

# Annual Report 2012



Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP)

Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) was conceived and initiated by persons with disabilities themselves in 1997. Being a cross disability organization STEP is committed to mainstreaming disability in development through empowering individuals and organizations of persons with disabilities as well as sensitizing society about rights based approach. STEP has coined the idea of leadership of persons with disabilities in Pakistan to ensure a just, accessible and inclusive community in which the human rights, citizenship, contribution and potential of people with disabilities are respected and celebrated. Promoting volunteerism, awareness campaigns, leadership training, employment exchange, innovative livelihood opportunities, research and information dissemination are major endeavors of STEP.

International disability movement in the solidarity with national state-parties, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) commenced its operations in 2006. The CRPD has provided the guidance to influence philosophical structures, service provision and in policy implication in order to bring a change in the lives of persons with disabilities. The efforts of Disabled People's Organizations in collaboration with United Nation (UN), International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Local and National Governmental stakeholders made it unique movement among all the other civil rights movements.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which is both a human rights treaty and a development tool, provides an opportunity to strengthen developmental policies related to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), thereby contributing to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century. Pakistan has ratified UNCRPD in July 2011 and implementation is responsibility of state as well development organizations including disabled peoples organizations.

Since Government of Pakistan has ratified UNCRPD now there is dire need to develop a strong implementation mechanism backed by monitoring and reporting in coordination by Government, strengthened networks among DPOs as well international development organizations. This Annual report encompasses the contributions of STEP in year 2012 with a reflection of some articles of UNCRPD. STEP is indebted to its esteemed partners, collaborators and above all people with disabilities.

## Article 7 - Children with disabilities

### Session on Volunteering for Children with Disabilities



STEP and Children Society (UK) conducted a seminar focusing on Child rights. Youth related projects conducted by STEP along with British Council and Volunteer Services Organization were highlighted. Hayles Nicholls, a representative from Children Society discussed The Buddying Project being executed in the UK, where a person with disability is paired with a companion. In the session, the possibility of the Buddying Project in Pakistan was being experienced.



### Inaugural Forum on the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities



On September 14-15, 2012 UNICEF hosted the first Forum of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities New York. Abia Akram, spoke at the opening of the Forum saying “girls and women with disabilities should be empowered to participate in decision making processes that impact their lives. Their voices must be heard so they can contribute to their community in the spirit of ‘nothing about us without us’”.





## Article 8 - Awareness-Raising

### Sensitization of School Kids on Disability



National Book Foundation celebrated National Book Day by holding a four day exhibition in Pak China Friendship Center from 23rd to 26th April. The event was inaugurated by former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani and the exhibition received around 20,000 visitors in five days. STEP set up a disability stall at this exhibition to raise awareness about people with disabilities and to create disability sensitization. As a result, almost 12,00 people registered with STEP at the exhibition as volunteers. 12 students from Fauji Foundation University participated as volunteers to run this awareness campaign about rights of people with disabilities during the nation event.



### Epoch Making Inclusive Fashion Show



STEP welcomed 2012 with a unique Fashion Show. STEP united with Pakistan Special Magazine and Amber & Shehzad (designers) to provide a platform for persons with disabilities. 20 persons with disabilities walked the ramp and proved to the world that persons with disabilities can contribute in every segment of live. The objective to bring attention to this unique fashion show was to highlight the talent of persons with disabilities models through media publicity. Nine different TV channels and newspapers reported this fashion show.



## Disability Equality Training Sessions

Persons with disabilities face discrimination in many areas of their lives; this is largely. DET has been designed to enable those who come in contact with persons with disabilities, in whatever capacity, to understand the nature of these discriminatory practices and what can be done to eliminate them. DET aims to address the need for information about reality of disability. General awareness of the reality of disability is limited because society is organized in such a way as to treat disability as an exceptional circumstance that requires special and, in the main, separate provision which is often inadequate and serves only to maintain the divisions and lack of understanding between non-



disabled and persons with disabilities.

STEP, with an aim to increase awareness and help facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in USAID Pakistan programming the Director's office proposed a series of trainings for mission staff, consulate staff, as well as specific sessions for each technical team in Islamabad. Initially training was structured in a way that seven sessions will be conducted in Islamabad office of USAID which will include



one hour general briefing open to the entire Mission followed by one hour sessions with technical teams focused on: Energy, Stabilization, Economic Growth, Education, Health, Democracy and Governance. It was also decided that the staff from the OIE, PO, DOCs, EXO, OAA, OFM, OFDA, FFP, DIR offices will be invited to attend any of these breakout sessions.

Later on, keeping in view the busy schedules of the mission staff the sessions were generalized for all sectors, so that people from all departments could attend as their convenience.



## International Day of Persons with Disabilities



A solidarity walk was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP), Islamabad at Hotel Serena, Islamabad. The Theme of the Walk was "The World We Want - Post 2015 MDG Strategy - The Voices of the Persons with Disabilities". Mr. Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Human Rights was the Chief Guest. Person with different spheres of life addressed the participants of walk. About 400 persons with disabilities, people from all spheres of society, representatives of Government, International development organizations, representatives of UN agencies joined the event. Among the other partners such as Sightsavers, CHEF International, and Telenor Pakistan supported the walk.



## Post 2015 MDG Strategy- Voices of Persons with Disabilities



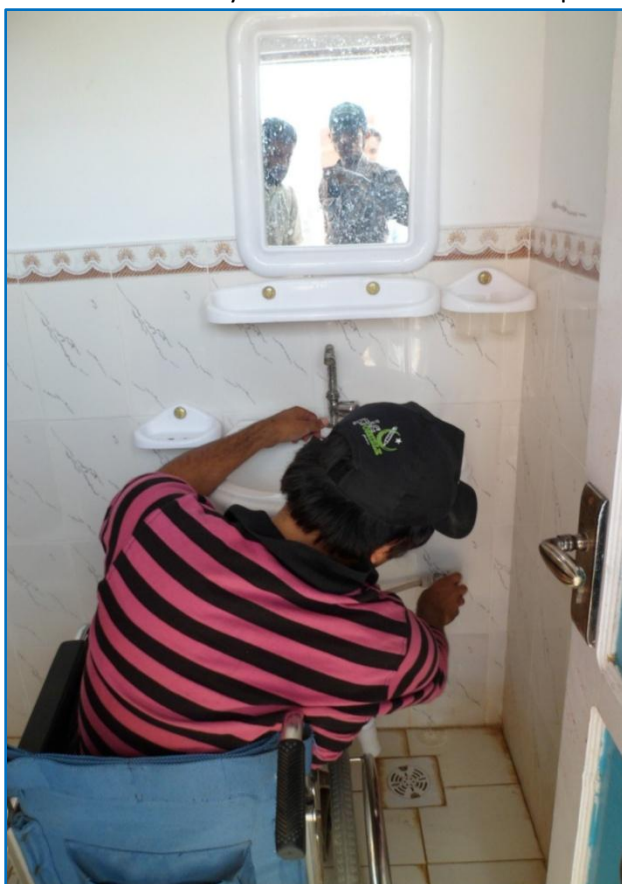
UNESCO Islamabad and Directorate General of Special Education and Social Welfare (DGSE), Ministry of Capital Administration and Development, Islamabad in collaboration with Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP), Islamabad organized a Seminar on the theme "What We Want in Future-Post 2015 MDG Strategy-Voices of the Persons with Disabilities". In her speech, Dr. Kozue Kay Nagata, Director UNESCO Islamabad stressed for the need of implementation of CRPD in Pakistan. She emphasized that there should be a National Monitoring Mechanism for reporting of CRPD to the International Committee in Geneva; secondly, formation of a NGOs' Consortium for parallel monitoring i.e. Shadow Report. Dr. Nagata also shared Post 2015 MDG strategy to mainstream persons with disabilities in the development agenda.



## Article 9 – Accessibility

### Accessibility in Schools Leading Towards Inclusive Education

Inclusion in education is an approach to educating students with special educational needs. Under the inclusion model, students with special needs spend most of their time with non-disabled students. Inclusion rejects the use of special schools or classrooms to separate students with disabilities from students without disabilities. For this purpose, CHEF International initiated a project in Charsadda to make Villages with inclusive education in partnership with STEP. STEP conducted access audit for 15 schools in Charsadda in May. STEP had to check and report



the extent to which the schools were accessible i.e. to check whether the furniture, classrooms, building etc were accessible for persons with disability. The schools were mainly middle and primary level schools.

In the future STEP plans on conducting teachers' training, curriculum training and creating a parent-teacher committee to promote the inclusion of children with disability in schools for the non-disabled.



## Article 11 - Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

### Reaching People with Disabilities after Devastating Flood in Pakistan



All assistive devices, particularly wheelchairs, not only mobilize person with physical disabilities, they also assist them to contribute in the society as active member. It is impossible to find active, light weight and fold-



able wheelchairs in Pakistan. Until now, the standard wheelchairs available in the country are mostly those which are specifically designed for patients to use in hospitals. Special Talent Exchange Program



(STEP) in collaboration with Mahvish and Jahangir Siddiqui Foundation and US- based Walkabout Foundation **distributed 300** customized wheelchairs which are light, fold-able, and durable according to the requirements of infrastructure in developing countries. The initial phase of distribution was held at Marriot Hotel phase of distribution was held at Marriot Hotel Islamabad. The chief guest for this event was Deputy Chief of Mission, Richard E. Hoagland. In the ceremony it was emphasized that it is important that persons with physical impairment be brought back into society and one of the most

important steps in their mainstreaming is mobility in and outside their premises.

Further, these wheelchairs were distributed in different cities of Pakistan.

- 141 Wheelchairs - Multan through Society for Special Persons.
- 91 Wheelchairs - Hyderabad through Nawab Shah Disability forum.
- 34 Wheelchairs - Islamabad for flood affected people with disabilities in Naushera through CHEF International.
- 28 Wheelchairs - Karachi through Disabled Welfare Organization.



## 5th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Yogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia 22-25 October 2012

Indonesia hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial



Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Building on past agreements and issues discussed in earlier conferences, particularly

in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as Indonesia's own experiences that reaffirm the importance of enhancing DRR implementation at the local level as part of the strategic venue to build nations and communities to disasters, Indonesia proposed the following sub-themes for the forthcoming 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR:



- 1) Integrating Local Level Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation into National Development Planning
- 2) Local Risk Assessment and Financing
- 3) Strengthening Local Risk Governance and Partnership

## 5th International Shafallah Forum in Doha, Qatar from January 22nd – January 24th, 2012.



This year's forum gathered more than a dozen First Spouses from Asia, Africa, and Europe as well as leading emergency relief officials, and representatives of local, regional and global disability organizations. All told more than 250 delegates from over 50 countries attended this year's Forum, making it one of the most diverse and successful Forum's to date. STEP presented the paper on inclusive disaster risk reduction.



## Capacity building of Development agencies in Inclusive DRR



STEP in collaboration with CHEF International conducted trainings on inclusive Disaster risk reduction with six implementing partners of ICCO working in Pakistan. It further included the access audit and assessment of ICCO funded programs from inclusion of persons with disability point of view. Following are the names of implementing partners working in Pakistan;

1. Pakistan Fisher Folk Foundation
2. Rural development foundation
3. Organization for development and peace
4. Taraqee foundation
5. Rural development project
6. Aurat Foundation



## Inclusive Disaster Management Project in Nowshera



STEP is running a project with the CHEF International in the area of Nowshera Kalan that is situated on the Kabul River bank. It's highly a pro disaster area. The need to implement the project in this area rose after the devastating flood in 2010. The role of STEP in this project is to build the capacity of line departments, NGOs and DPOs to integrate disability in their disaster management program in case of any upcoming disaster so the persons with disabilities are not been isolated during the disaster.

Up to 2015, STEP and CHEF International will build a strong planning and development policy document which will form the basis of planning and development of all the programs. A comprehensive internal review process of our existing projects/programmes will help improve organization's development planning, followed by building internal capacities in programme cycle management.

STEP as an organization will further build its potential in responding to emergency and disasters situations by integrating, "Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction strategies" in its projects and programmes. STEP strategy is to further improve its capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies / challenges in a timely and most professional manner in an accountable and high quality to those in need.





## Article 24 – Education

### Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars



Asfandiyar represented STEP in the United States for the USEFP program SUSI for student leaders which is an intense program whose purpose is to provide undergraduate young leaders with a deeper understanding of the United States. The scholarships fund students' traveling and lodging. They also provide for their stipend, health insurance and tuition fees for the entire period of study. He attended summer institutes for four to six weeks.



### International Study Visit and Bilateral Exchange Program of BC



As part of the bilateral exchange, STEP partnered with British Council to host 36 people from various countries who had come to visit Pakistan through the International Study Visit. The purpose of the exchange was cultural exchange between the participants and their Pakistani hosts. They were introduced to the urban and rural life in Pakistan so as to experience the different lifestyles that exist in the country. The Top 3 Social action projects that were executed as a result of the Active Citizens Program went abroad through a bilateral exchange.



**Momal Mushtaq** initiated The Voice of Youth Blog, an award-winning network of over 500 young talents from 75 educational institutes of the world. She went to Kenya.

**Fatima Raza** started an anti-pollution awareness campaign through seminars. This project focused on emphasizing on the importance of walking, cycling, and using public transportation to save the environment. She went to London.

**Saad Mian** arranged the International Leadership Conference along with STEP. He went to Oldum, UK for an exchange.

## Commonwealth Secretariat Expert Roundtable on inclusive education and sustainable employment for persons with disabilities in the Commonwealth, 10 - 11 January 2012, Hotel Cavendish, London, UK



In order to harness the education opportunities, a major shift in thinking and approach is required. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities helps States to chart this new approach and through doing so to meet their wider goals, such as the Millennium Development Goals, Education for All and obligations arising from existing domestic and international human rights instruments.

Abia Akram, Coordinator Commonwealth Young Disabled People's Forum take part in the roundtable and discussed barriers across a wide spectrum of areas, including transportation; the built environment and access to information; health and support to live in the community; poverty reduction; personal safety and security; leisure, recreation and sport; public and political participation; education and employment in light on UNCRPD implementation.





## Article 26 - Habilitation and rehabilitation

### Community Based Rehabilitation World Congress,



A Technical paper on role of women with disabilities was presented by STEP at CBR World Congress held in Agra, India 26-28

November 2012. The objective of CBR World Congress was "Promoting CBR as a global strategy to realize the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". The other objectives included:

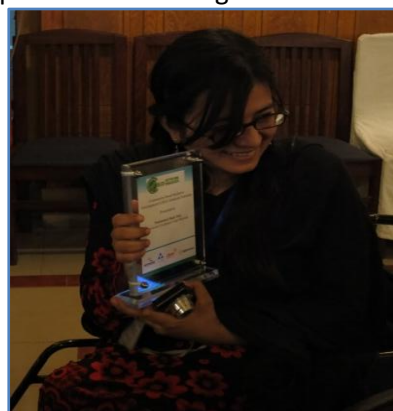
- Ensuring common understanding of CBR among the stakeholders
- Enhancing cross-sectoral involvement in CBR
- Operational sing CBR guidelines and sharing of good practices
- Promoting an Inclusive Business Development
- Promoting CBR National and Regional Networks
- Creating CBR Global Network
- Accelerating the achievement of CRPD and MDG through CBR



### CBID National Conference and Capacity Building Workshop on CBID for Young Leaders with and without Disabilities



National Capacity Building Workshop on CBID for Young Leaders with and without Disability was held on 22-23 Dec, 2012 at Islamabad supported by CBM, Light for the world, Sightsavers International, PPAF, CHIP, Chef International and Leonard Cheshire Disability. The motivated young leaders nominated by provincial coordinators and stakeholders are those who never participated in any training at National or International level participated from five provinces including AJK. The main propose of this workshop to develop leadership and promotion of



Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Approach CBR Guidelines in relation with CRPD and MDGs in Pakistan for full participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in their own communities.

Followed by the workshop A National conference on community based inclusive development was organized by the National CBID Network Pakistan on 24th Dec, 2012 at Islamabad. The objective of the Conference was to sensitize the NGO's, DPO's and other stakeholders regarding the rights of persons with disabilities and strong networking through experiences sharing and incorporating those in to their policies and programs. This conference was attended by numerous NGO's, DPO's and institutions.

## Article 27 - Work and employment

### Partnership Continues for Inclusive Business

#### Volunteering For Disability in Development

In 2011, Telenor Pakistan launched a new and unique CSR initiative called 'Telenor Hum Qadam' in which nationwide employees are to contribute a total of 50,000 paid working hours in programs supporting fellow citizens in Pakistan. The focus was to shift from charity based model to contribution based model of community development. Telenor pledged 50,000 hours to the disability movement from November 2011 to March 2012. Each employee had to contribute 20 hours, thus this was also referred to as Mission 20 hours. STEP facilitated 1800 Telenor employees. The objectives Included: As a part of Hum Qadam, Mission Count was launched by STEP to count the number of disabled persons in Islamabad in 6 months. The number of people counted by STEP in F sector was 28,000 out of which 18,000 had not seen the sun in the past 20 years. This is a reflection of how our society ostracizes the disabled.

#### Delegation from Telenor Group Norway

Ingrid Ihme Annete, a representative of Telenor's Open mind program from Norway visited STEP's office in Islamabad and discussed the possibility of Open Mind program in Pakistan. Open mind program trains persons with disabilities for a year and then they are employed on merit. As part of her visit, she visited National Institute of Special Education in Islamabad where she discussed future collaborations with DGSC and the implementation of Open mind program. She also met persons with disabilities in NISE.



#### Khuddar Pakistan Continues

Khudar Pakistan is a three year project run by STEP in collaboration with Telenor's CSR department. 1st year: Sensitization towards the disability 2nd year: Accessibility for the persons with disabilities. Telenor offices were accessible to a certain extent. Since most of the offices are in a rental area. They could not be altered completely to cater to the persons with disabilities, however all telenor offices were made accessible at least at the minimum level.

3rd year: Focus shifted to inclusion through the open mind program.



## Action Research on the Livelihood of the Persons with Disabilities



ESCAP in partnership with STEP conducted an action research encompassing both quantitative and qualitative indicators to generate new data on the livelihoods of persons with disabilities. The research is being carried out in eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region by UNESCAP partnering with disabled persons organizations (DPOS). Two focal persons from STEP attended a capacity building workshop organized for the project partners at Social Development Division ESCAP, Bangkok on 16-18 January 2012 with an objective of developing robust strategies for the research based upon reflection and discussion.

The participatory approaches have been adapted and used for the research in Pakistan and to achieve the purpose, three teams of persons with disabilities were formed including persons facing physical, visual and hearing disabilities. Each team was constituted of 5 to 6 people with disabilities were given one day formal training. Special instructions were given to the trainees to fill up the Questionnaires as per experiences shared in capacity building workshop and guidelines from ESCAP. A focal group discussion session was also convened with the key stake holders/employees, numerators and some of the participants. One of the uncounted population of the country, how we can be part of decision making.



## Workability International Conference Taiwan



Being member of Workability Asia STEP presented a paper on livelihood challenges for persons with disabilities after the disasters at Workability International conference 2012 in Taipei, Taiwan. The main theme of the Conference was "Discussion on the Promotion of Employment of the Persons with Disabilities under Global Economic Recession"



## Article 29 - Participation in political and public life

### Voices of Persons with Disabilities at Senate Public Hearing on Elections



On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012 Chairman Senate has constituted a Special committee of the Senate to examine the Election issues: "To review existing legislation pertaining to election matters and suggests ways and means to improve the system in order to facilitate the electoral process". In this regard DRI with the Committee hold a public hearing to solicit inputs from relevant political stakeholders and civil society organizations working to support electoral process in Pakistan.

The public hearing panel comprised all members of the Committee. Invited organizations were divided



into two categories: the presenters and the general audience. STEP has also trained 600 election officers on disability in collaboration with IFES and Academy Election of Commission of Pakistan in addition to conduction a TOT for Election Observers with Training for Pakistan.

### Conference on Disability and Development: Rights, Politics and Practice 11-12 October, Norway



Norwegian Centre for Human Rights organized a Conference on Disability and Development: Rights, Politics and Practice cooperation with the Harvard Law School Project on Disability. The Conference drew together Scholars and Practitioners on disability issues from all over the World. The Conference looked to analyze a range of questions concerning how disability rights impact the field of development. In particular the papers that were presented at the Conference focused on how to ensure that disability rights are mainstreamed into the development processes, and how to ensure that disabled Persons are included and can participate in society on equal terms with others.





## Talk show on Political Rights on legal framework of Person with Disabilities



To address the issues of Persons with disabilities, a talk show was hosted by Anchor Talat Hussain on International day of Persons with Disabilities 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012.

This program was on aired on December 5, 2012. In this program Representatives of leading parties of Pakistan and Individuals working for the rights of Persons with Disabilities was invited. The basic theme of the show was to highlight the issues that Persons with disabilities are facing being residents of Pakistan, to sort out the ways how their issues can be dealt in a better ways and how they can be incorporated in decision making at Government level.



## Article 30 - Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

### Sports Festival of Persons with Disabilities Reaches 20th Year in Abbottabad



20th Abbottabad National Sports Festival was held on June 26, 2012. It included a number of sports designed especially for persons with disabilities such as Blind Cricket, Wheelchair Cricket, Wheelchair Marathon, etc. The organizations which attended the event were Milestone, Leonard Cheshire Disability, USAID, SADA, A STAR Association and CHEF International. The chief guest was Mr. Atif Sheikh, President of STEP.



### Solidarity Cricket Match November 15, 2012



To support this UNCRPD article 30 STEP (Special Talent Exchange Program) in collaboration with Telenor organized a cricket match at Sports Complex Islamabad under the project of Hum Qadam. The basic purpose of this event was to create a sense in Persons with Disabilities that they can also take part in such recreational activities. To support them many individuals from Telenor volunteered themselves who played with these Persons with disabilities. This one day event boosted the morale of persons with disabilities and they enjoyed the event a lot. At the end these persons were rewarded with shields.





## Article 31 - Statistics and data collection

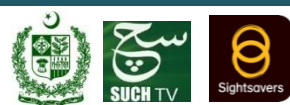
### Research on the Role of Education in the Lives of Women with Disabilities



STEP acted as a critical friend to facilitate a research on the role of education in the lives of women with disabilities in Pakistan. The research was conducted by Tehmina Hammad as part of her studies at the University of Cambridge. The purpose of this research was to understand the links between levels of education, educational experiences and outcomes in adult lives. The research enhances the understanding of the lives of women with disabilities in the context of Pakistan, on which, presently, literature is limited.

STEP's President Mr. Atif Sheikh, worked collaboratively with the researcher and developed an interview schedule plan. STEP also arranged two introductory meetings for the researcher with the Program Manager Sightsavers, Ms. Munaza Gillani, and Women Coordinator, disabled people International and Liaison and Capacity Building Advisor, Handicap International, Ms. Abia Akram, where the sampling frame and potential participants were identified. These meetings also informed the sample selection criteria and etiquette of conducting research with persons with disabilities in Pakistan. Documents on current research on disability were also made available.

### First Ever Dialogue on “Defining Disability”



The Dialogue on ‘Defining Disability’ has been organized by Special Talent Exchange program (STEP) in collaboration with the Director of Special Education and Social Welfare, Pakistan Institute for Social Welfare, Pakistan Institute for Social Research and Advocacy (PISRA), Sightsavers Pakistan and Such TV on April 11, 2012 at Helen Keller Friendship Center, National Library and Resource Center, Islamabad. In the dialogue it was discussed that the definition of the word “disabled” has a direct influence on how the rest of the society treats the disabled. Even though there is a need for a proper definition of the word, the understanding of disability socially is influenced so much by social and cultural norms that it is virtually impossible to come up with a universal definition of the word.



## Article 32 - International cooperation

### U.S. Embassy Alumni Mentorship Program



STEP was proud to be one of the organizations selected by the U.S. Embassy for its Mentorship Program 2012. Three mentees were interviewed by STEP and selected for duration of four months (June- September). The object of this program was to familiarize the mentees with STEP's mission of mainstreaming persons with disabilities in society. For this purpose, the mentees participated in all projects running during their tenure and were encouraged to contribute ideas to further the vision and mission of STEP.



### Asia Specific Regional Workshop on Hard Of Hearing and Deafened, Bangkok



Sheikh Jawad Ahmed Raza , a person with hard of hearing was nominated by STEP to attend the Asia Pacific meeting for Hard of Hearing held in Bangkok, Thailand. He is contributing at the national level for the empowerment of people with hard of hearing and deafened.





## APCD/JICA Project Workshop at APCD Training Building, Bangkok, Thailand on 12-13 July 2012



Since August 2002, the Asia-Pacific Development Center on Disability (APCD) has been collaborating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through technical cooperation projects for 10 years. In this connection APCD/JICA Project Workshop was jointly organized by APCD in collaboration with JICA, at APCD Training Building in Bangkok, Thailand. In this workshop the achievements of the Project was reviewed, future direction of APCD was explored in cooperation with key partners for effective collaboration, particularly regional activities in the proposed new Asian and Pacific Decade for Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022.



## Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing



STEP was invited to share the experience at the meeting on the “Rights of Older Persons: The way forward” at the Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental meeting on the Second Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing was held from 10 to 12 September in Bangkok. The meeting was a key milestone in reviewing the region’s progress in the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and in moving forward to build an inclusive and productive society of all ages.



## Asia Pacific Disability Right Champion Award by UNESCAP



Mr. Muhammad Atif Sheikh has been announced as the 'Promoter' of 'Make the Right Real Campaign' under the Asia Pacific Disability Right Champion ` by UNESCAP on November 1, 2012 here followed by High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012. The ceremony was inaugurated by Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, attended by Ministers from 18 countries and senior Government representatives from 37 nations, as well as civil society leaders from 47 organizations. He has dedicated this achievement to all organizations and individuals who have supported STEP in last one decade and to people with disabilities of Pakistan and Asia Pacific.



## Incheon Declaration: Asia Pacific Network of Independent Living Conference, October 26, 2012



Asia Pacific Network of Independent Living (APNIL): Empowerment tools for Change was organized by Disabled Peoples' International - Republic of Korea (DPI-Korea) in collaboration with Asia Pacific Network for Independent Living Centers (APNIL), Korean Federation of Centers for Independent Living of Persons with Disabilities (KOIL) and Disabled Peoples' International Asia-Pacific (DPIAP), held at Incheon City, the Republic of Korea.





## Inclusive Development

### 4 Year Long Development Project Concludes in Punjab



#### Leadership Session

Leadership Session took place at the end of February where STEP Collaborated with CHIP, DFID, and Sightsavers. STEP went from village to village in Tehsil Jhelum and Tehsil Sohawa. 15 Villages from each Tehsil were chosen on the basis of extent of backwardness, prevalence of disabilities and health and education issues. Members of STEP mentored these PWD'S for a mentoring program that lasted 4 years with a training session that took place every 3 months. Each session had 30 people each. The project resulted in an elected community citizens Board and the establishment of DPOS within the villages to benefit the rest of the community. Each Tehsil created 5 self-help groups and 1 DPO. The annual final review was conducted by Agha Khan Foundation and the project was reviewed at the end of April. Positive results emerging from the project resulted in an extension.



#### National Stakeholder Workshop

In collaboration with CHIP, DFID, STEP and Sightsavers completed a 4 year project of leadership training and mentoring of PWDs in Jhelum and Sohawa. The villages were made models for the government and other organizations to replicate in other rural areas. At the National Stakeholder Workshop, STEP invited local and international NGO's as well as the government to present on the results of the leadership training. More importantly, the workshop briefed the NGO's and the government on the guidelines to replicating the same model in other backward areas.

## STEP and Plan Joins Hands for Empowerment of Youth for Development



STEP and PLAN Pakistan joined hands in a project called EYPAD where regular workshops were conducted in Christian slums in Islamabad: France colony, Charles colony, 64 Quarters and 100 Quarters and also included a village near Islamabad called Mehra Bhagwal. The sessions lasted 4 months and trained 20 kids from each community. They were trained in IT, journalism, communication and were taught English as well.

Four Youth Groups emerged as a result of this training:

- Peace voice
- Youth Visionaries
- 100 Masters
- Super Tigers



They worked for the development of their communities towards sustainable solutions. These groups participated in the PLAN conference called National youth Council and won the top prizes in photography, theater performances and debate competitions.

## Disability incorporated in Active Citizens Program



### Extension of Active Citizen Program

STEP's partnership with British Council continues to strengthen in 2012 through the Active Citizens Program which included:

- 10 Workshops
- December 2011 to March 2012
- 422 Participants trained
- 41 Social action projects

### Impossible Campaign

The session of Impossible workshop was organized by STEP in collaboration with British Council. There were a total of 45 participants which included people with disabilities who took oath as ilmAmbassadors. An initiative to spread awareness about article 25-A which states that every child in Pakistan aged 5-16 years, has a right to free education.





## Global Youth Network Co-Design Workshop



Perspective of diversity and disability was contributed by STEP at co-design workshop to develop critique and pitch concepts for a global network made up of outstanding young people who are shaping or have the potential to shape society in the coming decades. This workshop was held in London from 10-12 December inclusive and involved 25 participants from across the UK, South Asia, Europe, North America, Middle East and North America.



## Active Citizens Program for DPOs



Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP) in collaboration with British Council is running a program named Active Citizens Program in different cities of Pakistan through its Disabled Peoples Organizations. This Program is running parallel in Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Abbottabad and Islamabad. A number of workshops have been organized under this program. The basic theme of this program is to empower the tomorrow's young leaders to bring about positive change to their communities in the Pakistan. 'Active citizenship' is the philosophy that citizens should work towards the betterment of their community through economic participation, public service, volunteer work, and other such efforts to improve life for all citizens.



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