GLRA TANZANIA OFFICE

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION STRATEGY (2017 -2020)

1. Preface: Rationale for a new GLRA Disability and Rehabilitation strategy

GLRA Tanzania Country Office has been been supporting partners in implementing social economic rehabilitation (SER) for persons affected by Leprosy in Tanzania since 1959 a strategy that has been widely used by leprosy organizations for quite some time. Remarkable advances have been made in improving the income of families of people affected by leprosy. From 2007 onwards, a shift in the direction of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) took place.

This meant that the scope of possible interventions and approaches has broadened to ensure that people affected by leprosy become included into society. In all our interventions, the focus is not only on the individual, but also on his/her family and the community. The shift to community-based interventions also meant that there has been more room for a focus on people with other disabilities as well.

However, given the magnitude of the needs of people with disabilities on the one hand, and the limited resources of GLRA on the other hand, strategic plan will set up priorities that will enable GLRA to become a strong advocate of disability inclusive development and at the same time enable persons with disabilities to play an important role in their own rehabilitation process.

The current strategy prioritizes empowerment as a cross-cutting theme. This is done through capacity building, guidance and support at all levels. GLRA orients itself towards a multi-sectoral, cross disability approach and focuses on facilitating and assisting Persons with disabilities to empower themselves.

GLRA recognizes that bringing lasting change in the quality of life of people and influencing government policies need multi-sectoral cooperation, strong networking and cross-organizational referral and information sharing.

The Situation of People with Disabilities including persons with leprosy related disabilities

Tanzania with total population of 44,900,000 is estimated to have 5.8% of persons with disabilities with different categories (National Bureau of Statistics - 2012), roughly 30,000 among them are persons with leprosy related disabilities. Distribution of people with disability is as follows: Physically Impaired 525,019 (1.19%), visually Impaired 848,530 (1.93%), hearing Impaired 425,322 (0.97%), Intellectually Impaired 401,931 (0.91%), Albinism 16,477 (0.04%), Self care 324,725 (0.74%) Others 99,798 (0.23%).

Globalization, indebtedness and changes in the world economic order have greatly affected the social and economic life of the majority of people. In Tanzania the unfavorable economic situation has affected the availability of services such as health, education and employment opportunities. The most affected people with disabilities are particularly in the following areas: - Health, Early Intervention, Technical Aids,
Accessibility, Awareness creation, Human Rights and Legal Protection, Education, Skills Training and Employment

2. **Vision, Mission & Goal**

**Vision:** A world in which no one is deprived of his/her fundamental human rights due to leprosy, tuberculosis and other poverty-related conditions and the disabling consequences they bring.

**Mission:** GLRA is known as a disability inclusive organization successfully promoting people-centered development, empowerment, equal participation and full inclusion of persons affected by leprosy and other disabilities.

**Goal:** Bring sustainable improvement in the quality of life of persons affected by leprosy, tuberculosis and others with disability and their families and enhance their full participation in society.

3. **Strategic objectives**

i. To strengthen local capacity for disability inclusive development at all levels (National to Grassroots)

ii. Empowerment of persons with disability to meet their basic needs and enhance their quality of life by facilitating access to health, education and livelihood services

iii. To build alliances with different stakeholders working in disability, rehabilitation and development

iv. To promote social research to establish evidence based in order to improve the quality of CBR services

4. **Defining disability and target group**

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD) defines disability as: ‘an evolving concept and results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others’.

It defines persons with disability as ‘those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others’.

**Target Group**

The core target of GLRA are vulnerable persons with disabilities who are excluded and discriminated by the society due to their disability and diseases (leprosy, TB and NTDs) and have no access to medical care and social services;

However, only when the efforts address the way society looks at people with leprosy and disability, a long-lasting effect can be expected. As such it is also the entire community that needs to be reached through, for instance, advocacy and awareness rising campaigns in order to change the negative attitudes and behavior towards people affected by leprosy and other disabilities.
Agents/partners
Government (local and central), community based organization, faith based organization

5. Timeline for specific objectives and related outputs (results)

Expected outcome in the next four years (2017 – 2020)

i. 61% of Persons with disability (including children) are able to access physical rehabilitation services (from 31% (861) in 2016 to 61% (1722) in 2020) in ten villages where CBR activities are implemented. Total population in ten villages in 46,779 where the people with disability who account for 6% are 2,806. (National Census 2012)

ii. 80% (234) of Self-help group members are able to claim for their rights. (From 292 people).

iii. 95 % (277) from 79% (232 in 2016) of inclusive SHGs members meet their basic and livelihood needs.

iv. 60% of the children of persons with leprosy related disabilities will graduate from the education support education in inclusive setting (from 0 children in 2016 to 202 children in 2020).

v. 2 DPOs (Tanzania Leprosy Association and Federation of Disable people organization) are strengthened to speak for their members.

vi. Effective network and collaboration with other partners in the provision of CBR services to people with disability in place

6. Core activities according to the CBR matrix

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, core activities are prioritized and outlined. The choice of specific intervention/activities however, will depend on identified needs by people with disabilities

Empowerment: Sustainable and lasting change on the lives of people with disability can be better achieved through empowerment. As it encourages people to gain skills and knowledge that will allow them to overcome obstacles in life or work environment and ultimately, help them develop within themselves or in the society. Once persons with disability are empowered they can genuinely represent their organization in fair and balanced ways and lobby for social change and better life for all. Empowerment is a cross-cutting theme in all areas of intervention.

Core activities:

• Advocacy on the rights of persons with disability to create awareness and consciousness in the community on disability issues and to integrate PWDs in all developmental programs.

• Community Mobilization activities to Facilitating and capacitating inclusive SHGs and DPOs to become change agents and advocates for inclusion of PWDs.

• Community Mobilization on utilization of the available local resources to implement CBR activities
Livelihood: Livelihood is a universal basic need and right, and a vital component of the CBR strategy to break the vicious circle of poverty and disability. In CBR, actions are taken to capacitate and facilitate persons with disabilities to meet their livelihood needs in order to ensure financial security, job satisfaction and inclusion in society, and to contribute to taxes and services – as a right.

Core activities:
- Skills development (entrepreneurship skills) for self and open employment
- Facilitating access to small loans and link SHGs with financial institution for bigger loans business
- Building local capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate project activities
- To promote the use of NGO IDEAS tools to SHGs (For goal setting and self assessment)

Education: Right to Education is a universal entitlement. However, most children with disabilities do not go to school. The focus will be on eliminating ‘access to education’ barriers that deprive Persons with disabilities of choices and opportunities

Core activities:
- Provision of school supplies such as (uniforms, exercise books and text books) to children with disabilities and children of Persons with leprosy related disabilities so as to enable them access education in the existing school systems.
- Provision of tuition fee to youth with disabilities and youth from families of persons with disabilities to access vocation and collage education
- Support community to build kindergarten classes within the community by providing building materials and labour charge to masons
- Awareness creation to parents of children with disabilities to take their children to school
- Stimulate village CBR committees to work in collaboration with parents and school teachers so as to encourage children of persons with leprosy related disabilities to improve their academic performance among and stop truancy and poor performance

Health: The World Health Organization defines health as a ‘state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity’. This definition allows one to identify the non-medical needs and to improve the social situation and the social wellbeing of people. This definition makes health the responsibility of people, institutions, non-governmental organizations, and governmental departments within and outside the medical domain.

Core activities:
- Early detection of disability (early detection, appropriate and timely access to medical care etc.)
• Development and implementation of individual rehabilitation plan together with the person and follow through.

• Technical and financial support to CBR committee, DPO and community in general to implement health education programs (such as prevention of leprosy related disability and other disabilities)

• Link persons with disabilities with specialized services

**Social:** Participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life in the community is a clear indicator of how a community values and embraces the diversity of all its members

**Core activities:**

• Technical and financial support to the implementation of a joint advocacy plans and campaigns involving DPOs.