Update on the *World report on disability and rehabilitation* to highlight progress and explain next steps towards completion of the project.

**Background**

World Health Assembly Resolution 58.23 (May 2005), on "Disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation", mandated WHO to produce a *World report on disability and rehabilitation* based on the best available scientific evidence.

The **aim** of the Report is to provide governments and civil society with a comprehensive description of the importance of disability and rehabilitation, an analysis of the responses provided, and recommendations for action at national, regional and global levels based on the best available scientific evidence. This information will play a key role in shaping policy and enhancing the lives of people with disabilities, especially as implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities proceeds.

**Box 1: Structure of the World Report on Disability and Rehabilitation**

Introduction
1: The new paradigm
2: A global picture
3: Prevention and General Health
4: Rehabilitation
5: Education
6: Employment
7: Support services
8: Enabling environments
9. Recommendations and conclusions
   Statistical annexe

The **objectives** of the Report are to:
- document existing information on the status of disability, rehabilitation, and the lived experience of persons with disabilities;
- demonstrate the gap between what exists and what is required; and
- issue a call to action with a path forward in an evidence based framework.

Although policy makers are seen as the primary target audience, the Report is also intended for a broad multisectoral **audience**, including academics, disability and development actors, service providers, donors, media, people with disabilities and their families, and the broader community.
Box 2: Regional Consultations on the World Report

Any document aspiring truly to be a World Report needs to draw on broad input, particularly from those directly affected. WHO is using various mechanisms to ensure that the key experts are consulted and that the Report reflects regional diversity. One important approach used by WHO for such Reports is to take early drafts to a series of consultations where local and regional experts are asked to comment and help identify additional sources of evidence from the region.

In May and June 2008, regional consultations on the preliminary draft of the World report on disability and rehabilitation were held in San José, Costa Rica for the Americas Region; Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania for the African and the Eastern Mediterranean Regions; Rome, Italy for the European Region; and Manila, Philippines for the South-East Asian and Western Pacific Regions. Each consultation brought together a diverse group of experts with complementary knowledge and experience. Participants included advisers and editors of the Report, lead chapter authors, chapter working group members, representatives of disabled peoples organizations, academics, service providers, policymakers, government officials and NGO representatives.

Claudia Sánchez, a Columbian architect and participant in the consultation in San José, remarked on the value of a process that "brings into the report experiences from around the world that come from the real people", i.e. those who have direct knowledge of the issues. While it was most helpful to gather constructive criticisms of the preliminary draft, it was also encouraging to witness how many participants were excited by the potential of the Report to advance work in disability and rehabilitation. As Kudakwashe Dube, CEO of the Secretariat of the Africa Decade of Persons with Disabilities, remarked about the Dar-Es-Salaam event, "the Report challenges countries to take serious steps to mainstream disability and capacitate all actors in order to achieve an improvement in the quality of life of persons with disabilities."

The participants' general feedback, regional and cultural perspectives on the draft, and the sources of regional information they identified will be key to ensuring that the final document is relevant in diverse contexts globally. They also proposed recommendations for action in the areas of disability and rehabilitation for possible inclusion in the draft and generated ideas for regional dissemination of the Report and related events. The comments and suggestions from the four Regional Consultations will be collated by the WHO secretariat and reviewed by the Editorial Committee. Lead authors will then use the input to help guide development of the next draft.
Report Development

The *World report on disability and rehabilitation* is being produced jointly by WHO and the World Bank, with WHO serving as the secretariat. Key milestones in the report's development are summarized in box 2.

Development of the report depends on a broad range of actors.

- A nine member **Editorial Committee**, which includes technical expertise, regional representation and the voice of people with disabilities, is overseeing development of the report. The Editorial Committee met in August to review feedback on the preliminary draft and give authors direction for revisions; its members are also giving ongoing guidance for draft development.
- More than 70 **Contributors** created the preliminary draft, working in chapter teams lead by one or two lead authors. These teams are now preparing the next draft of the Report.
- More than 120 **Reviewers** participated in four regional consultations, supplying feedback on the preliminary draft and sources of evidence from their regions for inclusion in the report (see box 2). Additional peer and institutional reviewers will be asked to give feedback on the next draft of the report.
- An **Advisory Committee** provides political and advisory support. The Advisory Committee will review and comment on the next draft of the report and lend support to the launching and implementation of the final report.
- Many organizational **Partners** provide expertise and support for the report's development, among them Disabled People's Organizations such as the International Disability Alliance and its members; professional groups such as the World Confederation of Physical Therapists, the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics, and the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine; non-governmental organizations belonging to the International Disability and Development Consortium, including CBM; the Global Partnership for Disability and Development and Multi-Donor Trust Fund; the Centers for Disease Control (USA); the International Paralympics Committee; Japan International Cooperation Agency; UN Agencies such as DESA, ILO, ITU, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP and UNICEF; government ministries including Finland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and members from WHO Collaborating Centres on Disability and Rehabilitation. This diverse group of partners is helping ensure that a strong interdisciplinary and geographical orientation will be reflected in the Report.
The World Report and you

In the spirit of partnership, the WHO/World Bank team welcome ongoing input into the process of developing the Report. While the regional consultations have now concluded, participation from people with disabilities, NGOs, governments, academic institutions, professional groups, and others continues to be welcome as follows:

Now - December 2008: Suggest sources of evidence including ‘grey literature’, relevant to the different areas covered in the Report. Those with examples of good practice or personal narratives should contact Rachel Pedersen of the Disability and Rehabilitation team (pedersenr@who.int) to request a template for submissions.

November 2008 - November 2009: Suggest ways of publicizing the Report after the launch, for example regional and country-level launches, and other opportunities for promoting the Report and bringing it to the broadest possible readership.

December 2009 onwards: Participate in regional and country-level launch events, advocate for the principles and recommendations in the Report, and publicize the need for inclusion and participation initiatives.

For further information visit www.who.int/disabilities or contact: Alana Officer at officera@who.int