



*For inclusion of persons with **disabilities**  
For eradication of avoidable blindness*



## Dark & Light's vision

We believe that persons with a disability, like every other person, have the right to live a life of dignity.

## Position of the disabled

In many countries, persons with a disability have less access to social services and often belong to the most vulnerable groups in society. Some facts: In the poorest regions of the world about 20% of the population are living with a handicap. 90% of the disabled children are not going to school. Persons with disabilities are more likely to get HIV-Aids as they have less access to information and treatment. As for visually disabled persons, 75% of all cases of blindness and/or low vision can be prevented or treated.

## Rights of the disabled

The starting point of our work is the right of (visually) disabled persons to be included in society. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities describes the rights of persons with disabilities to education, equal access to health care, access to information, access to justice, freedom from exploitation and the right to live independently and be included in society.

## Our role

Dark & Light stands up for equal rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries. We support initiatives for inclusive education, rehabilitation, access to eye care, general health care and income generating activities.

We support organisations working for disabled persons in developing countries as they strive for equal rights through advocacy. We help local government and development organisations to make their services and programs accessible for persons with disabilities. We support public and private initiatives for prevention of blindness through training and quality development.

## Impact

The interventions supported by Dark & Light have a high impact:

- evaluations of our income generating programs have proved that the majority of the target group is able to contribute to the family income after rehabilitation and training.
- the clients in the rehabilitation programs have greater mobility and are more active in society.
- the education programs show that children with disabilities who previously did not have access to school are now able to complete their education. Sometimes these children are in the top of their class, despite their disability.
- research has proved that persons who have had a cataract operation have a higher quality of life and a higher income than before the operation.
- the activities have a measurable contribution towards reaching the millennium development goals on poverty reduction, education, gender equality and HIV-Aids. Without the inclusion of disabled persons these goals can not be reached at all.



## Countries of operation

We support programs for persons with disabilities in Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

## Quality standards

We have internal procedures and systems for quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation. Dark & Light has been ISO certified since November 2003. Our monitoring systems give input for quality improvement and policy development.

## Networks

We are working together with other organisations in different networks. We are a member of:

- DCDD (member of International Coalition of Disability in Development)
- EU-CORD (European network of Christian relief and development organisations)
- Vision 2020 (initiative of WHO to eradicate preventable blindness)
- Prisma, member of the ICCO alliance

## Dark & Light

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