

Narady

Narady is 31 years old. She was born in Takeo province. She started having difficulty seeing when she was 11 years old. In her family, only her father looked after her. At the age of 13, she was raped by her grandfather. After the rape, her mother said that she would understand if Narady committed suicide as she couldn't do anything and depended entirely on her family. Her neighbours and relatives looked down on her. When she was 18 years old, her grandfather attempted to rape her again, telling her "You are blind and no one will love you." She couldn't speak for one month afterwards because of fear and suffering. Then her uncle and aunt took her to hospital to see a doctor which helped her to be able to speak again. One day, she met a man and they fell in love with each other. But when they had a child, her husband left her to marry another woman due to pressure from his parents. After this Narady fortunately discovered an organisation which provides inclusive services and supported her to learn massage. She now works in Phnom Penh and supports her child. Her dream for the future is to be able to continue earning a salary to allow her children to receive a good education.

For more information on including women with disabilities contact:

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The information in this brochure has come from:

CBM-Australia, 2012, Inclusion Made Easy, <http://www.cbm.org/Inclusion-Made-Easy-329091.php>.

The World Bank and the World Health Organisation, 2011, World Report on Disability, <http://web.world-bank.org>

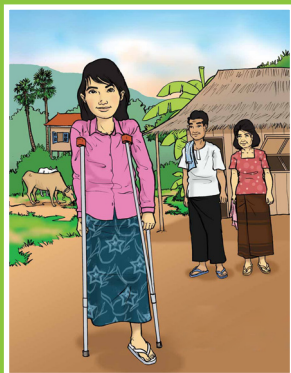
Banteay Srei, CBM-Australia, the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation, the International Women's Development Agency and Monash University, *Triple Jeopardy research project*, funded by AusAID.

When everyone is included we have happy families and healthy communities

A short guide for including women with disabilities in your services



If your organisation includes people with disabilities, you too can help make positive changes for our communities, our families, and people with disabilities!



Funded by AusAID



Women with disabilities in Cambodia

More than 1 in 10 women in Cambodia have a disability. They experience extremely high levels of discrimination and violence: 50% will experience emotional abuse by their family or partner and 25% will experience physical violence from their family or partner.

Children who are deaf, blind or in a wheelchair are often not welcome at school, and people with mental illnesses are often shut away, out of sight. Even though people with disabilities can study, work, have families, and offer a diversity of views and experience, their participation is often blocked.

People with disabilities are protected by law in Cambodia.

In 2009, the Government passed the Law of the Protection and the Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of the law is to protect the rights and interests of people with disabilities, prevent discrimination against them, and ensure they are included fully and equally in society. The Constitution of Cambodia guarantees women equal rights; other laws make domestic violence and trafficking in women a crime.

There is still a long way to go in terms of implementing and enforcing the law, but this is an important start for ensuring that Cambodia is more inclusive of all members of society, including the most vulnerable.

About 15% of the population in Cambodia has a disability

People with disabilities are amongst the poorest in our communities

If 15% of the people who use your service are not people with a disability, then you are not reaching the most marginalised people of Cambodia!

These are four key principles for reaching and including people with disabilities:

Awareness: make sure you understand disability.

People with disabilities should **participate** in planning, using, managing and evaluating your services

Your service should be **accessible:** so people in wheelchairs or who are blind can enter your building deaf people can communicate with your staff; you have policies promoting the interests of people with disabilities; and your staff are kind and do not discriminate against people with disabilities.

Twin track approach: there should be both specific services for people with disabilities and people with disabilities should be able to use mainstream services

How to include people with disabilities

1. **Identify and reach people with disabilities.** If 15% of the people using your services are not people with disabilities, then your service is not reaching the most vulnerable members of your community. Do you know who are the people with disabilities in your community? Can you promote your service to them?

2. **Audit your organisation.** Does your team understand the challenges faced by people with disabilities? Is your building physically accessible for all people with mobility impairments? Can your staff communicate with people with disabilities? Are they open-minded and compassionate? Do you have policies to include people with disabilities?

3. **Include people with disabilities in planning, delivering and evaluating your services.** Consulting with your local disabled people's organisation is a possible first step. Participation of people with a disability is essential for genuine empowerment and positive community change.

4. **Make sure that you promote services specifically for people with disabilities and also that people with disabilities can access all your services.** Not all organisations can provide all services for everyone, but you should be able to welcome people with disabilities and refer them to appropriate services if necessary.

Remember – when everyone is included, we have happy families and healthy communities!

All forms of discrimination against people with disabilities are illegal and prevent the process of poverty reduction. People with disabilities should be able to access social services, including education, employment, and healthcare and should be free from violence!