Box 7: Poverty and Disability

Throughout the world people with disabilities and their families share a common experience of being devalued by their communities and societies. Over 25% of households worldwide have a member with a disability and since families are the primary support systems for individuals with a disability they generally face higher instances of ill health due to increased stress and insecurity, higher health-related costs for their family member with a disability, labour force exclusion, isolation from community support, and poverty than do their neighbouring households. Women in particular are impacted as they take on the majority of care-giving responsibilities.

Consider some of the factors contributing to higher instances of poverty for children and youth with disabilities and their families:

- Decreased exposure to educational and vocational training coupled with undervaluing of the abilities of people with disabilities result in fewer opportunities for self-sustaining employment
- Care-giving responsibilities result in lost income for family members caring for a person with a disability Increased medical costs associated with disability, including travel and access costs
- Overall increased vulnerability to ill-health and economic poverty
- Increased social vulnerability to abuse and exploitation
- Social isolation of persons with disabilities and their family members caused by negative social attitudes
- Dependence of people with disabilities on those who care for them

or discrimination legislation, etc. These considerations must be part of a longer-term strategy to promote inclusive labour, economic and social policies to foster growth, prosperity and security.

PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

"Target assistance to help strengthen democratic systems toward the structural stability that allows for the non-violent resolution of conflicts, taking account of the distribution and the transfer of power, as well as the protection and inclusion of minorities and marginalised groups." [11]

It is without fail that inclusive and participatory governance structures and cultures are identified as the most basic tenets of fostering a culture of conflict prevention, of effectively coping with tension, and of developing policies and practices that are responsive and relevant to local constituencies.

The following table includes key components of good governance that draw from UNESCAP's definition[12] as well as from lessons learned from years of advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Good Governance		
Equitable and Inclusive Policies & Programmes	Rule of Law	Civil Society Strengthening and Participation
Accountable & Transparent Mechanisms and Processes	Partnership Building between Various Stakeholders to Identify Problems & Solutions	Institutional Capacity Building (Judicial, Financial, Military, Education, etc)

[11] OECD, Helping Prevent Violent Conflict, pg. 5, www.oecd.org/dataoecd/10/9/1963244.pdf
[12] http://www.unescap.org/huset/gg/governance.htm