



## **Introduction Disability and Development Module I**

**Subject** Disability and Development (course code 470588)

**Coordinator** Wim H. van Brakel MD MSc PhD

**Lecturers** Wim H. van Brakel MD MSc PhD; Huib Cornielje Dip Phys MPH MSc; Jacqueline Kool, MA; Marlies van der Kroft, BA MA; Lydia la Rivière-Zijdel, MA

**Credits** 6

### **Aim**

- To develop an understanding of disability and the issues faced by people with disabilities
- To develop knowledge and skills for disability research, policy development and management related to disability, rehabilitation and development
- To acquire insight into the epidemiology of disability, with separate attention for important determinants like gender, poverty and HIV/AIDS
- To learn how to use relevant models of disability and the conceptual framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)
- To understand the importance of human rights in relation to disability and to learn to use the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for advocacy and other rights-based interventions
- To acquire skills and knowledge in measurement and research methods relevant to disability
- To understand the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration
- To gain insight in participatory approaches

### **Content**

The Disability and Development (D&D) course focuses on a broad range of issues related to disability and rehabilitation in the context of development. This means that the focus is on people with disabilities in low and middle-income countries. Disability affects an estimated 600 million people worldwide, the majority of whom live in low and middle-income countries. The large majority are poor and have no access to rehabilitation services; neither are facilities in place to allow them to be included in the mainstream of society. To date, very few services and programmes are available to address these needs. The realisation that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be met without addressing the needs of people with disability has brought a new impetus to the field concerned with these issues, disability and development. Another major recent development was the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in December 2006. It is expected that there will be a substantial increase in demand for training of a large variety of professionals (e.g. researchers, managers, architects, lawyers, health professionals) with formal training and qualifications in the field of disability and development. This rapidly increasing interest in disability as a development and human rights issue means that this emerging field of study will rapidly gain in importance and should become part of any serious higher education in social and development studies and in international public health. The course will cover essential knowledge and skills in this subject.

The 4-week course will include the following subjects:

- Disability models and stereotypes,
- Frequencies and distribution of disability,
- Experience of having a disability,
- ICF conceptual framework,
- Rights of persons with disabilities, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,
- Culture and disability,
- Determinants of disability, including stigma and discrimination, poverty, gender and HIV/AIDS,
- Measurement of disability,
- Disability-relevant research methods, including survey methods, examples of disability research, and
- An introduction to community-based rehabilitation

**Form of tuition** Lectures with practical exercises, tutorial groups, self study, experiential learning and group assignments

**Literature** An online reader will be available on blackboard

**Mode of assessment** Assessment is based on individual assignments, tutorial group work and an individual written examination

**Target audience** Optional course for Master students Management, Policy Analysis and Entrepreneurship in Health and Life Sciences (MPA) and International Public Health; external students from low and middle-income countries are also encouraged to apply.

**Venue** Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, VU University, Amsterdam

**Period** 29.11-23.12.2010

**Course fees**

The tentative course fees for 2010 are €1,800 for 4 weeks, including the course exam (accredited for 6 ECTS). These fees do NOT include board and lodging in Amsterdam.

**For information contact:**

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