



**Recommendations of the European Conference
'Make Development Inclusive – MDGs: Inclusion of People with Disabilities'
14-15 May 2007, Senec, Bratislava**

More than 80 representatives of Disabled People's Organisations, Development NGOs, International Organisations and Governments from 24 countries came together to discuss the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in the context of the MDGs at Senec, Bratislava on 14-15 May 2007.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations to International Donors

- Ensure the MDG framework incorporates and actively promotes adherence to, and implementation of, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; The UN Regional Commissions must align their positions and reporting to the terms of the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Gather more accurate and reliable data on the situation of persons with disabilities living in the poorest communities. DPOs must be involved in gathering data at local level, and engaging with the Government;
- Systematically include a disability perspective, and gather information on the status of persons with disabilities, in all MDG country analyses;
- Invest in Global Partnerships to promote inclusive development; poverty and exclusion of persons with disabilities are a global phenomena and a global challenge. North-South cooperation is required to address these problems; respect the terms of Article 32 of the UN Convention on International Cooperation, and promote disability as a cross-cutting issue in all development programs;
- Improve visibility of the work of the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities and link its work with that of the MDGs;
- The World Bank must establish without delay, a safeguard on disability in order that they are required systematically to include disability as a cross-cutting element of World Bank activities;
- Improve communication on the MDGs towards persons with disabilities and their representative organizations (Disabled Peoples Organisations – DPOs) and de-mystify the language behind MDGs;
- Support awareness raising activities for disability inclusion in development cooperation and poverty reduction;
- Build the capacity of disability NGOs, empower persons with disabilities in developing countries, invest in global partnerships of DPOs and systematically involve them in MDG related consultation processes at all levels.

MDG 1 RECOMMENDATIONS - POVERTY REDUCTION

MDG 1: proposals for additional indicators and targets to more effectively measure disability inclusion

Indicators

Percentage and proportion of persons with disabilities living under the poverty line, less than 1 dollar a day, compared to non-disabled persons;

Percentage of persons with disabilities living below the extreme poverty line compared to non-disabled persons

Action points for Governments, major donors and relevant stakeholders

Need for measurable indicators on disability in MDG 1

-all project applications addressing MDG 1 must include a disability specific indicator.

Employment incentive schemes

-International donor support and Government support for incentive schemes for employment of persons with disabilities and reasonable accommodation requirements in the work place (to make the work place accessible).

Social protection used to empower people with disabilities

-Support the growth and establishment of social protection schemes which provide funding to compensate for the additional costs of disability and facilitates access for marginalised groups into the labour market.

Effective use of Micro-Finance Schemes

-to address exclusion of persons with disabilities from the mainstream labour market and to change negative attitudes of local communities to disability.

Use the UN Convention

-Use Article 4 (requiring active consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations), Article 32 (International Cooperation) and Article 28 (Adequate standard of living & social protection) in the campaign on disability inclusion in MDG 1.

MDG 2 RECOMMENDATIONS - UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

MDG 2: proposals for additional indicators and targets to more effectively measure disability inclusion

Indicators

- Percentage of national budget spent on supportive measures to include children with disabilities into primary education;
- Percentage of schools with support services for children with disabilities;
- Measurement of enrolment rates of children with disabilities in proportion to the enrolment rates of the general population of children;

Targets

- Compulsory free and equal access to primary education for all children with disabilities by 2015;
- Systematic disability awareness training for teaching professionals, in particular pre-service and in-service training of teachers;
- Gathering of disability-disaggregated data on school attendance - Net Enrolment Rate.

Action points for Governments, major donors and relevant stakeholders

Recommendations to International donors

-For EU Member States to systematically and explicitly include children with disabilities in their education policies and programmes towards developing countries and to take action to monitor the status and development of children with disabilities living in developing countries.

-For international donors and the international NGO community to improve the coherence, complementarities and communication between the respective education initiatives working to advance MDG 2. This includes the Fast Track Initiative on Education, the Education For All Flagship Programme, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI), and the Global Campaign for Education.

-For the World Bank to compile best practice examples on Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disability inclusion in education.

-For international donor agencies to support and encourage Governments in developing countries as they build on inclusive development and education initiatives which pro-actively support full and equal inclusion of children with disabilities.

Recommendations to Governments

-Governments must eliminate legislative and constitutional barriers to inclusive education in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

-Governments must implement the recommendations of the OHCHR Commission on Human Rights on the right to education: the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur Recommendations of the European Conference 'Make Development Inclusive –

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on the right to education in respect to the right to education of persons with different capacities;

-Governments must ensure that one Ministry alone is responsible for the education of all learners including persons with disabilities and that the responsibilities in this field are not divided across different Ministries leading to confusion and duplication;

-Governments must ensure that one school system is responsible for the education of all children in a particular region;

-Governments must develop accountability mechanisms to monitor identification, registration, attendance, completion and exclusion;

-Governments must advance disability awareness in society and provide support mechanisms and disability rights training for parents of children with disabilities in order that they are aware of the importance of encouraging and supporting their children with disabilities into education;

Recommendations to civil society

-Partnerships between disability NGOs and civil society across the North and the South must be strengthened and made more effective;

-Development NGOs must be informed about, and take on board, the terms of the new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as the recommendations of the UN Standard Rules (UNSR) on Education.

-Civil Society Organisations and Development NGOs involved in education should develop and implement strategic plans, in a participatory manner, that outline how their activities and interventions are accessible to, and do not discriminate against, people with disabilities.

MDG 3 RECOMMENDATIONS – Gender Equality

MDG 3: proposals for additional indicators and targets to more effectively measure disability inclusion

-Indicators which differentiate on the basis of gender and disability;

Action points for Governments, major donors and relevant stakeholders to advance inclusion of persons with disabilities in MDG 3:

-Incorporate gender specific education and training in the work of NGOs, Government and development agencies in order to enable them to better incorporate a gender equality perspective in their work;

-Support and undertake disability awareness education among women's movements and organisations in order that they more actively and effectively include participation of women with disabilities;

-Encourage the Beijing +5 process and the Commission on the Status of Women to address the issue of double and multiple discrimination experienced by women with disabilities living in the poorest communities;

-Promote systematic compilation of disaggregated data on women with disabilities

-For CEDAW country reports to include and undertake specific monitoring, data collection and reporting on the status of women with disabilities living in developing countries;

-Ensure that all funding programmes make gender and disability mainstreaming a precondition;

-Support empowerment strategies and initiatives for women with disabilities that give particular attention to leadership and skills training to ensure that women with disabilities can take advantage of opportunities and rise to senior positions;

-Pro-actively involve women with disabilities in the consultation processes between international donors, Government and civil society. Women with disabilities know their problems best and should therefore be given opportunities to participate in the identification, formulation and implementation of strategies and approaches to address the problems and challenges they experience;

-Make gender equality also a man's issue - not only a woman's issue.

MDG 6 RECOMMENDATIONS – HIV/AIDS

MDG 6: proposals for additional indicators and targets to more effectively measure disability inclusion

Indicators

- Percentage number of HIV/AIDS action plans and data gathered which makes explicit reference to disability and is designed to actively include disability and persons with disabilities (e.g. which produces material in accessible formats);
- Percentage number of persons with disabilities enrolled in HIV/AIDS awareness raising training at national level compared to non-disabled persons;
- Percentage number of contacts made between HIV/AIDS organisations and DPOs; inclusion of DPOs in HIV/AIDS programmes and inclusion of disability by HIV/AIDS organizations;
- Percentage number of trained health workers on the issue of disability & HIV/AIDS;

Targets

- For disability to be explicitly referenced and included in all the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plans;
- For all HIV/AIDS activities to systematically and pro-actively reach out to persons with disabilities;

Action points for Governments, major donors and relevant stakeholders to advance inclusion of persons with disabilities in MDG 6:

Recommendations to International Donors:

- Disaggregation of data collection by disability;
- Actively include DPOs in the activities of the Global Fund;
- Link mainstream MDG 6 activities with the African campaign on Disability & HIV/AIDS;
- Involve DPOs & persons with disabilities as trainers and as expert support, technical support to inform national level HIV/AIDS programmes and decision makers;

Recommendations to Governments

- Inclusion of disability issues into the HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan – 2007-2012 (good practice example from Uganda¹);
- Create a Disability Stakeholders HIV/AIDS Committee (DSHAC) to advise Governments and other actors active in the fight to combat HIV/AIDS (good practice example from Uganda);
- Make condoms freely and easily accessible for hard-to-reach and marginalized groups and to persons with disabilities. Ensure information on the use of condoms is made available in accessible formats (e.g. product information & expiration date in Braille);

Recommendations to civil society

- Development of strategic partnerships with national HIV/AIDS actors and stakeholders, such as The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO).

¹ Uganda was able to reverse the prevalence of HIV as early as 1992, and meet the MDG 6 target. Recommendations of the European Conference 'Make Development Inclusive – MDGs: Inclusion of People with Disabilities' – 14-15 May 2007, Senec, Bratislava
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