and Bethesda Project teams, at the same time as the funding was confirmed, delayed the start of project activities. The project partners worked together to review and revise the activities and budget to fit the new team while still completing project activities within budget and project period. Other challenges were related to the risks identified in the proposal, reluctance to engage with the project and raising unrealistic expectations.

Camp authorities and agencies were reluctant initially to allow the project teams to work in the camps. This was for fear that the project would raise expectations of provision for people with disabilities that the project and the camp authorities and agencies were not in a position to meet. In Burundi, it was also the desire of camp authorities to have strong long term partnerships working to agreed plans in the camps and not wanting short term visitors coming and giving conflicting messaging or raising unrealistic expectations.

Within the refugee population there was sometimes a reluctance to have outsiders visiting homes and asking questions, which was overcome by the faith communities leading this work.

Raising unrealistic expectations was a real concern. At every stage, it was emphasised to faith and community leaders and people with disabilities that the project was raising awareness of disabilities and working to change attitudes, and empowering the community to protect and advocate with and for people with disabilities. This emphasis reassured camp authorities and agencies, allowing the project team to work with the faith communities and people with disabilities through workshops and community engagement. Faith communities are part of the community and can therefore disseminate positive messages about disabilities and transform attitudes as they are a permanent presence in the camps.

Language was another challenge, while many leaders spoke English or French, the people with disabilities and community carers generally did not. Local translators ensured that everyone could understand all workshop and community activities, but this slowed progress and limited some of the activities. Before the visits all printed material had been translated into French, but material in Swahili would have helped. Swahili translation of the final resource is planned.

BENEFICIARIES/HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS IMPACTED

Workshop participants have begun to impact some of the 15% of the total refugee population, who live with a disability in camps in Burundi and Zambia. However the impact should continue to spread as faith communities, with and through the disability committees, continue to engage with and support people with disabilities, both in the camps where they are now, but in the future as they return home, are resettled or are locally integrated. Working with faith and community leaders in refugee communities can have very far reaching impact, as they work from within the community, learn about the local situation for people with disabilities and working with them to transform attitudes and advocate for and with them to improve the quality of their daily life.

Data for people with disabilities given by agencies working in the refugee camps were significantly lower that would be expected from a population in a developing country, let alone communities that had fled violent conflict. This serious underestimate was seen in both Burundi and Zambia. It was especially noticeable in Kinama camp, Burundi, where large numbers of people with disabilities gathered to speak with us during both camp visits. This partial group of people with disabilities in itself even exceeded the official figures for the whole camp. Different recording systems for disability would account for the discrepancy. Agencies in the camps, as in developing countries more generally, do not have the capacity to fully meet the needs of all people with disabilities. Engaging with authorities, faith leaders and agencies raised the issue of people with disabilities on the agenda of a wider more influential group. At the stakeholder meetings several said they would plan to include people with disabilities in their regular development work. In Zambia, the representative for UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) was prompted to share UNHCR guidelines on disability with partners setting up new camps for local integration of Angolan and Rwandan former refugees.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

The planned partnership, between the Anglican Alliance and Bethesda project in Burundi and Zambian Anglican Council (ZAC), worked well, despite there being significant staff changes both at the Anglican Alliance and at Bethesda project in Burundi between writing and implementing the proposal. Each partner brought expertise that was shared across the project, for example Evariste Hatungimana (Bethesda project) travelled to Zambia with Janice Proud (Anglican Alliance) for ZAC's visit to Meheba refugee settlement, sharing both his expertise working with people with disabilities but also his experience of organising the project's workshop and community work in Kinama refugee camp in Burundi.

Wider collaborations took time to nurture but were crucial to the success of the field visits and development of the resource. The project team appreciated their engagement with staff from the UNHCR at local, national and international level to plan and deliver the project activities, as well as government refugee agencies at national and local level.

Country stakeholder meetings were a forum for a range of stakeholder to meet and provide feedback on the project activities and the resource being developed.

As well as being a real opportunity for refugees with and without disabilities to speak with camp, agency and faith leaders about disability issues. The local disability committees set up by workshop participants were encouraged to form an association to be able to link with national and local disability organisations to develop partnerships to access specialist services that are beyond the capacity of the camp agencies to provide. It was encouraging to see the local disability committees taking over relationships with local authorities that the project team had established, to develop long term local partnerships.

DISSEMINATION

At each visit the learning from the previous visit was shared with camp authorities and workshop participants.

The resource will be available to download on the Anglican Alliance website, with a launch on International Day of People with Disability (3rd December 2014). It will be promoted at the Anglican Alliance's Africa consultation and its Advisory Council in Nairobi in January 2015. It will be distributed through faith leaders and faith based development organisation.

The resource will be translated initially into French and Swahili to make it more accessible in Central Africa, with other languages following as requested. This will be possible with support from Translators without Borders.

The resource will be shared with all the agencies that supported the project with their expertise in faith issues, disabilities, refugees and development, with permission to use the material freely.

It will also be shared by the Anglican Alliance Relief Manager, through regional workshops and when local churches ask for support following an emergency.

TRANSFERABILITY

The resource and skills developed through the project will easily be transferred more widely. At the stakeholder meetings in both Burundi and Zambia, both faith leaders and leaders of faith based development agencies said that the project and resource would enable them to specifically include and work with people with disabilities in other aspects of their work.

Similarly the Anglican Alliance is planning to strengthen the focus on disability as a priority as they support churches worldwide to advocate towards shaping the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.