

Inclusion and Exclusion in International Development: People with Intellectual Disabilities in ODA

Theme and Sub-Theme Links

This side-event on the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in international development and humanitarian aid addresses the following themes and sub-themes:

- Cross-cutting theme: Strengthening capacity-building to fully implement the CRPD and the SDGs for persons with disabilities, in particular women and girls with disabilities
- Sub-theme 3: Promoting Inclusive environments for the full implementation of the CRPD

Background

Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) sets out the requirement that international cooperation, including international development programmes, must be inclusive of people with disabilities. Article 32 also sets out the role that organizations of people with disabilities (OPDs) have as partners for international development.

Bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and private foundations have made commitments to enhancing inclusion for people with disabilities in international development through mechanisms including ratification of the CRPD, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commitments made at the 2018 Global Disability Summit, and membership in the Global Action on Disability Network (GLAD).

Despite donors demonstrating commitment to the meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities in international aid and cooperation, analysis of disability inclusion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) from 2014 to 2018 reveals people with intellectual disabilities continue to be excluded from international development and aid as these mechanisms fail to “leave no one behind.”

Data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)’s Creditor Reporting System (CRS) reveals that less than 0.02% of annual ODA projects consider the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in their design and delivery. For every \$1,000 spent on official development assistance, only 20¢ includes people with intellectual disabilities.

When ODA projects do include people with intellectual disabilities, many donors continue to fund projects that use segregated models that violate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including support for segregated education and sheltered workshops.

In 2018, over one third of intellectual disability-relevant projects (36%) used methodologies that were inconsistent with the CRPD. This may be related to the fact that only 2% of aid relevant to people with intellectual disabilities and their families was delivered through OPDs between 2014 and 2018.

Even as donors make progress in including people with disabilities in international development, people with intellectual disabilities as a marginalized group within the disability community continue to be left behind.

People with intellectual disabilities face additional barriers to education, employment, and access to support services, are at higher risk of institutionalization, and continue to be excluded in their communities. To rectify this exclusion from communities, donors must ensure that the international development work they fund is CRPD-compliant and is challenging systems to be more inclusive, or people with intellectual disabilities will continue to be segregated and excluded from their communities.

Given the current state of exclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in international development work, there is an urgent need to create a space for discussion about good practice for including of people with intellectual disabilities and their representative groups (OPDs) in international development.

Objectives

The main objective of the side event is to provide a learning space for development organizations, funding agencies, and other actors in international development and humanitarian action on inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in development work.

Discussions will focus on the following questions:

- What is the current state of inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in development?
- What factors are contributing to the lack of CRPD-compliance in development work?
- How *should* persons with intellectual disabilities, their families, and their OPDs be engaged in development work?
- What good practices are funding agencies already using to ensure that their aid work is inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities?
- What further action can funders take to ensure CRPD-compliance and meaningful inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in development work?

Format

The event is co-hosted by Inclusion International and Development Initiatives. The GLAD Network (TBC) and the International Disability Alliance will co-sponsor the event.

The virtual event will take the form of a panel discussion, with short presentations from each panellist followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. The event duration will be 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Speakers

Opening Remarks:

- Yetnebersh Nigussie, Senior Manager, GLAD Network

Moderator:

- Connie Laurin-Bowie, CEO, Inclusion International

Panellists:

- Fauzia Haji, Council member, Inclusion Africa
- Claudia Wells, Director of Data Use, Development Initiatives
- Dominic Haslam, Director, Sightsavers
- Penny Innes, Head of Disability Inclusion Team, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Morten Eriksen, CEO, Atlas Alliance