

An Overview of TWC's Inclusive Training Support.

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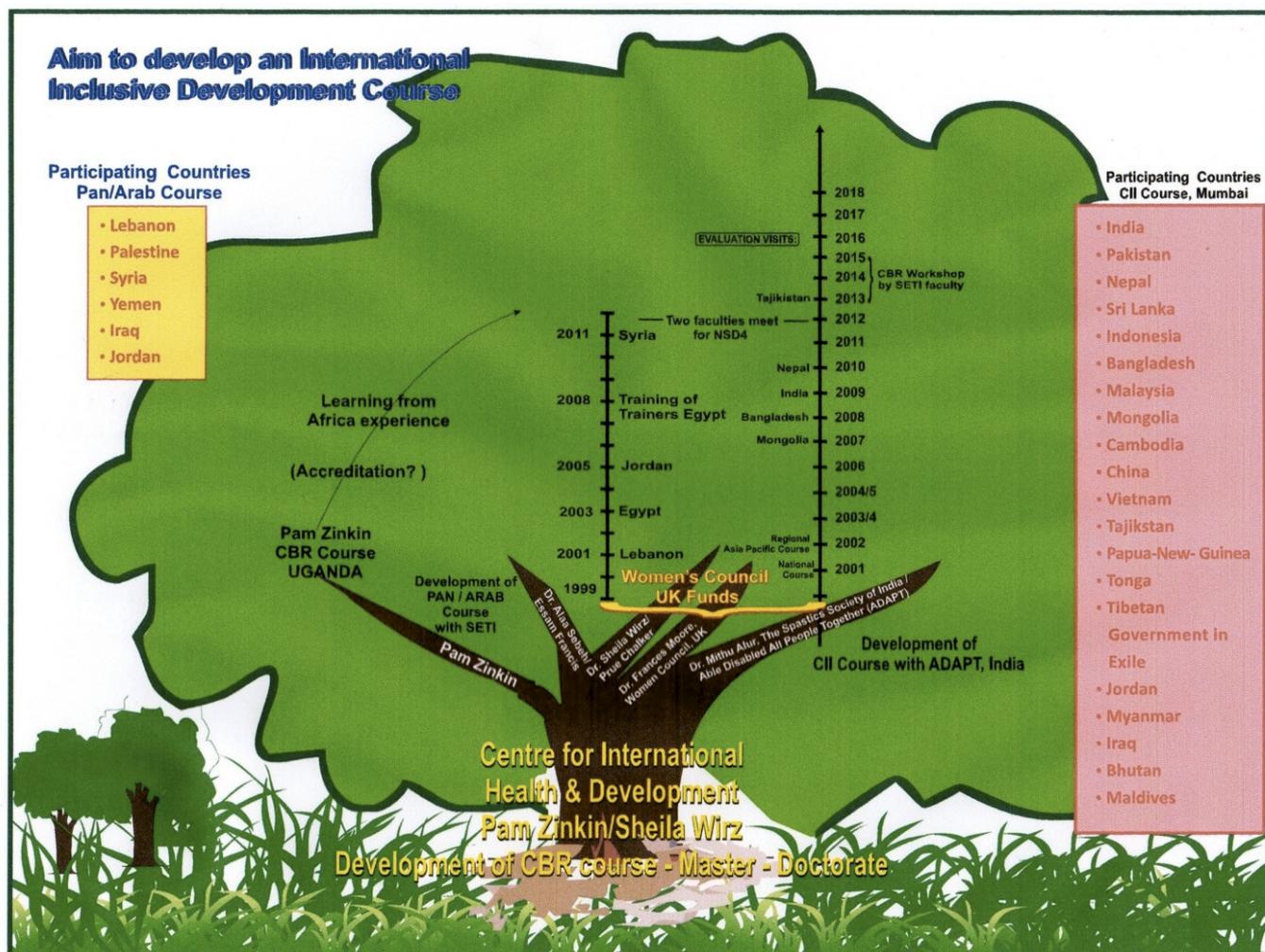


Diagram showing the development of the Pan Arab Course by SETI and the CII Course by ADAPT.

In 2001 after much consultation the Women's Council refocused its support from the previous Scholarship programme with Ware College to assist in future the most vulnerable children in Asia through the development of two Regional Training Programmes in Community Inclusion. The above diagram shows the development of this programme over the last seventeen years. Due to the continued hostilities in the Middle East it has been impossible to hold a Regional Training Course in Arabic there since 2011. However links have been maintained with our partner organisation there and every effort will be made to re-establish the Training course when the situation allows. Students from the Middle East are always encouraged to join the CII Course in Mumbai.

Meanwhile the three month Community Initiatives in Inclusion course with ADAPT in Mumbai has reached twenty countries, with over two hundred and fifty participants attending the course. On January 8 2018 the 16th Asia/Pacific Course commenced with nineteen participants from seven countries including for the first time a student from the Maldives. This three month Course at ADAPT immerses the participants in the culture and environment of Inclusion. At ADAPT participants learn to value the knowledge and expertise of the many people with disabilities employed there.

They also have an opportunity to work closely with children with a variety of disabilities and with their families. They assist in planning the pathways for a number of these children to access mainstream education through the local schools who work with ADAPT to make a reality of "Education for all". The importance of education for people with disabilities and their subsequent significant employment is an important step in changing the perception of the general public on disability.

The Course is intensive and each year the group of students bond in a different way but are always supportive of each other. Many of the students have never travelled abroad before and they are homesick and fearful of this new environment in Mumbai. The ADAPT staff work tirelessly to assist in this acclimatisation. At the Valedictory event in April the students always produce a wonderful synopsis of the course highlights which is often accompanied by a very amusing comedy show.

The five country evaluations carried out between 2007-2013 showed the impact of the course on the participants. They all agreed that they had gained confidence which had given them a vital tool to improve their work. This positive impact and reach of the course should not be underestimated. For example Esther who came from Papua New Guinea and is responsible for the Early Years Education Services in the PNG Government returned to her country after the CII Course and began to include children with disabilities in the Early Education programme. The training manuals provided to all CII students are being used throughout Nepal to spread Inclusion through other NGO's. In Mongolia the CII Course has helped shape the development of the Government services for people with disabilities. These are just a few of the many positive impacts of the CII Course over 16 years, brought about by the long term partnership between the Women's Council and ADAPT.

However there is still much to do before the stigma of disability is no longer with us. For TWC the development of Inclusive Groups in a number of countries that have sent a considerable number of students to the CII Course such as Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nepal, Tajikistan, is the next challenge. These Groups would host short Workshops on Community Initiatives in Inclusion in the local language with ADAPT providing the training team, while the local ex CII participants provided the translation. Spreading Inclusion through CII has been like a tap dripping into a bucket. It will take forever to fill that bucket. What is needed is to turn on the tap! There has never been a better time to make a reality out of rhetoric on Disability now that many countries signed up to the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.