

## Critical issue module 3

### Children with disabilities

#### Topic 5 Monitoring, evaluation and learning

#### Handout 2



#### What change for children? Case study

##### Zamborra

The population of Zamborra has had a very difficult time during the last three years of conflict. Their town has changed hands between various factions several times. A ceasefire has now been signed and negotiations are underway for a government of national unity, although this has led to an escalation of tension.

Traditionally women have not worked, apart from in health and education, caring for and teaching women and girls. During the stable years prior to the conflict, women had started to work in other areas, although this had still been the exception rather than the rule. During the conflict, partly for security reasons, work opportunities for women had become more restricted.

During the conflict, many men and adolescent boys in Zamborra faced the difficult choice of joining one of the two rebel groups or staying in the town. If they stayed in the town, trading and other forms of employment were very restricted because of the dangers of travelling. Unless they had a profession, they also risked being questioned as to why they were not fighting. There was general concern about the safety of families, and men and boys who remained were often expected to look out for the security of the families of relations who were fighting.

Your humanitarian organization has been working in the country for 15 years and has run a number of successful education programmes that have influenced the national education system. However the growing instability and conflict has led to increasing numbers of children dropping out of school.

Zamborra is not a district that your organization has previously worked in but, as it is an area that has been severely affected by the conflict, an emergency assessment has been carried out to scope the viability of establishing a programme. The initial assessment has revealed that girls and women are feeling increasingly vulnerable as levels of violence are rising within the community. This in turn is leading to a reduction in the numbers of girls attending school. There are also concerns about members of an ethnic minority group who have, until recently, lived peacefully within the community but are increasingly being viewed as collaborators with an opposing faction. Children from this community are reporting growing hostility from the general population.

Furthermore, years of ongoing conflict have led to a relatively high proportion of adults and children in the town living with either mental or physical disabilities. There is





virtually no medical or psychosocial provision or support for people with disabilities. However, the emergency assessment team found it hard to access people with disabilities and so this information has not been verified.

From *Non-discrimination in emergencies: training manual and toolkit* Save the Children, New Delhi, 2008, p 144

