

motif

The Newsletter of the Motivation Charitable Trust Issue 24 Summer 2005



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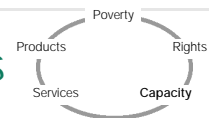
Editorial You will have noticed that I have not edited Motif for some time now. This was a move to try and give our supporters a feel for the different areas and roles in Motivation. We decided to have different staff edit the newsletter with themes relevant to their roles within the organisation.

Last year we reviewed Motivation's strategy to bring it into line with our philosophy and organisational strengths, spending time working on the main issues that are the core of our work. While many of you know that we are involved in wheelchair design and production, as well as assessment and prescription of users, you may not know that for some years we have been involved in

capacity building and rights work too. We realised during our review that we had been working on many key issues but had not communicated it well.

As a result we relaunched our literature and website to present our work within five key areas that we feel are essential to improve quality of life of people with mobility disabilities. These are Poverty, Rights, Capacity, Products and Services. This issue of Motif is designed to address the five key areas with articles relevant to Motivation's work. I hope it gives you a good feel for all Motivation is currently involved in. For more overall details have a look at our website www.motivation.org.uk in the section 'Our Work'

Capacity Building Disabled People's Organisations



Meeting the long term needs of disabled people in developing countries cannot happen unless their organisations have a high degree of professionalism and strength. Isaac Nyathi has been working with Motivation to build the capacity of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in Zimbabwe, Uganda and Tanzania. Here, he explains some of the challenges disabled people face in forming strong organisations and what we are doing to help overcome them.

Disabled People's Organisations in Africa have struggled for a long time to assert themselves as part of a strong civil society movement. As a result, their programmes and activities have not been very effective in attaining their goals or objectives, meaning that their members still fail to access facilities, services and the support that they need to participate in society.

There are various factors that contribute to organisational weaknesses and these can be overcome through capacity building activities that aim to help DPOs respond to the wider challenges they face. The absence of management skills

and information, low formal education and a lack of resources undermine the ability of DPOs to build their organisations to serve their members.

The capacity building activities that Motivation focuses on are institutional development, information collection and dissemination, management and leadership skills, and mobilising the resources that DPOs have available to them.

Through tailor-made workshops and seminars, Motivation trains DPOs in management and leadership skills, as well as supporting them to develop effective policies that will help to put in place systems

for good governance and accountability. These policies include employment, financial guidelines, codes of conduct and performance measurement for staff and elected leaders.

DPOs' capacity is also affected by the lack of both material and financial resources. Disability has not attracted significant flows of funding and as

a result the building of structures and human resources has been very weak, significantly affecting planning and implementation of programmes and activities. By strengthening DPOs' capacity to advocate for better information and funding, their activities become sustainable and more effective in improving the quality of the lives of their members.

Isaac Nyathi and Africa Project Officer, Nina Boswell Brown working with women from the Kilimanjaro Association of the Spinally Injured



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Designed to Seat

Motivation's Technical Team Co-ordinator, **Ray Mines**, explains why appropriate mobility products are vital to our vision of a world freed of today's obstacles to disabled people's full enjoyment of their abilities, rights and ambitions.

Imagine for a moment that your sight was so impaired that without glasses of the correct prescription you couldn't leave your home. With time you would probably learn how to move around inside your home, possibly even outside, but you would never be able to travel very far without some kind of assistance. Without that one essential product and the support services to prescribe it, you would struggle to participate in daily life.

Whether that one essential product is a wheelchair, a prosthetic limb, a tricycle or a supportive seat, it is a lifeline for people with mobility disabilities. With a mobility product appropriate to their local environment, people with mobility impairments can access their

communities and participate in education, employment and social activities.

Sitting is a basic posture that able-bodied people take for granted. However, for many millions of disabled people, particularly children, who cannot sit without assistance, a supportive seat is an essential part of life. You may be able to imagine being able to move around your home without your glasses, but without supportive seating in a mobility product, some people are unable to even sit up on their own, let alone move around their home, school or workplace. In this situation people are left immobile and unable to communicate. They are frequently undernourished and



Motivation's first steel three-wheel rural chair, Afghanistan, 1997

very isolated. An appropriate supportive seat can improve mobility, communication and health, helping the users to participate more fully in daily life.

The ultimate aim of all of our products is to provide the mobility needed to access society as equal citizens. As a key part of

Motivation's future strategy we aim to continue to improve the quality and increase the quantity of affordable, appropriate mobility products.



Doing the Right Thing

Disabled people have a right to be included in all aspects of life. Motivation recognises that in developing countries particularly, disabled people are rarely able to exercise their right to vote, attend school or become economically active. Simply using public transport and accessing vital services is often impossible and creates barriers to independent living. This leads to social isolation and disempowerment, and is a huge obstacle towards disabled people being able to claim their rights.

Simba Chigaazira, Chairman of the Quadriplegics and Paraplegics Association of Zimbabwe (QUAPAZ) explains that, "Disabled people are

ignorant of many of their rights and hence they are not demanding them. Our aim is to network with other Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) to share knowledge about rights and influence governments and policy makers appropriately. We want to empower our members to become the primary advocates of their rights and, in turn, build a community that has equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities."

Motivation works with local organisations to lobby governments to address disabled people's rights. We know that in order to fight for the right to inclusion, disabled people need to live in an environment in which

they are empowered. Motivation's projects include peer-group training camps and training about disability rights. Supporting DPOs and disabled individuals to be

independent and effective means that they are better equipped to make their voices heard and to demand legislative change that can improve their own lives.

Wheelchair trainer delivering lecture on rights in Nicaragua.



Motivation at your service

Services are a crucial element of Motivation's work. A wheelchair service can be defined as: a service offering wheelchair users with individual prescription and fitting of an appropriate wheelchair, by qualified staff, using an assessment procedure which takes into account the user's health, size, disability and life-style needs*. Through wheelchair services, an appropriate wheelchair is prescribed and fitted for an individual, who receives instruction and support in how to use and maintain their wheelchair effectively.

Wheelchair services also play a key role in ensuring available wheelchairs are of good quality, and appropriate to the environment in which they are used. In essence, wheelchair services are the link between products and the people who use them. They are instrumental in ensuring users have access to a wheelchair which meets their needs, and can help them achieve their potential.

Much of Motivation's work focuses on the establishment of quality wheelchair services. We work in close partnership with



WTTC graduate Abdullah Munish measuring a client for a wheelchair in Tanzania.

local organisations, building capacity and providing skills training in wheelchair assessment, prescription and wheelchair technology. Motivation's training courses include the one year Wheelchair Technologists Training Course in Tanzania and the 'Fit for Life' short courses in clinical and technical wheelchair service skills. These are aimed at building local knowledge and skills in order to initiate or

upgrade wheelchair service provision.

Motivation is also now involved in a collaborative process between national and international NGOs to develop wheelchair service guidelines to improve wheelchair services in developing countries.



Motivation Romania Hosts Peer to Peer Training Conference

Our partner Motivation Romania recently hosted a one week peer group training conference at their Center in Bucharest. Motivation Romania is an independent Romanian organisation borne out of Motivation's project there in 1993. When forming themselves into a local NGO they asked if they could also use

the name Motivation. Since then they have thrived and run numerous training programmes and events for disabled people in the region.

Peer group training is part of Motivation's Wheelchair User Support Programme funded by USAID. An element of this programme is aimed at widening

the success and impact of disabled people teaching and coaching each other. Peer Group training involves experienced wheelchair users training other users in issues such as life and mobility skills, health, rights and wheelchair maintenance. In the past, Motivation UK has organised and delivered this type of training with great results.

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★ **Worldmade** The Worldmade programme reached an important milestone recently. The first Worldmade chairs arrived by air freight in South Africa from China to be trialled by ten people in partnership with Shonaquip, a mobility aid workshop in Cape Town. We would like to thank NYK Logistics for all their support in arranging the freight. The programme will be officially launched by Kingfisher/B&Q at the House of Commons in July, showcasing the project and the vital involvement of all our corporate partners.

★ **Rehab Lanka Excellence Award** In May, Rehab Lanka, one of Motivation's partners in Sri Lanka, was awarded the 'Service Award for Professional Excellence' from the International Rotary Club for the best Vocational Training Centre from five Asian countries. This is testament to the hard work and commitment of all at the centre to improve the quality of life of disabled people.

★ **QUAPAZ** We are very sorry to report the death of Mike Masukwedza, Director of the Quadriplegics and Paraplegics Association of Zimbabwe, our local partner organisation in Zimbabwe. Mike was a tireless campaigner for disabled people's rights and our thoughts are with his family and colleagues.

★ **Tsunami Recovery and Advocacy Programme**

The Sri Lankan Ministry of Social Services recently dispersed a grant of 13 million rupees for upgrade costs for accessible construction in the aftermath of the tsunami. This money is earmarked for rural constructions done by village councils, religious places and also to individual households where they need extra money for adaptations.

Home

- Following the success of last year's lecture at the **Royal Geographical Society**, we have booked the venue again this year for **Tuesday 4th October**. In the age of the ipod, MP3 players, 500 TV channels and the internet, **Ralph Bernard CBE**, founder of Classic FM, Executive Chairman of GCap Media (formed this year through the merger of GWR Group and Capital Radio) and Chairman of the Digital Radio Development Bureau, argues that far from being dead, the 100 year-old medium of Radio is very much alive and about to enter its third golden age. Tickets are £12. Please call Rachel on 01275 461946 to reserve yours.

- Rotary groups within the UK and overseas have donated a total of £32,670 to Motivation since we began. We would like to thank all Rotarians involved for the generous funds we have received and for raising awareness of our work.

- We would like to thank British Standards who have given us a discount on purchasing their standards. We use these standards when designing and building as a way of meeting new norms which helps us to constantly improve the quality of the products we design. We are very grateful to them for helping us in this area of our work.

- Long-time Motivation supporter Tim Down recently raised £1,450 by taking part in the Euskal Trail – a full length marathon (26 miles) involving 4,500 metres of ascent through the mountainous Basque country of Southern France, spending the night in a bivouac, followed by the descent and another full length marathon. Thanks to Tim and all who sponsored him.

Up Close & Personal

In developing countries, if one family member is disabled, this often leads to poverty for the whole family unit. Motivation recognises that poverty is the cause and consequence of many mobility disabilities in low-income countries. Anyone with a disability is automatically disadvantaged because it makes poverty worse. One strategy Motivation uses to tackle this is by passing on vocational training that will lead to income generation and a better quality of life.

The 'Job Seeking and Keeping Skills Programme' is part of Motivation's Disability Support Programme in Sri Lanka. The programme teaches disabled people how to find a suitable job and how to present themselves at an interview. Anura Bandara who lives in Kolladeniya, a remote village in the Uva province of Sri Lanka, was involved with the programme;

"I was not the only disabled person benefiting from this programme, but my whole class who were also disabled,

gained as well. Motivation is the only organisation that truly helps people in my situation with commitment.

I studied up to my Ordinary Level exams at the local school, after which I wanted to learn computers. When I joined Rehab Lanka (a vocational training centre) Motivation gave me the opportunity to learn English through a six month programme sponsored by the International Distillers of Sri Lanka (IDL). This opportunity filled my life with an



Anura Bandara working at the distillery in Sri Lanka.

unbelievable level of confidence.

After the course, finding a job at IDL provided me with a better quality of life. I was able to earn and live independently which is a blessing. Motivation helped me to secure my position at IDL by supporting and advising me how to progress in the company. I am grateful to all at Motivation for rebuilding my life."



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The Peer group conference brought together representatives



Peer Group training conference in Romania.

of disability groups from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. The aim of the week was to work with the organisations, helping them set out plans for how they would run regional peer group training courses and how they might collaborate in their efforts. Peer group training can have a huge impact on an individual's confidence, self esteem and ability to access his/her rights as a disabled person. Our past experience has shown a small

input has a direct impact on the quality of life of disabled people, and this week was no exception.

A great deal was achieved with all organisations returning with a plan and budget to initiate the programmes over the next four years. Motivation Romania were, as always, excellent hosts and laid on extra activities such as wheelchair tennis coaching and a wheelchair basketball demonstration on the streets of Bucharest.