**AusAID's Disability-Inclusive Development Reference Group**

**Fourth Meeting 9-12 August 2010, Phnom Penh**

**Communiqué**

1. The fourth meeting of the AusAID Disability-Inclusive Development Reference Group (DRG) was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 9-12 August 2010. This was the first time a meeting of the DRG had taken place outside of Australia involving a broad range of external stakeholders and engagement of AusAID country program personnel. The agenda for the meeting and biographies of DRG members are at Attachment A. Ms Ingar Duering of GTZ participated as an observer of the DRG meeting with the expectation that GTZ will become a permanent member of the group. Ms Megan McCoy currently representing the New Zealand Aid Program on the DRG was introduced as AusAID's new Regional Specialist (Disability Inclusive Development) due to commence work with the AusAID team in Phnom Penh in October 2010. The agenda and outcomes from the DRG's third meeting in April 2010 are at Attachment B.

2. The four days of proceedings were well attended and were chaired by AusAID Director, Disability Inclusive Development (Kristen Pratt). The DRG met with H.E Ith Sam Heng, the Cambodian Minister for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), H.E. Sem Sokha Secretary of State, Department of Rehabilitation, MoSVY and other senior government officials. Australia's Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Margaret Adamson briefed the DRG on arrival, led the meeting with Minister Sam Heng, and hosted a high profile dinner which included the participation of H.E. Dr Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister for Women's Affairs. Discussions were also held with AusAID program staff, and prominent NGOs, International NGOs (INGOs), Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPOs) and Development Partners involved with disability inclusive development in Cambodia. AusAID Assistant Director General, Mr Laurie Dunn, gave his apologies.

**Purpose**

3. The Reference Group was established to provide senior level guidance to the Australian aid program on implementation of the *Development for All* Strategy, ensure that efforts are consistent with and fulfil Australia's commitments under United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and ensure that the transparent and consultative approach is taken during the preparation of the *Development for All* strategy continues throughout implementation. Objectives for the fourth meeting were to:

    - Increase understanding of development partners in Cambodia – Government, DPOs, NGOs, INGOs and other donor agencies – of the priorities and strategy of the Australian Government in disability-inclusive development

    - Support the AusAID team in Phnom Penh in effectively integrating disability in Australia's aid program through the *Development for All* strategy

    - Strengthen DRG member's understanding of progress, opportunities, challenges and needs of AusAID in-country teams in effectively implementing the *Development for All* Strategy

    - Review and provide guidance on priority areas and activities identified at the third DRG meeting

    - Set out forward agenda and priority areas of focus for the DRG for 2010-11.

**Key outcomes**

4. Agreed outcomes of the meeting include:

***Royal Government of Cambodia: Inclusive National Development***

- Noted the Royal Government of Cambodia's long history of engagement and support for people with disability due to impairments caused by conflict and remnants of war.

- Noted Australia's long established partnership with Government towards ensuring that people with disability in Cambodia are included in, contributing to, and benefiting from national development.

- Congratulated Government leadership and preparations to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) – noting that much of the essential architecture is already in place and there is already much to report should Government ratify.

- Acknowledged the challenges in planning and decision making, particularly around service provision, caused by weak statistics on disability.

- Encouraged Government to pursue plans to work with the National Statistic Office to clean, analyse and make existing data available.

- Strongly supported steps to:
  - review the definition of disability (and move away from the existing medical model to a social model) using the WHO International Classification of Functioning and revise questionnaires accordingly
  - engage with UNESCAP and the Washington Data Group to strengthen content of future surveys including regular social economic survey and the 2018 census.

- Welcomed Government's intention to recognise disability as a cross cutting issue.

- Supported efforts to improve coordination across and between different line ministries including education, infrastructure and health to strengthen the whole of government's strategy and policy implementation.

***Development Partners (Disabled Peoples Organisations, People with Disability, NGOs, INGOs, Donor Partners)***

- Recognised the common challenges presented including:
  - Limited access by people with disability to health and education services, higher education, employment opportunities, economic markets and vocational training
  - Limited capacity to clean, organise, analyse and present available primary disability data to inform Government policy makers

- Encouraged development partners to improve coordination and develop a unified and cooperative voice on disability issues in Cambodia to strengthen their advocacy and influence with Government.

- Acknowledged relevant areas for collaboration between AusAID and GTZ including: compliance criteria for working with partner governments; barrier free construction; research on inclusive employment; setting benchmarks in corporate policy; social protection and staff capacity building.

- Noted World Bank's support of the Fast Track Initiative, Cambodia's largest education program, and the crucial role it can play with Government in support of inclusive education.

- Highlighted the value of bilateral partners sharing experience on training and staff capacity development and identified scope for future collaboration with between USAID and AusAID on accessible design.

- Identified the need to align all development partner strategies and policies with the Government's Functional Review and Decentralisation and De-concentration process to ensure a rights based approach is adopted to address equity issues in Cambodia.

*AusAID Cambodia Program*

- Recognised the impact of consistent high-level leadership from Australia's mission in engaging and working with Government towards a more comprehensive approach to including people with disability in development decision making, program design and implementation.

- Confirmed AusAID Cambodia's position as a focus country, as demonstrated by the spread of inclusive development activity and in the nature of discussions which were focused on the 'how' of inclusive development rather than the 'why'.

- Noted good progress building on previous mine-action work to broaden and establish a sound foundation of disability-specific activities that underpin integration of disability across the program and wider disability-inclusive development in Cambodia. Of note was early support to Government in its efforts towards ratifying the UNCRPD and capacity development/empowerment of Disabled Peoples Organisations such as English language training to strengthen applications for leadership and scholarship programs.

- Acknowledged innovative steps to revise guidance for existing flexible mechanisms under Australia's aid program such as Small Grants Schemes and Discretionary Aid Program to increase equity by requiring that people with disability are consulted in preparation of proposals, included as partners, and clearly benefit.

- Congratulated the Australian mission for modelling good-practice in becoming an inclusive organisation by recruiting people with disability into temporary vacancies as career development opportunities that have frequently led to appropriate permanent employment elsewhere.

- Recognised and encouraged early analysis and efforts to integrate disability in all of the key sectors that Australia engages; Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Law and Justice, and Infrastructure.


*Opportunities for disability inclusive development*

- Noted the positive momentum on disability issues through the Government's social protection agenda and the opportunities for strengthened cooperation with other key development partners.

- Identified the Government's Decentralisation and De-concentration process as a critical area for engagement by development partners, particularly to influence reforms in integrated service delivery.

- Highlighted the need to influence design processes for new infrastructure projects to promote accessibility for people with disabilities working with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank who are heavily engaged in this sector.

- Encouraged development partners to work with Government to improve access to health equity funds for people with disabilities.


*Disability Inclusive Development Team*

- Congratulated AusAID for completion of the *Development for All* Report Card November 2008-June 2010 and acknowledged the significant achievements documented whilst recognising the challenges identified.
    - Recommended application of consistent language regarding disability; inclusion of a disability inclusive development definition; and an explanation of which programs represent focus countries.

- Endorsed DIDT's proposed approach for developing a delivery strategy, a strategic planning and management tool that will guide AusAID staff in policy engagement, program development and management.
  - Acknowledged the delivery strategy could be a useful tool to strengthen the case on why disability is a development issue and not a health issue.
- Encouraged AusAID to reflect the use of the UNCRPD as a framework to support a rights based approach in the delivery strategy.
- Supported the suggested process for finalising the *Development for All* Strategy Performance Assessment Framework and establishment of an externally contracted Performance Information Team to assist with monitoring and evaluation.

**Summary of discussions:**
*Cambodia Post and AusAID Program Staff*

5. The Australian Ambassador H.E. Margaret Adamson met with the DRG to provide an overview of disability issues in Cambodia. The Ambassador explained disability focused work in Cambodia originates from post-conflict aid programs built on landmine survivor assistance and unexploded ordinance activities. This has resulted in a strong and engaged NGO sector in Cambodia. Ms Adamson noted that the visit of Mr McMullan (previous Parliamentary Secretary for the aid program) two years ago served to raise the profile of Australia's efforts to be more inclusive of people with disability. The Ambassador emphasised the importance of joint messaging by development partners and the need for unified positions on disability inclusive development. She also stressed the need to reinforce Australian experience in disability inclusive development and highlight the productivity benefits of greater inclusion, especially where counterpart government's budgets are under stress.

6. The DRG had meetings with AusAID Counsellor Development Cooperation, Lachlan Pontifex and senior managers from each of the sectoral programs. Post staff sought specific guidance from the DRG on identifying sector specific opportunities and broadening disability inclusive development into a range of programs. Key issues presented by Post staff include:
   - AusAID support in providing a National Disability Advisor has contributed significantly to progress by the Government on disability issues and was instrumental in the development of the National Plan of Action for People with Disabilities.
   - There is a lack of quality data on disability. Data from the last census in 2008 indicates a low prevalence of people with disability, however estimates from WHO indicate these figures could be inaccurate. Post highlighted the importance of developing a sound evidence base to inform government policy and development partner programming.
   - Service delivery presents significant challenges across most sectors and needs to be a core focus of any development programming.
   - Difficulties associated with retro-fitting disability inclusive development into existing program designs and implementation processes.

7. The DRG outlined a number of existing program areas that could incorporate disability inclusive components:
   - Health. Government's specific budget allocations to non communicable disease and mental health programs are possible entry points for cooperation in the health sector on disability.

- Law and Justice. Development of accessible infrastructure, and awareness and capacity through police training between law enforcers and people with disabilities.

- Infrastructure. World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are heavily involved in infrastructure programming in Cambodia and have strong universal design policies. AusAID consider advocating for consistent implementation of these policies through cooperation in this sector.

8. The DRG noted a new agriculture and rural development program is currently being developed and disability and gender strategies were being considered as part of the design process. The program has also established a sector monitoring group that includes a dedicated resource for cross cutting issues including disability. The DRG saw this as a positive demonstration that AusAID's twin track approach to disability inclusive development was beginning to have an impact on program implementation.

*Cambodian Government*

9. The DRG met with H.E Ith Sam Heng, the Government Minister for Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and a range of senior officials from MoSVY. A full list of meeting participants is at Attachment C. Key issues discussed include:

- A Government Disability Fund has been established as a means of raising revenue for disability programs and all development partners are encouraged to contribute.

- Government is finalising a draft sub-decree to improve access to employment for people with disabilities by establishing a quota system.

- Government has committed to the ninth MDG on landmine action.

- A technical working group had been formed to oversee and implement a ten stage process toward ratification of the UNCRPD.

- The AusAID funded National Disability Advisor will have a key role in guiding MoSVY toward ratification.

- The classification system for disability requires modification to align with a social model instead of being based on a medical model.

*Disability Inclusive Development stakeholders*

10. Disability inclusive development stakeholders including DPOs, NGOs, INGOs, Development Partners held discussions with the DRG over the four days. A full list of participants is at Attachment C. highlights of discussion included:

- There is a lack of incentives to encourage children with disability to attend school because of the shortage of employment opportunities following graduation. Many schools have not been able to address barriers that prevent attendance and equality of learning

- NGO and INGO participants noted positive progress on mainstreaming inclusive development through community engagement under the Poverty Reduction Strategy Program, including ongoing involvement of people with disability.

- Absence of reliable data specifically related to equity, service delivery and performance. Household economic surveys conducted every two years have the scope to provide useful information. This requires the commitment of donors and Government.

- Coordination is a significant challenge and NGOs have found it hard to build cooperation across sectors and promote a whole-of-government approach between Ministries. NGOs recognised the challenges faced by Government in taking over management responsibility of a number of physical rehabilitation centres in Cambodia.

- GTZ outlined a new strategic initiative that would target social protection at both local and central Government levels and highlighted the MOU between Australia and BMZ as an avenue for increased collaboration.

- USAID has been grappling with monitoring of and ensuring compliance to key disability inclusive policies. To build staff capacity on disability inclusive development, USAID provides a suite of online learning resources and delivers compulsory training modules for all foreign service staff prior to deployment overseas.

*Perspectives from rural women with disability*

11. The DRG greatly appreciated the chance to meet with a group of mothers and women with disability representing several rural communities in Cambodia. The DRG identified a number of common themes from the discussions:

- Employment and self employment opportunities are limited for rural women with disabilities. Lack of access to start-up capital and microfinance presents severe limitations.

- Access to health services is problematic crated by poor quality and inaccessible infrastructure. Although many women were aware of concessions for people with disability under health equity funds, it was clear this is not available and most were bearing the full cost of health services.

- Many of the women had heard about the new Disability Laws, but were not familiar with the UNCRPD.

**AusAID Disability Inclusive Development Program Update**

12. The DRG had several business meetings with AusAID staff from the Disability Inclusive Development Team (DIDT). Ms Kristen Pratt, Director DIDT took the opportunity to update the DRG on progress and developments on implementation of the *Development for All Strategy* since the last meeting in April 2010.

13. A draft version of the *Development for All* Report Card November 2008-June 2010 was presented and key achievements and challenges since implementation of the strategy in 2008 were highlighted. The DRG made the following recommendations regarding the Report Card:

- Further refinement is required in preparation of the Report Card for publishing on the AusAID website.

- Apply consistent language regarding disability and standardise use of acronyms such as UNCRPD.

- Incorporate a definition of disability inclusive development at the beginning of the Report Card and an explanation of which programs represent focus countries and reasoning behind their selection.

- Include web links to relevant documents and analysis.

14. AusAID's proposal to develop a Disability Inclusive Development Delivery Strategy was discussed. The Delivery Strategy will be positioned between higher level strategic documents and individual activity level design documents. It will describe how AusAID is to deliver on the commitments articulated in strategy and policy documents to support and promote change towards achievement of priority development outcomes. Key points raised include:

- It should be strategic, principles based and focus on the enabling outcomes of the *Development for All* Strategy.

- Provides an opportunity to clearly articulate a position on prevention programs and where they should logically be positioned in AusAID.

- Could be used to strengthen the case on why disability is a development issue and not a health issue.

- Will be an important tool in managing the significant transition expected within DIDT over the coming months and to plan implementation following the completion of the *Development for All* Strategy in 2014.

- The DRG encouraged AusAID to reflect the use of the UNCRPD as a framework to support a rights based approach in the Delivery Strategy.

- AusAID will conduct consultations with select thematic teams and country posts to ensure the *Development for All Strategy* – Performance Assessment Framework meets program's requirements.

- A Performance Information Team, made up of external technical advisors with experience in M&E and appreciative and strengths based approaches will be established to support AusAID implement the Performance Assessment Framework, including pilots in one country and one thematic program to test the methodology.

15. DIDT priorities for the remainder of 2010 and early 2011 were outlined:

- Transition planning, mobilisation of the new regional specialist positions and filling new positions in line with the approved resource bid.

- Participation in the upcoming Australian Disability and Development Consortium meeting in Darwin, September 2010.

- Visit to Papua New Guinea to discuss possible expansion of the Disability Rights Fund with AusAID Post and Government.

- WHO World Report on Disability launch (3 December 2010).

- Support for AusAID's attendance at the MDG Summit.

- Introduction of regional specialists to their respective programs in Asia (Ms Megan McCoy) and the Pacific (Ms Christina Parasyn).

- Finalisation and publishing of the *Development for All* Strategy Report Card.

- Completion of the AusAID staff survey on disability inclusive development and formulation of recommendations resulting from the findings.

- Development of the Disability Inclusive Development Delivery Strategy.

- Finalisation of the Performance Assessment Framework and establishment of the Performance Information Team.

- Finalise arrangements with the Pacific Disability Forum for DPO capacity building.

- Execute agreements with WHO and UNICEF on disability inclusive development cooperation.

- Completion of agency guidance materials on Universal Design, Universal Mobility Index, Recycled Spectacles, Wheelchair Procurement, and Assistive Devices.

**Other issues**

16. Both DRG and AusAID noted the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to hear directly from Posted officers engaged in delivering Australia's aid program. It also allowed in-country AusAID staff to learn from and tap into the perspectives and expertise of the DRG, to address implementation issues and inform integration of disability in development programs being managed at Post.

17. 2011 DRG Meetings: the DRG agreed to conduct a virtual meeting in January/February 2011 to specifically consider the DIDT Delivery Strategy, the *Development for All* Strategy

mid term review process and progress on implementing the Performance Assessment Framework.

**Attachment A: Meeting agenda and DRG member biographies**
*Meeting agenda*

Monday 9 – Thursday 12 August 2010
Phnom Penh Cambodia
Summary Agenda

## Objectives

1. DRG have a better understanding of progress, opportunities, challenges and needs of AusAID in-country teams in effectively implementing the *Development for All* strategy
2. Shared learning and increased understanding of officers of the Australian Mission in Phnom Penh, development partners and DRG members of implementation of disability-inclusive development through the Australian Government's *Development for All* (DFA) strategy
3. AusAID staff in Phnom Penh have increased understanding of disability-inclusive development and the implementation of the DFA strategy in relation to their own areas of work responsibility
4. Development partners in Cambodia – DPOs, Government, INGOS and other donor agencies and governments have increased understanding of the priorities and strategy of the Australian Government in disability-inclusive development

## Sunday 8 August

**Transport:**     Not required
**Venue:**     Inter-Continental Hotel: Meeting Room

**6.00-7.00pm:     Pre-dinner informal briefing**
**Participants:**     DRG Members and AusAID Canberra DID team
**Purpose:**     Review final program, logistics and other arrangements for meeting

## Monday 9 August

**Transport:**     Departs hotel at 09.30am
**Venue:**     Australian Embassy (Canberra Room)

**10.00-11.00am: Welcome and initial briefing with  Lachlan Pontifex, Counsellor AusAID**
**Participants:**     DRG & Canberra DIDT, Senior Post staff
**Discussion:**

> – Overview of *Development for All* strategy and new budget measure *Disability: Fair Development Accessible to All* (Kristen Pratt)
> – Role of Disability Reference Group (Kristen Pratt & DRG)
> – Overview of Disability Inclusion in Australia's aid program in Cambodia (Lachlan Pontifex AusAID Counsellor and Belinda Mericourt AusAID Disability Focal Point Cambodia program)

**Notes:**     Includes break for morning tea

**Transport:**     Depart for restaurant at 11.45am
**12.30-1.30     Lunch at Titanic Restaurant** (www.bopha-phnompenh.com)
Riverside restaurant serving traditional Khmer food

**Transport:**     Depart for hotel at 1.30

**2.00-5.00pm:     DRG Business Meeting Session 1**
**Venue**:     Inter-Continental Meeting Room
**Participants:**     DRG, AusAID Canberra DIDT, AusAID Cambodia TBC

**Discussion:**

- Introduction of Ingar Duering (GTZ)
- Reflection on the morning discussions
- DfA Annual Report Card: present final version and overview of major results (Kristen Pratt)
- AusAID's Operational Policy and Management Framework (OPMF) (Kristen Pratt)
- Delivery Strategy - Development for All (Kristen Pratt)
- Disability: Fair development accessible to all budget measure (Kristen Pratt)

**Notes:** Includes break for afternoon tea

## Tuesday 10 August

**Transport:** Departs hotel at 07.45am for Australian Embassy
**Venue:** Australian Embassy (Canberra Room)

### 08.30-10.30am: Discussion with AusAID Cambodia Program & Thematic Teams

**Participants:** DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team
**Purpose:** AusAID Cambodia to provide an overview of key programs and how disability is or could be integrated

**Discussion:**

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| 8.30 | Health |
| 8.50 | Agriculture and Mine Action |
| 9.10 | Legal and Judicial Reform |
| 9.30 | Infrastructure |
| 9.50 | Morning tea break |
| 10.10 | Civil Society, Small Grants, and Australian Development Scholarships |

**Transport:** Depart for Ministry of Social Affairs at 10.30am

### 11.00-12.00pm: Meeting with Minister Ith Sam Heng, Ministry of Social Affairs

**Venue:** Ministry of Social Affairs, Monivong Blvd
**Participants:** DRG Members, Senior AusAID staff
**Purpose:** Discuss progress with National efforts to protect and promote the rights of Cambodians with disability including Australia's support for inclusive national development

**Transport:** Depart for hotel at 12.00pm

### 12.30-1.30pm   Lunch and short break

**Venue:** Inter-Continental meeting room

### 2.00-3.30pm: Discussions with DPOs and leaders in disability

**Venue:** Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room
**Participants:** DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team, DPOs

**Discussion:**

- Introduction and welcome – purpose of the discussion, overview of DFA and role of the DRG (Kristen Pratt)
- Overview of the disability and AusAID's country program in Cambodia (Belinda Mericourt)
- Open discussion on key areas – led by members of the DRG
- Key issues (TBC) particularly related to UNCRPD and other priorities (capacity building, accessible infrastructure, access to education) for DPOs and PWDs in Cambodia.

**3.30-4.00pm: Afternoon tea break**


**4.00-5.00pm: Discussions with Government representatives**

**Venue**: Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room

**Participants:** DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team, Ministry of Social Welfare, Director Department of Rehabilitation, Disability Action Council

**Purpose:** Discuss progress and challenges with ensuring that government programs and services reach and benefit people with disability and the role for development partners to support efforts.

**Discussion:**
− Introduction and welcome – purpose of the discussion, overview of DFA and role of the DRG (Kristen Pratt)

− Overview of the disability and AusAID's country program in Cambodia (Belinda Mericourt)

− Key areas / issues (TBC) – discussion to be led by members of the DRG


**5.00-6.00pm: Government representatives invited to join DRG for drinks and snacks**

**Venue**: Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room


**Wednesday 11 August**

**Venue:** Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room


**08.30-10.00am: Discussions with key NGO and INGO partners**

**Participants:** DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team, NGOs and INGOs (see attached list)

**Purpose:** To discuss programs and advocacy efforts with NGOs / INGOs in Cambodia and the extent to which they include and benefit people with disabilities including key priorities, opportunities and challenges.

**Discussion:**
− Introduction and welcome – purpose of the discussion, overview of DFA and role of the DRG (Kristen Pratt)

− Overview of the disability and AusAID's country program in Cambodia (Belinda Mericourt)

− Open discussion on key areas (TBC) – led by members of the DRG


**10.00-10.30am: Morning tea break**


**10.30-12.00pm: Discussions with development partners**

**Participants:** DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team, Development Partners (see attached list)

**Purpose:** To develop an understanding of the current activities being implemented by development partners in Cambodia, exchange ideas on disability inclusive development and possible areas for future cooperation.

**Discussion:**
− Introduction and welcome – purpose of the discussion, overview of DFA and role of the DRG (Kristen Pratt)

− Overview of the disability and AusAID's country program in Cambodia (Belinda Mericourt)

− Open discussion on key areas – led by members of the DRG

**12.30-1.30pm   Lunch and short break**
**Venue:**            Inter-Continental meeting room


**2.00-5.00pm: DRG Business Meeting Session 2**
**Venue:**            Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room
**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia team, AusAID Canberra DID team
**Purpose:**         To reflect on the meetings so far and implications for DFA Strategy implementation.
**Discussion:**

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**Transport:**       Depart for the Ambassador's residence at 6.30pm
**Notes:**           Includes break for afternoon tea


**7.00pm: Dinner with the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia**
**Venue:**            Ambassador's residence
**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia team, AusAID Canberra DID team + Minister of
                      Social Affairs, HE Ith Sam Heng, Secretary of State, MoSVY, HE Sem Sokha, Mr Ngin
                      Saorath, ED CDPO & Mr Yi Veasna, ED NCDP


## Thursday 12 August
**Venue:**            Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room


**08.30-11.00am: DRG Business Meeting Session 3**
**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team
**Purpose:**         To update the DRG on key DIDT / AusAID processes related to implementation of the
                      DFA Strategy and discuss priorities for 2010-11.
**Discussion:**

                      – Performance Assessment Framework Update

                      – Disability Inclusive Development Team development

                      – AusAID organisational restructure

                      – Priorities for 2010-2011 DIDT and DRG


**Notes:**           Includes break for afternoon tea


**11.00-12.00pm: Meeting with rural women DPO leaders**
**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Cambodia teams, AusAID Canberra DID team, rural women
                      DPO leaders
**Purpose:**         To discuss issues related particularly to women with disability and people with disability
                      living in rural areas of Cambodia.


**12.30-1.30pm   Lunch**
**Venue:**            Inter-Continental meeting room


**1.30-2.30pm: DRG Business Meeting Session 4**
**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Canberra DID team
**Purpose:**         Final business and wrap-up.


**Transport:**       Depart for the Australian Embassy at 2.45pm

**3.15-4.00pm: All staff meeting with Australian Embassy staff**

**Venue:**          Canberra room

**Participants:**    DRG Members, AusAID Canberra DID team, AusAID & interested staff from Embassy

**Purpose:**      To introduce the DRG to all staff; provide the DRG an opportunity to share their insights; and facilitate open discussion on disability inclusive development issues in Cambodia

**4.00-4.30pm: Debrief with Senior Management**

**Venue:**          Canberra room

**Participants:**    DRG Members, HOM, Counsellor & Senior AusAID staff, AusAID Canberra DID team

**Purpose:**      DRG to provide an overview and feedback on the visit and the opportunities and challenges they see for AusAID implementing DFA Strategy in Cambodia

## Friday 13 August

**Optional field visit for DRG**

Timing to be advised in country.

**9.00-2.00pm: Draft Communiqué, Record of Meeting and Cable**

**Venue:**          Inter-Continental Hotel meeting room

**Participants:**    AusAID Canberra DID team

*Biographies of Disability Reference Group Members*

The reference group comprises representatives from development partners with experience in disability-inclusive development, Disabled People's Organisations, Australian NGOs working in this area and academia.

**Ms Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo,** World Bank Senior Operations Officer in the Human Development Network. She works on East Asia and Pacific Region and the Africa Region. Ms McClain-Nhlapo is a human rights lawyer with a particular interest in marginalised groups. In 1999 she was appointed by President Mandela to the South Africa Human Rights Commission, and reappointed by President Mbeki in 2002.  She has served as an expert on a number of UN Committees in the areas of child rights, the right to food and the rights of people with disabilities. She also represented the National Human Rights Institutions at the UN during the process of developing the UN Convention for People with Disabilities. Charlotte has lectured and presented on human rights and development issues on numerous occasions and in a range forums.

**Ms Megan McCoy,** Pacific Regional - Human Development Programme Officer, NZAID.  Megan has led NZAID efforts in relation to disability in the Pacific and was closely involved in the development of AusAID's disability strategy – Development for All.  She has extensive experience in disability and development work and an excellent working knowledge of partners and issues in our region.

**Mr Setareki S. Macanawai**, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Disability Forum (Umbrella organisation for Pacific Disabled People's Organisations).  Seta played a lead role in supporting AusAID in the development of the discussion paper for AusAID's disability strategy and in coordinating inputs from Pacific Disabled People's Organisations.  He has been contracted to participate on a number of AusAID reviews including the 2008 ADRA round and the ABI fund. Seta has been presented with a number of awards including a Human Rights award in 2008.

**Ms Christine Walton,** Executive Officer of the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC). The ADDC is an Australian based international network focusing on disability issues in developing countries; building on a human rights platform for disability advocacy. This consortium originally developed from, and has now replaced, the ACFID Policy Group. ADDC played a key role in lobbying the government to increase the focus on disability in the aid program and continue to have a high profile engagement with government.  They also made constructive contributions to the preparation of *Development for All*. Christine has extensive experience in the disability sector in management, advocacy, education and representation on affiliated Boards.

**Ms Rosemary Kayess,** Associate Director, Disability Studies and Research Centre (DSRC), and Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Law, UNSW. Rosemary played a key role in drafting the Inclusive Education Article for the CRPD. In addition to her academic responsibilities Rosemary has held numerous board positions including:  2006 - National Disability and Carers Ministerial Advisory Committee, 2004 - 2008 Chairperson, Disability Studies and Research Institute,  2004 - 2006 Department Family & Community Services; NGO Representative; Australian Delegation, United Nations Ad Hoc Committee, 1996 - 2000 Disability Council of NSW, 1995 - Chairperson, Disability Discrimination Legal Centre (NSW).

**Attachment B: Outcomes and agenda of April 2010 DRG meeting**
*Outcomes*

**AusAID Disability Inclusive Development Reference Group Meeting No 3**
**Teleconference between Canberra, Melbourne, Suva, Sydney and Washington**
**Thursday 29th April, 2010**

**Summary Outcomes**

1. The third meeting of the AusAID Disability-Inclusive Development Reference Group was held in Canberra on 29 April 2010. The agenda for the meeting and biographies of DRG members are attached. The two-hour teleconference was chaired by AusAID Disability Inclusive Development Team Director, Kristen Pratt. Ms Megan McCoy and Assistant Director General Laurie Dunn gave their apologies.

**Purpose**

2. The Reference Group was established to provide senior level guidance to the Australian aid program on implementation of the Development for All Strategy. Objectives for the third meeting were to review the draft Performance Assessment Framework for the strategy and update DRG members on progress in disability and development in AusAID.

**Summary of discussions: AusAID update**

3. An update of progress in disability-inclusive development in AusAID included:

- DPO Capacity Building: support for the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) has commenced, with core funding to four Pacific DPOs (Fiji DPA, Vanuatu DPA, Tuvalu and Solomon Islands) and ongoing support for an additional position at the PDF Secretariat to oversee DPO capacity development, technical and mentoring support to the CEO PDF. A joint review of DPO capacity development assistance with NZAID is underway and will inform a comprehensive program of future support for Pacific DPOs.

- Disability Rights Fund: AusAID has contributed AUD1.2 million over two years (2009 and 2010) to the Fund, assisting the opening of grant funding to DPOs in Indonesia, where a first round of grants has recently been announced. Pacific grantees have received their first grants and held their first convening meeting in Suva, 27-28 March 2010.

- Papua New Guinea: In response to Dame Carol Kidu's request for Australia's assistance to PNG to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, training in disability and development was provided to PNG's Department for Community Development, National Disability Advisory Committee and staff from AusAID Pt Moresby Post in April 2010. Professor Ron McCallum, Inaugural Rapporteur to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 2010 Committee Chair, was invited to PNG to mark their National Day for People with Disability on 29 March.

- Avoidable Blindness Initiative: An Independent Review to assess AusAID's approach to preventable blindness in Asia and the Pacific is underway, and will inform future directions and management arrangements.

- UNICEF: AusAID has been working closely with UNICEF to promote the rights and needs of children with disability through the Child Friendly Schools initiative, as well as through UNICEF's general inclusive education programs. Support has also been provided for a dedicated disability-inclusive education position for UNICEF.

- Guidelines for disability-inclusive development: the Disability-Inclusive Development team is currently developing guidelines on Universal Design for an accessible built environment, wheelchair use (following WHO guidelines), and the use of recycled spectacles in aid programs.

- Other recent disability-inclusive initiatives around the agency include:

— *Active role for people with in Australian aid program:* The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) has been invited to contribute to technical and vocational education training (TVET program) design

— *Recognising Rights*: the Scholarships program are developing reasonable accommodation guidelines for scholars with disability

— *Disability-inclusive development*: education infrastructure guidelines have been developed for PNG's Education Department through AusAID's education program. The Philippines country program has conducted a disability situational analysis in consultation with local DPOs to inform their new Country Strategy. The Philippines Law and Justice program is working with consultants with disability in designing their new program.

- Enabling mechanisms: delays in establishing a number of key enabling resources and mechanisms present a continuing challenge to the roll-out of disability-inclusive development in AusAID. Priorities for the remainder of 2010 are:

  — mobilising two Regional Disability Advisers (Suva, Phnom Penh)

  — designing a Disability Resource Facility

  — developing Communications, Leadership, and Capacity Development strategies for disability and development in AusAID.

**Performance assessment for *Development for All***

4. Previous DRG meetings agreed on the importance of developing a performance assessment framework to measure progress under the *Development for All* strategy. The DRG identified the need to build baseline information as a reference point for performance assessment, and the importance of starting in a focused way.

5. There are significant challenges involved in achieving effective performance assessment of disability-inclusive development in the Australian aid program, including addressing the complexity of collecting information from a large number of programs and sectors, and ensuring that disability-inclusive development is integrated into AusAID's operations and practices. At the activity level, performance information on disability-inclusive development will be generated through existing performance systems as well as some additional, specific systems. At least initially, this will require technical support and capacity development of AusAID staff and implementing partners.

6. DIDT has developed a draft framework for measuring the progress of strategy implementation, and plans for supporting measurement processes in the agency. The review of this framework is the primary purpose of this third DRG meeting. Given the framework is still work in progress and requires further consultation, the meeting's focus was directed towards strategic information and risk management issues.

7. A number of Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) documents were presented for discussion:
   a) *Performance Assessment Framework Overview* – sets out the PAF's purpose, audience, roles and responsibilities for performance assessment, principles of approach and methodology (eg drawing on lived experience of people with disability), and risk management. This document explains how AusAID will facilitate use of the PAF, including through performance measures or indicators, the support of Regional Disability Specialists, training and capacity building programs for AusAID staff, guidelines on incorporating DID into design and performance assessment, and engaging a Performance Information Team to support quality, in-depth performance information in priority areas. An annex to this document is the Annual Performance Assessment Implementation Plan, which outlines priority performance assessment tasks for the next year eg developing comprehensive performance information systems in two countries; and in disability-inclusive education in selected country programs.

   b) *Performance Measurement – Strategy level* – this table contains performance measures and indicators linked to *Development for All* key activity outcomes. The table aims to

facilitate assessment of progress at the strategy level eg under Outcome 1, measuring progress of our support for partner governments to include people with disability in national development processes. Performance measures to assess how well we are complying with the Strategy's guiding principles are yet to be developed but will also be included in this table.

    c) *Performance Measurement – Activity level* – this table contains performance measures and indicators at the activity or program level. The table aims to provide a concise and practical guide to mainstreaming disability in Australia's development assistance programs through both general or cross-sectoral measures (eg participation and central role of people with disability, promoting an accessible built environment, demonstrating Australian leadership and advocacy), and sector-specific measures (eg health or education programs).

    d) Development for All *Annual Report Card* – the final product of the PAF system, the 2010 Report Card summarises overall progress, major results and challenges from the strategy's launch to the present. It also provides an overview of the management response for next year. A summary table of results and ratings against strategy outcomes and guiding principles uses a traffic light system of red, orange and green to indicate level of progress. This is supported by more detailed discussion of achievements, issues and challenges against the strategy's Core and Enabling Outcome areas, and objectives for the following year, against which ratings will be made. The Report Card will be published once finalised.

8. Links to AusAID systems and operations: The Annual Report Card incorporates elements of AusAID's budget reporting templates to avoid duplication of efforts. It is expected that format and timing of the Report Card will be brought into alignment with other thematic and sector reporting in AusAID from next year. Results of AusAID's 2010 internal Quality at Implementation report on *Development for All* will be included in the Report Card.

**Key issues: Performance Assessment Framework**

9. DRG members found the documents presented were useful and accessible, and overall a good start to operationalising performance assessment for the Strategy. Key comments included:

- Strengthening integration of the CRPD: the CPRD should be used as a guide to strengthen the use of human rights-based language, approaches and measures in the PAF, in keeping with *Development for All* principles and approaches. Consideration should also be given to aligning CRPD reporting with *Development for All* reporting requirements where possible.

- Defining terms: clearer definitions and more specific use of key terms would facilitate the assessment of performance against objectives.

    — Infrastructure: important to clarify use of this term which potentially covers a very broad range of development sectors, from roads and transport to information and communication, the built environment and universal design. This will allow a clearer articulation of the strategy's performance assessment focus eg access to school environments. The CRPD's Article 9 should be used as a guide to define and identify indicators of accessibility.

    — Quality of life: this is a value-laden term, difficult to quantify and qualify. The PAF should specify how 'quality of life' is understood and will be measured. It would be useful to link quality of life measures in the PAF to international human rights frameworks and confine the focus to those areas identified as priorities under *Development for All* – eg access to education, the built environment, specific activities to increase social inclusion and participation. Other quality of life measures to consider include: measuring poverty through asset levels of people with disability, and ways to shift the focus away from the individual and what they do or do not have, towards how society is supporting social inclusion through measures such as social protection, or inclusive policies for youth and women.

    — Access to services: important to clarify the range of services meant in this term; health and education are key services, but services could also refer to access to social protection or social security. Again this would permit a clearer articulation of performance assessment objectives.

- Supporting AusAID to implement the PAF: it would be useful to more explicitly acknowledge the support required for AusAID to effectively implement the Performance Assessment Framework, demonstrating how we are addressing the risk that activity managers are overburdened, lack understanding of disability and development, and may view reporting on disability-inclusive development as a another task to be ticked off. A range of technical support and capacity building measures will be established over the course of 2010 to support reporting against the strategy, including and implemented. Lessons learned from mainstreaming HIV and gender in AusAID will also be applied to support the integration of disability into existing programs.

- Striking a balance between capacity development of partner organisations and collecting baseline data: it will be important to balance the need to collect immediate baseline information and research with the equally important need to build capacity in partner DPOs and government organisations to undertake their own monitoring and reporting.

- Keep level of ambition realistic: a limited focus and realistic performance targets are important to ensure key performance objectives are achieved eg is it reasonable to expect greater access to services within life of the strategy? How many indicators and performance measures can we report against?

- Format of documents: overall the documents were found to be useful and clear, although some parts are repetitive and consideration should be given to shortening and simplifying text to cater for a range of audiences. The Annual Report Card in particular was thought to be useful and will evolve as information becomes more consistent across objectives.

10. Next steps with the PAF are to finalise draft documents in light of DRG comments in preparation for further consultation and peer review by both internal and external stakeholders. A final draft of the PAF and Annual Report Card will be presented to the next DRG meeting in August.

11. Next DRG meeting, August 2010, Cambodia – dates and travel arrangements will be finalized by end May.

*Agenda*

**AusAID Disability Inclusive Development Reference Group Meeting No 3**
**2 hour Teleconference between Canberra, Melbourne, Samoa, Sydney and Washington on Thursday 29th April, 2010**

**Summary Agenda**

**Objectives**

Provide guidance and inputs on draft Performance Assessment Framework and Annual Report Card

   a) *Feedback on proposed Framework and information management arrangements*

   b) *Addressing risks: are we managing complexity, avoiding over-burdening, and providing practical and simple guidance for monitoring and evaluating DID?*

   c) *Is the Annual Report Card format useful?*

**Agenda items**

1. Welcome and introductory remarks, including update on key activities and issues (L Dunn) – 20 mins

2. Overview of draft Performance Assessment Framework and key issues (A Clare) – 20 mins
   a) Process of development to date and plans for moving ahead
   b) Where the PAF sits with other quality and performance assessment systems in AusAID
   c) Documents for consideration:
      i. PAF Overview and approach
      ii. PAF Table: Strategy-level performance measures
      iii. PAF Table: Activity-level performance measures
      iv. Development for All: Annual Report Card (outcome of PAF process)

3. Discussion questions on Performance Assessment Framework (S Dyer) – 45 mins

4. Other issues (K Pratt/S Dyer) – 30 mins
   a) Next DRG meeting, Cambodia – initial planning and logistics
   b) Other

5. Closing remarks (L Dunn) – 5 mins

**Attachment C: Participants in DRG discussions**


**Government:**
H.E. Ith Sam Heng, Minister, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY)
H.E. Sem Sokha, Secretary of State, Dept of Rehabilitation, MoSVY
Mr Lao Veng, Director, Dept of Rehabilitation, MoSVY
Mr Thong Vinal, Executive Director, Disability Action Council (government authority)
*Mr Nhy Nar, Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) *(responsible for victim assistance and landmine survivor himself)*

Mr Ngy San, National disability advisor to MoSVY, *funded by AusAID through the Cambodia Initiative for Disability Inclusion (CIDI) program*

**DPOs:**
*Mr Ngin Saorath, Executive Director, Cambodian Disabled Peoples Organisation (CDPO)
*Ms Chhantey Heng, Senior Program Officer, Advocacy, CDPO *(She is also coming to Australia in late August on ADRA program and is co-author of Report on Current Situation of Education for Children with Disabilities)*
*Mr Yi Veasna, Executive Director, National Centre for Disabled Persons (NCDP)

**INGOs:**
Ms Teresa Carney, Country Manager, ARC, Cambodia Initiative for Disability Inclusion (CIDI) *(AusAID program)*
Ms Ulrike Last, Rights & Inclusion Coordinator, HI-F (*works closely with AusAID on disability classification working group and disability inclusion promotion with development partners*)
Mr Jeroen Stol, Country Manager, HI-B *(lead org in road safety)*
Mr Sith Samath, Country Manager, Fred Hollows Foundation *(part of ABI consortium in Cambodia)*

**Key NGOs:**
*Mr Kong Vichetra, Director, Komar Pikar Foundation *(been to Australia)*
*Mr Boun Mao, Executive Director, Association of the Blind in Cambodia (ABC)
*Mr Ouch Nimul, Executive Director, YODIFEE (now Marist Brothers) *(been to Australia)*
Sr Denise Coghlan, OAM, Jesuit Services *(key advocate for landmine survivors and persons with disabilities in Cambodia for over 20 years)*
Mr Keat Sokly, Executive Director, Deaf Development Program
Mr Srey Vanthon, Country Director, Action on Disability and Development (ADD)
Mr Nhip Thy, Executive Director, Cambodian Development Mission for Disability
Dr Sok Long, Director of Health, Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) *(partner in CIDI program)*

**Development Partners:**
Mr Plong Chhaya, Project Officer, Children in Need of Special Protection UNICEF
Mr Beng Simeth, Human Development Operations Officer, World Bank
Ms Maya Kalyanpur, World Bank Advisor to Ministry of Education, Fast Track Initiative
Mr Christian Provoost, EC Attache Health, Education & Social Development
Ms Catherine Vaillancourt-Laflamme, ILO, Better Factories Project