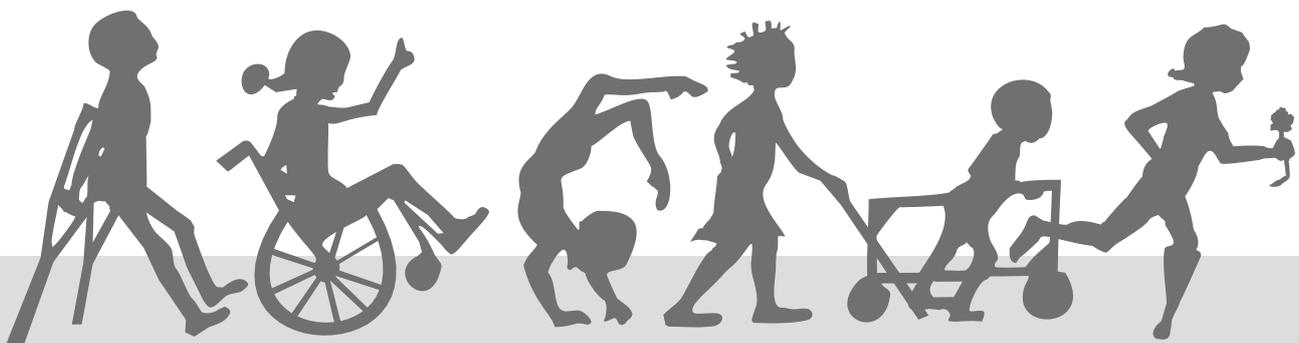


# Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung

## Disability and International Development



Zugänglichkeit und inklusive Stadtentwicklung  
Accessibility and inclusive urban development





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## Editorial

Liebe Leserinnen und Leser,

damit Menschen mit Behinderungen gleichberechtigt am gesellschaftlichen Leben teilhaben können, ist es unabdingbar, Aspekte der Zugänglichkeit im Blick zu haben. Das gilt für die bauliche Umwelt und Transportmittel ebenso wie für Wege der Kommunikation und Information. Artikel 9 der UN-Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen verpflichtet die Unterzeichnerstaaten, entsprechende Maßnahmen zu treffen. Dies beinhaltet, dass Zugangshindernisse und Barrieren festzustellen und zu beseitigen sind.

Die vorliegende Ausgabe widmet sich diesen Themen und Herausforderungen. Ein besonderes Augenmerk liegt dabei auf Fragen der inklusiven Stadtplanung und -entwicklung.

Im einführenden Artikel stellt Betty Dion zentrale Indikatoren vor, die helfen können, Programme und Projekte in Hinblick auf ihre Zugänglichkeit bzw. ihr *Universal Design* zu evaluieren. Auch Victor Pineda und Federico Batista Poitier greifen in ihrem Aufsatz *Smart Cities, Technology and Accessibility* die Thematik inklusiver Stadtentwicklung auf. Sie schließen ihren Beitrag mit Empfehlungen, wie digitale Zugänge verbessert werden können.

Wir freuen uns, dass durch diese Beiträge die Themen inklusive Stadtentwicklung und Zugänglichkeit aus ganz verschiedenen Perspektiven betrachtet und reflektiert werden können, und wünschen Ihnen viel Freude bei der Lektüre!

Ihre Redaktionsgruppe

Dear Readers,

In order for persons with disabilities to equally participate in social life, it is mandatory to keep an eye on aspects of accessibility. This holds true for both the built environment and means of transportation as well as for ways of communication and information. Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities obliges States Parties to implement respective measures. This includes the identification and elimination of different kinds of barriers.

The current issue deals with these topics and challenges. Special attention is given to questions of inclusive urban planning and development.

In the introductory article, Betty Dion presents central indicators that can help to evaluate programmes and projects as far as their accessibility or the aspect of Universal Design is concerned. In their article *Smart Cities, Technology and Accessibility*, Victor Pineda and Federico Batista Poitier also take up the topic of inclusive urban development. They conclude their article with recommendations on how to improve digital ways of access.

We are glad to be able to present and reflect upon the topic of inclusive urban planning and accessibility from a variety of different perspectives, and we hope you enjoy the reading!

Your editorial group







Figure 3: Independence through accessible transport & surroundings (pedestrian ways, public transport etc.), facilitating greater mobility in the environment

### Article 35 Reporting Obligations

States Parties must not only recognise the rights within the Convention, but are required to progressively realise and implement strategies that promote these rights and improve accessibility for persons with disabilities in all aspects of life. Periodic reporting is mandated by Article 35 of the Convention and obliges States to submit reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the measures that have been taken to implement the Convention at the national level.

### Universal Design and Accessibility

The promotion of Universal Design is a general obligation of States Parties in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is defined by Article 2:

Universal Design means the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest possible extent, without the need for adaptation or specialised design. Universal Design shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed. Universal Design is a rapidly evolving design philosophy that has its roots in the barrier-free design movement of the 1980's and 1990's. Whereas the focus of barrier-free design was exclusively on providing appropriate facilities for persons with disabilities, Universal Design takes a much broader approach based upon accommodating the diversity of human

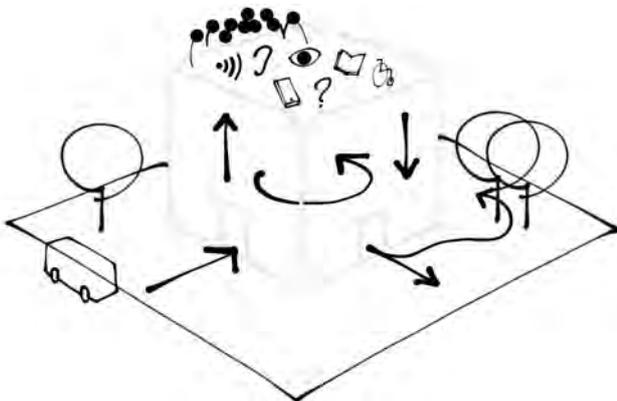


Figure 4: Universal design for inclusive and barrier-free design that incorporates the diversity of human characteristics

characteristics within the population as a whole<sup>2</sup>.

**Universal Design for the Internet** is making sure that the presentation of content on the Internet and the design of internet technology is flexible enough to accommodate the needs of the broadest possible range of users, regardless of age, language, or disability (Burks/Waddell 2001). The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) leads the Web Accessibility Initiative and develops guidelines widely regarded as the international standard for web accessibility<sup>3</sup>.

**Universal Design of Communication Systems** ensures that communications are usable by everyone. This may mean that a variety of different communication systems are offered, systems that can provide information to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, people with developmental, speech, learning or cognitive disabilities. Radio is excellent for people who can hear, while print materials or video may be more accessible to other users.

### Key Indicators of Accessibility

The Convention imposes general obligations on States Parties to identify and eliminate barriers to the accessibility of public and domestic buildings, transport systems and infrastructure, information and communication technologies and systems, public services (e.g. electronic and emergency services) and public facilities (e.g. medical facilities) and to report on progress being achieved.

#### Concept of Key Indicators

Indicators provide specific information on the state of condition of an event, activity or outcome and they can be a rich source of signals of change (French 2007, Church/Rogers 2006). Key indicators are variables that aim to reflect the changes resulting in an intervention. A wide range of indicators have been developed over the years to measure the progress of different programs which aim to address issues such as transportation, climate change, business climate, children's rights and human development. Through indicators, analysts are able to identify improvements or differences in relation to the desired objectives or results within a particular context. In an intervention where the desired change or result is concrete, tangible, and measurable, indicators are not necessary. For instance, if the intended objective of a program is the production of 700 handbooks, the handbooks produced simply need to be counted to determine whether or not the intended production goal of 700 was met. Where intended objectives are more abstract, such as measuring



human development, multiple indicators are needed to paint the overall picture, such as GDP per capita, employment, and access to information and communication technologies, among others. Indicators need to provide certain information and need to pass tests of reliability, feasibility, and utility in decision-making.

#### Definitions of indicators

Key indicators are measurable manifestations of change in a situation as a result of an intervention. Indicators can either be qualitative or quantitative. Below is a definition of indicators that can aid in developing key indicators for universal design and accessibility in relation to disability.

“Indicators are pieces of information that provide insight into matters of larger significance

and make perceptible trends that are not immediately detectable” (Abbot/Gujit 1998, p.40).

#### Context within Society

One challenge in developing a set of key indicators is the need to make them contextually relevant. In order to have good indicators, they need to be drawn from local contexts, culture, and perceptions of stakeholders, including government and persons with disabilities. As indicators aim to reflect the changes in line with certain objectives, it is important to note that these objectives or goals are driven by local realities and may vary from one person with a disability to another. Key indicators provide a clear picture for countries to monitor change and progress, aiding in the establishment of national frameworks on accessibility.

Table 3: Comparison of Accessibility Indicators used in CRPD Country Reports

Accessibility Indicator reported in country reports	Country														
	BEL	CAN	MUS	NZL	KEN	DNK	SWE	ESP	CHN	IRN	GBR	EU	KOR	NPL	AUS
<b>Human Rights</b>															
Existence of Bill of Rights Act (civil rights, political rights, non-discrimination against persons with disabilities)	yes	yes	yes	yes			yes								
Existence of Human Rights Act	yes	yes		yes			yes		yes						
Existence of Human Rights Commission	yes	yes		yes			yes				yes	yes	yes		yes
Percent of Human Rights cases, individual complaints, which are disability related				33 %											yes
Existence of Office of Human Rights Proceedings							yes								yes
Existence of filing procedures for disability related complaint				yes		yes	yes	yes					yes		yes
Existence of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of services open or provided to public		yes	yes				yes	yes			yes		yes		yes
Existence of a National Disability Policy or Strategy or Action Plan	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes			yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Persons with disabilities represented in committees, advisory groups	yes	yes		yes			yes		yes		yes		yes	yes	yes
<b>Accessibility of Built Environment</b>															
The right to access to the BE is addressed in constitutional documents		yes			yes			yes			yes		yes		yes
National requirements to modify and adapt existing buildings		yes			yes		yes	yes	yes	yes			yes	yes	yes
National or State monitoring mechanism for accessibility compliance		yes			yes	yes	yes		yes				yes		
Building Act includes requirements related to accessibility	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	
Enforcement mechanisms for accessibility of the BE are in place				yes		yes	yes	yes					yes		
Existence of an advisory panel related to accessibility on building code	yes			yes			yes	yes						yes	
Percentage of public buildings that meet accessibility standards			60 %												
Percentage of police stations that are accessible			15 %												
Offering of incentives or awards to encourage accessibility improvements	yes		yes										yes		

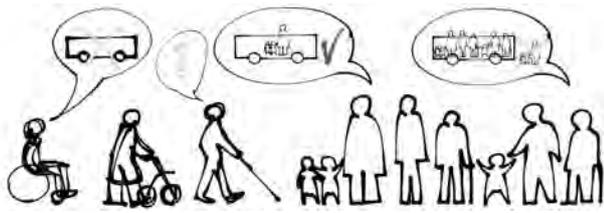


Figure 5: Context considerations that impede accessibility, such as inaccessible and insufficient availability of public transportation

**Analysis of Key Indicators from CRPD Reports**

As an exercise to identify commonly used accessibility indicators, a review was done of CRPD reports that had been submitted by a selection of countries. From these reviews, a listing of accessibility indicators was generated along with the countries that utilised it. The table is not intended to be a comprehensive account of the accessibility of the selected countries. In many cases, an indicator such as the existence of a human rights code may not be checked off for a particular country. This is not meant to suggest that it doesn't exist for that country but only that it was not observed as an indicator in their CRPD report. The indicators also do not imply the full accessibility of an element. For example, an indication of yes for the existence of accessible buses is not a qualification of buses being fully accessible. It is only a reference that accessibility features on buses were observed in their CRPD report. On the other hand, the table does allow for comparisons between countries and regions.

Table 4: Best practices on assistive devices, home and vehicle modifications

Accessibility Indicator	Country														
	BEL	CAN	MUS	NZL	KEN	DNK	SWE	ESP	CHN	IRN	GBR	EU	KOR	NPL	AUS
<b>Assistive Devices, Home and Vehicle Modifications</b>															
Tax exemption for assistive devices or vehicle modifications	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes					yes	yes	
Exemption of postal charges on adaptive equipment					yes										
Availability of financial assistance for assistive devices	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes		yes	yes	yes
Availability of financial assistance for mobile communication devices	yes												yes		yes
Tax exemption or financial assistance for home modification	yes	yes		yes		yes	yes	yes			yes		yes	yes	yes
Existence of legislation requiring that service animals be allowed in publically accessible places	yes	yes		yes					yes						

A sample of the analysis of key indicators from CRPD Reports follows:

**Comparison of Accessibility Indicators Used in CRPD Country Reports**

See table 3

**Best Practices Examples**

The examples of Best Practices were particularly helpful to countries that had not yet submitted their compliance report to the UN CRPD Committee as they provided guidance on the potential subject matter and presentation style. The following table includes examples of best practices on assistive devices, home and vehicle modifications.

See table 4

**Conclusion**

A presentation on this study was made at the Committee of States Parties Meeting in June 2015 in New York. The presentation summarised the findings and reported that most countries had included the following key indicators:

- Most countries have a human rights act that protects the rights of persons with disabilities.
- People with disabilities were involved in the development of the country report.
- Technical specifications for the built environment are present in their national building code.
- There is government assistance to purchase assistive devices.
- Access to education and health is a requirement.



- The right to educational facilities is addressed in constitutional documents.
- Disaster management addresses persons with disabilities.

The effects of this report can be seen in subsequent national reports to the UN CRPD Committee, whereby States Parties benefitted from these key indicators provided for their utilisation. For example, in the table above it was noted that Belgium and Korea provided financial assistance to persons with disabilities to obtain mobile telecommunication devices. This may have been the first time that States Parties, preparing their first implementation strategy for the CRPD, had come across the idea of providing mobile communication devices towards increased independence, safety, and integration in the world of social media for persons with disabilities.

### Notes

- 1 Copies of the report are available from [info@gaates.org](mailto:info@gaates.org).
- 2 The Centre for Universal Design, College of Design, North Carolina State University, North Carolina, USA.
- 3 See W3C Web Accessibility Initiative at <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>.
- 4 DION, B. (2006): International Best Practices in Universal Design, Ottawa, Canada.
- 5 Drawings by Soren Ginnerup, artist, graduate of Aalborg University in Copenhagen, Denmark, having received a degree in Engineering. He is a recognised international expert in universal design and works with the Danish Building Research Institute.
- 6 Edited by Federico Batista Poitier, the Executive Assistant to the President & Communications Coordinator for the Global Alliance for Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES).

### References

- ABBOT, J./GUJIT, I. (1998): Changing views on change: participatory approaches to monitoring the environment. International Institute for Environment and Development, SARL Discussion Paper 254.

BURKS, M./WADDELL, C. (2001): Universal Design for the Internet. The Internet Society Member Briefing #2. Available at <http://www.isoc.org/briefings/002/>. Visited on 19.10.2017.

**Zusammenfassung:** Dieser Artikel untersucht den Prozess den die Vertragsstaaten über die Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen unternommen haben, um Schlüsselindikatoren von Zugänglichkeit zu identifizieren, eine der Berichtspflichten für Unterzeichner der Konvention. Die Untersuchung umfasst Schlüsselindikatoren für verschiedene Komponenten von Zugänglichkeit der gebauten Umwelt, der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien, des Lebensraums, des Verkehrswesens und der humanitären Maßnahmen.

**Résumé:** Cet article examine le processus que les signataires de la convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées ont entrepris pour identifier les indicateurs principaux de l'accessibilité, une des obligations de rapport pour les signataires de la Convention. Cet analyse inclut des indicateurs principaux pour divers éléments de l'accessibilité physique de l'environnement, des technologies de l'information et communication, de l'habitat, de transport et des interventions humanitaires.

**Resumen:** Este artículo examina el proceso que han realizado los Estados Partes en la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad para identificar indicadores claves de accesibilidad, que es una obligación de información para los firmantes de la Convención. El estudio incluye indicadores claves para diversos componentes de accesibilidad al medio ambiente construido, tecnologías de información y comunicación, hábitat, transporte y actividades humanitarias.

**Author:** Betty Dion, founder and past president of the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments GAATES. She is the author of the report International Best Practices in Universal Design: A Global Review<sup>4</sup> published by the Canadian Human Rights Commission<sup>5,6</sup>.

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# Smart Cities, Technology and Accessibility - The Case for Accessibility in Smart Cities

Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda/Federico Batista Poitier

Over the next decade, cities around the world will invest many resources to modernise their technology infrastructure. Faced with unprecedented demographic changes due to aging populations, migration and the rapid rate of urbanisation, city leaders will need to reinvent the provision of public services. Public sector investments in *smart cities* are creating new opportunities for governments, citizens and technology companies to reshape the way we live. However, the development of smart cities also risks deepening a substantial digital divide for persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups.

## Overview

Investing in smarter accessibility strategies in cities brings tangible benefits for citizens, companies, governments and society as a whole. With the revolutionary potential that smart cities have, there are compelling business, human rights, and policy cases for incorporating accessibility into global smart city programs that address the economic and moral obligations to build more sustainable and inclusive societies.

This article highlights a range of factors that impact and influence city managers, IT professionals and city leaders. The paper pays specific attention to accessibility and the ways that accessibility plays into urban planning and development. The topics highlighted herein can help assist in the discussion and presentation of ideas to managers, supervisors, vendors, and other decision makers to improve digital accessibility in urban environments. After reading this document the reader should have a better understanding of the ways that accessibility in digital and technology investments can be advanced.

The aim in making cities smarter is to increase quality of life for all citizens by improving the efficiency and quality of services offered by businesses and government. Smart cities that focus on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility look to help all their citizens remain productive as they age and ensure their citizens with disabilities can also access the full range of services and content in today's increasingly digital environment.

At the end of this document we provide a set of recommendations that managers, supervisors, vendors and key stakeholders can use to put in place straightforward and effective steps to improve ICT accessibility and achieve tangible outcomes.

## The Need for Accessible Smart Cities

The proportion of people living in cities continues to rise around the world and as cities continue to expand, they must become smarter to meet the demands and lifestyles of the people living within them. Increasing city populations as well as aging populations have created new challenges and opportunities. Cities are looking for innovative technology solutions that will help them ensure that digital inclusion and human rights of persons with disabilities and older persons are promoted.

A *smart city* is an urban area where digital technologies are integrated into the infrastructure to provide the necessary services for all of the city's citizens. By focusing on the universal accessibility of innovative and beneficial digital technologies, cities can guarantee not only that the human rights of all its citizens are met but also that the sustainable growth and development of cities is not limited.

## The Rise of Urbanisation

Urbanisation is a significant and lasting trend in development and has the potential to be the primary driving force for the future goals of sustainable and inclusive development for all citizens. Globally, more people live in urban areas than in rural areas, with 54 per cent of the world's population already residing in urban areas as of 2014. This has increased rapidly from just 30 per cent in 1950 and is set to continue to increase as 66 per cent of the world's population is projected to be urban by 2050 (World Urbanization Prospects 2014).

In different regions, these urban to rural ratios are even higher with Northern America (82 per cent living in urban areas), Latin America and the Caribbean (80 per cent), and Europe (73 per cent), all already heavily urbanised. This transformation is also highly concentrated in secondary and tertiary cities who often seek to innovate while growing. Secondary cities



present unique opportunities to promote accessibility.

These urbanisation trends are expected to be particularly consequential for the world's largest minority group, persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities represent a large and diverse group of individuals with varying disabilities (intellectual, physical and psychosocial), which are limited by their surroundings. They are also disproportionately affected by the negative effects of unplanned urban growth because cities that fail to account for their needs risk further marginalising them from public and working life. As is true across many aspects of major planning and development projects, it is those who can least afford to be left out who are at risk of being overlooked.

"The divide that separates persons with disabilities from other persons, in having equal and easy access to ICT, must be bridged. ITU's standards are designed from the inception to help achieve that goal - universal access to communications for everyone, with a focus on availability, and affordability. Globally standardized solutions increase market size, usability and interoperability, and reduce complexity and costs"

Malcolm Johnson, Elected Director of the ITU

### Accessibility in Design

Smart cities clearly focused on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility can use technology investments to influence the design, development, procurement, and broader deployment of increasingly innovative and accessible ICTs. In cities that incorporate these ICTs into their services, citizens' activities are not limited to their homes. They become more broadly included into community life, extending the opportunities and enjoyment of the right to full participation in society.

Smart cities that focus on ICT accessibility ensure that all important information and content on the city's services is made available in multiple formats and languages. It is also important to ensure all relevant services are also offered remotely to home-bound or geographically isolated citizens.

### The Policy and Human Rights Case for Accessible Smart Cities

With the projected population of people living in cities progressively rising around the world, there are many policy changes required to address this significant growth by focusing on social inclusion and the way technology disrupts how cities work. Cities need to embrace new approaches and renew policy frameworks that

incorporate ICT accessibility within every aspect of urban development.

### Accessibility as Policy

Previous international roundtable discussions conducted by G3ict<sup>1</sup> into the impacts that digital inclusion policies have on the human rights of people with disabilities, have found that many of the necessary tools and policies already exist. Implementing the required ICT policies requires awareness of the digital dimension of accessibility. Some of the key findings of these discussions and interviews with ICT accessibility policy experts found that:

- Public procurement policies are effective tools to promote the digital inclusion and human rights of persons with disabilities.
- There is a large opportunity to put in place effective public procurement policies in regions beyond just the United States and Europe, particularly in the Global South.
- Most of the tools required to support effective public procurement policy-making already exists today. The challenges instead lie more in the development of effective international ICT accessibility standards.
- The rapid creation of those necessary international standards can be effectively driven through the co-ordination of people from government, industry and civil society by expanding the use of existing standards.
- The role of people from civil society, including organisations representing persons with disabilities, is crucial in the global efforts to promote widespread adoption of inclusive ICT procurement policies.

Experts surveyed by G3ict and World Enabled agree that technology companies with competencies in accessibility will have an edge over competitors that do not. For example, technology companies in Columbus, Ohio are required to include accessibility as part of their bids for smart city contracts. Columbus only enters into contracts with vendors with a proven track record of accessibility. An explicit goal of Columbus's smart city strategy was to ensure people with intellectual and development disabilities were fully included in the mainstream transportation system of the city. Likewise, in New York City companies working on the massive LinkNYC system were selected in part for their experience and reputation delivering accessible solutions.

The public and private sectors increasingly recognise accessibility as obligation and are progressively incorporating policies that improve and streamline the services available in cities, especially as the cost burden of prevent-



ing access is becoming increasingly well understood.

### **Accessibility as a Human Right**

Human rights treaties are also increasingly shaping policy around the world and oblige states' parties, to these international agreements, to adopt laws and regulations at the national level that show commitment to the principles enshrined within the documents. Both policy and human rights frameworks work interchangeably and are strengthened wherever international consensus exists on effective best practices.

193 countries have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals agenda, which are a set of goals that create a framework for sustainable growth and show the immense commitment of world leaders towards the present and future development of cities. Goal 11 of the agenda explicitly focuses on developing more sustainable and inclusive cities, and specifically mentions universal access to public spaces for persons with disabilities.

Policy and human rights frameworks around the world have also increasingly identified the right for ICT access as an essential human right<sup>2</sup>. Access to technology has been identified as a basic human right, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) implicitly mentions the importance of ICTs towards enabling persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life<sup>3</sup>. Following the lead of the CRPD, the European Accessibility ACT also makes an explicit mention to accessibility of digital products and services and includes a range of technology and services from smartphones to e-commerce<sup>4</sup>. These frameworks are based on formally recognised international standards and commitments, which then shape the strategic frameworks for implementing smart city policies.

Cities that develop innovative technologies for the digital and urban environment are increasingly realising the benefits of designing for all types of users, as they increase satisfaction, responsiveness and inclusiveness of all citizens. Gartner (2013) predicts that by 2020 governments will be one of the top three verticals using Internet of Things (IoT)<sup>5</sup>, which will strengthen the collaborations between government agencies through ICTs that are critical in assessing the needs of citizens.

Designing and reinforcing digital services with accessibility in mind opens products and services to people with a wide range of abilities and recognises human diversity. Policies must

also reflect this design so that our cities are truly inclusive, resilient and leave no one behind.

### **Accessibility is Smart for Growth**

There is a broad range of economic benefits that stem directly from a commitment to accessibility. ICTs have been recognised as a means to empower individuals with and without disabilities, and when readily accessible have the potential to generate new opportunities and lift barriers that impede persons with disabilities from being included in the community, especially in the areas of employment and independent living (International Telecommunication Union 2013).

### **Economic Implications**

Smart cities that are committed to ICT accessibility create opportunities to include more people in their labour force and give a boost to the overall economy and economic output of the city. A 2015 UN study found that the cost of lost productivity from excluding persons with disabilities from work opportunities is estimated to be around seven per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The study found that globally almost one in four households consisted of at least one member with a disability. This in itself also impacted the earning potential of at least one other household member, which was not considered in the estimated losses and would therefore increase the costs further (Review of the Economic Costs of Exclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2015).

Cities that do incorporate innovative digital services in their infrastructure have the possibility of creating a positive impact on employment, especially for persons with disabilities. This leads directly to increased tax revenue for governments and lower costs for support services. A more diverse workforce also brings a broader set of expertise, skills and insights. The same is true of companies involved in the provision of smart city technology solutions and services.

Cities are powerful drivers of growth and well-being, however poor planning and inaccessibility also causes them to be centres of inequality. Ensuring innovative technology is accessible aids in the realisation of overarching goals of equal access and opportunity. Progressive innovation in city services addresses the barriers that inaccessibility to ICTs create and promote growth that benefits the effective inclusion of all citizens (Review of the Economic Costs of Exclusion of Persons with Disabilities in



Asia and the Pacific 2015, p. 20).

Persons with disabilities represent a surprisingly large market. Annual disposable income of persons with disabilities and their relatives represents nine trillion US dollars. Cities that develop and implement universally designed technology solutions can help unlock financial opportunities at the same time as responding to unmet needs (Review of the Economic Costs of Exclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific 2015). Cities that incorporate accessibility are also more innovative and resilient. Their services are more responsive to everyone including persons with disabilities (International Telecommunication Union 2013). Research by Microsoft shows that 57 per cent of all working age adults benefit from the accessibility features built into technology<sup>6</sup>.

As populations rise and age, governments are also increasingly becoming burdened by the cost of care for seniors and persons with disabilities. Cities that invest in accessible ICTs can gain significant advantage by utilising smart city solutions such as tele-health and other healthcare technology solutions. In Japan, accessible tele-health is providing seniors with better services at lower costs<sup>7</sup>. These services include remote monitoring, health and support services as well as improved safety through the use of low-cost and easy to use smartphone based applications.

As an example of the scale of the challenges and opportunities that exist, in the EU between 2010 and 2060 total government spending on pensions, health-care, long term care, unemployment benefits and education are projected to increase by around 20 per cent<sup>8</sup>. Innovative ICT solutions can help to significantly address these challenges by reducing health care and access service costs and at the same time reduce the digital divide and improve the level of service for persons with disabilities.

The reality is that closing the digital divide saves money. New York City is transforming 7,500 payphones into LinkNYC, a free municipal Wi-Fi network offering up to gigabit speeds, free phone charging and free national calling which are all paid for by advertising. LinkNYC also provides the benefit of increasing accessibility to all users while increasing the visibility of local businesses.

### Access to Online Services and Opportunities

A starting point for improved ICT accessibility is ensuring that websites containing service information and important e-commerce or transaction based sites are readily and easily accessi-

ble by persons with disabilities. Research has shown that 71 per cent of persons with a disability who have access needs will click away from a website that they find difficult to use. In addition to this, the majority of service organisations or businesses will be completely unaware that people are having difficulty accessing their sites because more than 90 per cent of customers who have difficulty using a site do not ever attempt to make contact to report the issue or to ask for upgrades or accessibility improvements to be made (Click Away Pound Report 2016).

Creation of smart cities can result in enormous improvements in business and investment opportunities. According to Gartner, Inc., "People with disabilities make up 15 percent of the world's population and some of the assistive technology marketed to persons with disabilities and older persons can also be sold to the other 85 percent of the population who are *situationally disabled* by their environmental conditions, at work and at play" (Gartner 2013). Gartner, Inc's research shows that people with disabilities and older persons are an under-served market segment consisting of one billion people worldwide.

### Betting on Universal Access Makes Sense

Building and marketing universally designed services helps cities and companies address unmet needs, and under-served populations. Cities are increasingly seeing the benefits of building technology solutions that work well for all users, as they are often less expensive overall to implement and easier to test and manage than solutions that focus narrowly on assistive technology.

Cities that leverage accessibility by offering more advanced user interfaces open up new access opportunities. User interfaces incorporating newer technologies such as natural language processing or facial recognition can expand the capabilities and usage of city applications and services. People with dyslexia or dyspraxia can better engage with city content when webpage is read aloud through synthetic speech.

Over the next ten years, 60 per cent of people living in smart cities will be accessing eServices such as ePayments, eExchange, and eSharing. By 2025, demand for smart city services will grow in Latin America by 46 per cent, Middle East and Africa by 39 per cent, and Central and Eastern Europe by 31 per cent (G3ict, n.d.). These massive investments present an opportunity to build accessibility features into city technology infrastructure early on and at a lower



cost, instead of addressing accessibility gaps at a much higher expense down the line.

It is less expensive to build it right the first time. Prioritising accessibility in the early stages of any major development is a smart strategy, as it decreases personnel costs related to accessibility maintenance, costs of upgrades, or the need for creating multiple websites.

Providing ICTs designed for all types of users also mitigates legal risk. Complying with accessibility and related laws prevents fines and risks associated with lawsuits. This promotes brand equity, loyalty, and advertises negative public relations they bring.

Cities that are committed to ICT accessibility would also likely improve their share of the global tourism market. UN data shows that cities depending on tourism economy are likely foregoing revenue due to inaccessible services, which on aggregate equates to a loss of approximately 15-20 per cent of the global tourism market share (United Nations, n.d.).

## Where to Start?

Ensuring digital accessibility at the scale of a city starts with awareness. This section provides a list of recommendation that city managers can take to help mobilise efforts around digital accessibility. The following list is not comprehensive, however, it offers a preliminary list of practical ideas and recommendations.

- Build a team with experts and self-advocates to identify the needs, lacks and challenges for technical and digital inclusion.
- Identify leaders in your organisation that have a commitment to digital accessibility, or more broadly to technology inclusion, and equity.
- Use the arguments presented above to develop a memo on digital inclusion with a specific focus on ICT accessibility.
- Call for a meeting of IT directors and conduct a rapid assessment of the policies and programs that have a potential accessibility dimension.
- Develop links between municipal agencies to eliminate the silos that separate them and prevent progress on accessibility.
- Continue the conversation by identifying gaps and determine a process to identify financial or human resources to address them.
- Work with these resources to develop and share a range of available solutions, technologies, and training programs that make it possible to increase your capacity and knowledge.

- Engage with experts across government such as in public safety, transportation, or physical infrastructure—by recognising and understanding the key digital accessibility challenges and opportunities.

## Notes

- 1 Promoting Global Digital Inclusion through ICT Procurement Policies and Accessibility Standards.
- 2 See Article 9 “Accessibility” of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- 3 Introduction. Available at <https://www.w3.org/WAI/bcase/Overview.html>.
- 4 European Accessibility Act. Available at <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1202>.
- 5 European Accessibility Act, p. 25.
- 6 <https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/desktop/gg712257.aspx>.
- 7 <https://itpeernetwork.intel.com/international-telehealth-trends-insights-from-japan/>.
- 8 Table 2, Impact Assessment. 2013. Available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013SC0251&from=EN>.

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ments/2016/Urban/DESAissuepaperonAccessibilityandInclusionofPersons withDisabilitiesinUrbanDevelopment.pdf. Visited on 19.10.2017.

**Zusammenfassung:** Im kommenden Jahrzehnt werden Städte weltweit viele Ressourcen für die Modernisierung ihrer technischen Infrastruktur investieren. Konfrontiert mit einem beispiellosen demographischen Wandel aufgrund der älter werdenden Bevölkerung, der Migration und der rasanten Urbanisierung, werden Kommunalpolitiker öffentliche Dienstleistungen neu erfinden müssen. Investitionen des öffentlichen Sektors in intelligente Städte schaffen neue Möglichkeiten für Regierungen, Bürger und Technologieunternehmen für die Umgestaltung unserer Lebensweise. Die Entwicklung intelligenter Städte birgt allerdings das Risiko, die digitale Kluft für Menschen mit Behinderungen oder andere marginalisierte Gruppen wesentlich zu vertiefen.

**Résumé:** Dans la prochaine décennie, les villes du monde entier vont investir nombreuses ressources pour moderniser leurs infrastructures technologiques. Confronté avec des changements démographiques sans précédent par suite du vieillissement de la population, de la migration et d'une urbanisation rapide, les dirigeants municipaux devront réinventer la prestation des services publics. Investissements du secteur public dans les villes intelligentes créeront nouvelles possibilités pour gouvernements, citoyens et les entreprises de technologie de réorganiser notre façon de vivre. Cepen-

dant, le développement des villes intelligentes risque de renforcer une fracture numérique substantielle pour des personnes handicapées et d'autres groupes marginalisés.

**Resumen:** Durante la próxima década, las ciudades en todo el mundo invertirán muchos recursos para modernizar sus infraestructuras tecnológicas. Frente a los inmensos cambios demográficos debido al envejecimiento de la población, la migración y la urbanización rápida, los líderes de las ciudades tendrán que reinventar la prestación de servicios públicos. Las inversiones del sector público en ciudades inteligentes están creando nuevas oportunidades para que los gobiernos, los ciudadanos y las empresas de tecnología reformen nuestra forma de vida. Sin embargo, el desarrollo de las ciudades inteligentes también corre el riesgo de profundizar una brecha digital sustancial para las personas con discapacidades y otros grupos marginales.

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## Berichte/Reports

### Die Neue Urbane Agenda: nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung barrierefrei und inklusiv umsetzen

Am 26. Juni 2017 fand eine internationale Fachtagung zum Thema *Die Neue Urbane Agenda: nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung barrierefrei und inklusiv umsetzen* im GIZ-Haus in Berlin statt. Die Tagung informierte über die Neue Urbane Agenda (NUA), die im Zuge der HABITAT III-Konferenz der Vereinten Nationen in Quito im Oktober 2016 beschlossen worden war. Unter Einfluss der Zivilgesellschaft war es gelungen, die Themen Inklusion und Barrierefreiheit darin explizit zu berücksichtigen. Neben Informationen zur NUA und ihrer Bezugnahme auf Barrierefreiheit und Inklusion zeigte die Veranstaltung auch Möglichkeiten und Good-Practice-Beispiele auf, wie inklusive Stadtentwicklung praktisch umgesetzt werden kann.

#### Hintergrund zur Neuen Urbanen Agenda

Die Verabschiedung der Agenda 2030 mit den 17 Nachhaltigkeitszielen (SDG) gilt als Meilenstein in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit der Staatengemeinschaft. Das Ziel 11 widmet sich den Städten und fordert die Länder der Vereinten Nationen dazu auf, die fortschreitende Urbanisierung inklusiv, sicher, widerstandsfähig und nachhaltig zu gestalten. Das Thema Urbanisierung, das die gesamte Agenda auch als Querschnittsthema durchzieht, wird dabei als Motor für Entwicklung begriffen. Auch das Pariser Klimaabkommen nimmt direkt auf die Verstärkung Bezug, indem es besonders die Städte bei der Reduzierung von Emissionen in der Verantwortung sieht. In Anlehnung an die Agenda 2030 wurde 2016 in Quito die NUA entwickelt, die das globale Verständnis von nachhaltiger Stadtentwicklung erneuert und handlungsorientierte und universale Zielvorstellungen formuliert.

#### Die Neue Urbane Agenda aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven

Kumaresh Misra, Stellvertretender Generalsekretär von UN Habitat III aus Nairobi, gab zu Beginn der Tagung eine Einführung in die NUA. Seiner Ansicht nach nimmt die NUA die Verstärkung als positive Herausforderung wahr, die Quelle von Wachstum sein kann, wenn die Städte nachhaltig und verantwortungsbewusst planen. Nachhaltige Urbanisierung in den Städten kann demnach als *Driver* für nachhalti-

ge Entwicklung allgemein gesehen werden.

Auch die Perspektive der deutschen Bundesregierung wurde im Zuge der Tagung deutlich. Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, Parlamentarischer Staatssekretär des BMZ und Anke Brummer-Kohler, Abteilungsleiterin im Umweltministerium waren sich einig, dass die Themen Inklusion und Barrierefreiheit einen festen Stellenwert besitzen und die Implementierung der NUA im Sinne von Barrierefreiheit und Inklusion gefördert und gefordert werden muss. Auf internationaler Ebene verfolgt die Bundesregierung dabei beispielsweise durch ein Mobilitätsprojekt, die TUMI-Initiative, nachhaltige Mobilität in den Städten voranzutreiben. In Zukunft wird von Seiten der Bundesregierung eine stärkere Zusammenarbeit mit dem Privatsektor angestrebt und die Vernetzung und der Austausch von Städten und ihren Erfahrungswerten verfolgt. Einige Projekte des Umweltministeriums setzen bereits auf die konkrete Umsetzung der Agenda in Deutschland durch Leitfäden zum Thema *barrierefreies Bauen* oder im Rahmen der sozialen Wohnraumförderung, die die Schaffung barrierearmer und altersgerechter Wohnungen voranzutreiben versucht.

Dr. Victor Pineda, anerkannter Aktivist für die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderung und Vorsitzender der *Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environment (GAATES)* aus San Francisco stellte seine Perspektive von Inklusion vor. Er betonte, dass Inklusion als Imperativ zu verstehen ist. Der Wille, inklusiv zu sein, reicht dabei nicht aus, es muss Planung geben und die Ressourcen vorhanden sein, dieses Engagement umzusetzen. Seit einiger Zeit ist er am Aufbau des DIAUD-Netzwerks beteiligt, das den Ansatz verfolgt, durch eine Multi-Stakeholder-Vernetzung Inklusion in relevante globale Prozesse einzubringen und bereits einen wesentlichen Einfluss auf die NUA ausüben konnte. Die Ausarbeitung der NUA erfolgte partizipativ. So konnten vorläufige Fassungen, die Menschen mit Behinderung nicht genügend miteinbezogen, nachgebessert und die Themen Barrierefreiheit und Inklusion gestärkt werden. Ein wesentlicher Aspekt von Inklusion, so Pineda, liegt in der Grundeinstellung der Gesellschaft. Der Wert, den Menschen mit Behinderung in einer Gesellschaft besitzen, hängt ent-



scheidend davon ab, ob Inklusion umgesetzt wird. Im Rückschluss bedeutet dies, dass die Art, wie Städte gestaltet werden ein Spiegelbild der gesellschaftlichen Werte darstellt („The way we design our cities is a reflection of the values we hold in society“).

### Internationale Good-Practice-Beispiele

Im weiteren Verlauf der Tagung stellten ReferentInnen aus Ecuador, Brasilien, Indonesien und Mexiko Good-Practice-Beispiele vor. Die Entwicklung und Umsetzung einer nationalen Strategie der Barrierefreiheit ist in Ecuador besonders weit fortgeschritten und wird auf höchster Ebene verfolgt. Um die Messbarkeit von Barrierefreiheit sicherzustellen wurde ein Accessibility-Index entwickelt, der 27 Beobachtungseinheiten und fast 500 einzelne Kennzahlen enthält. Ein umfangreicher Erfahrungsaustausch findet mit 16 anderen südamerikanischen Ländern statt und in einige wurde der Accessibility-Index bereits *importiert*. Aus Brasilien wurde das Projekt RIOincludi vorgestellt, das barrierefreies Bauen mit sozialen Dienstleistungen für die BewohnerInnen verbindet. Der Schwerpunkt liegt auf Vierteln in Gegenden mit armer Bevölkerung, die sich barrierefreien Wohnraum oft nicht leisten können. So werden Wohnhäuser für BewohnerInnen mit Beeinträchtigung barrierefrei umgebaut und gleichzeitig ein Netzwerk zum Austausch für Familienangehörige von Menschen mit Beeinträchtigung geschaffen. Sozialarbeiter und Architekten der Stadt arbeiten für das Projekt kooperativ zusammen.

In Solo City (Indonesien) wird eine Strategie für Barrierefreiheit im öffentlichen Verkehrs-, Informations- und Kommunikationssystem für Menschen mit Beeinträchtigung auf Grundlage von Bedarfsanalysen entwickelt. Das Projekt setzt an zwei wesentlichen Punkten an, die beim Thema Stadtentwicklung oft vernachlässigt werden: zum einen beschränkt sich Inklusion nicht auf das Verkehrssystem, Mobilität und öffentliche Gebäude, sondern betrifft auch das Informations- und Kommunikationsnetz, das einen barrierefreien Zugang erfordert. Das reicht von barrierefreien Webseiten oder Apps, bis hin zu Technologiesystemen wie elektrische Informationstafeln an Bahnhöfen oder Bushaltestellen oder Bankautomaten mit Braille-Schrift. Der zweite Aspekt ist der Einsatz der indonesischen Organisation für rechtliche Rahmenbedingungen für Inklusion. Gesetze müssen Durchsetzungs- und Umsetzungsmaßnahmen für Barrierefreiheit und Inklusion beinhalten, um diese zu garantieren. Aus Mexiko wurde ein Beispiel vorgestellt, das die Gestaltung öffentlicher Plätze

in den Blick nimmt, die von allen Menschen genutzt werden können. Der genaue Projektablauf wurde von Janet Jimenez bereits in der letzten Ausgabe ausführlich dargestellt.

### Deutschland als Vorreiter?

Auch auf deutscher Seite gibt es bereits Städte und Projekte, die Barrierefreiheit umsetzen. Die Senatsverwaltung für Stadtentwicklung und Wohnen in Berlin beispielsweise präsentierte ihr *Design for all*, das aus Leitfäden und Handlungsanweisungen für Architekten und Stadtplanern besteht, um Stadtentwicklung von Anfang an barrierefrei zu planen. Die Stadt Berlin plant im Jahre 2020 für alle zugänglich sein<sup>1</sup>. Die Partizipation der Bevölkerung stellt bei der Stadtentwicklung ein wesentliches Element dar. Gutes Beispiel für eine partizipative Stadtplanung ist die Stadtverwaltung Wiesbaden, die sehr eng mit dem Arbeitskreis der Wiesbadener Behindertenorganisationen und Interessensgemeinschaften zusammenarbeitet. Der Arbeitskreis besteht aus 35 Mitgliedsorganisationen und wird bei der Planung von Baumaßnahmen befragt, erhält Rederecht in Ausschüssen und ist wesentlicher Bestandteil der dezernatsübergreifenden Arbeitsgruppe *Barrierefreies Wiesbaden*. Ein weiteres nationales Good-Practice-Beispiel wurde von Architekt Wolfgang Frey vorgestellt. Er verfolgt bei seinen Baumaßnahmen eine ganzheitliche Nachhaltigkeit, indem er die fünf Dimensionen Ökologie, Ökonomie (für den Nutzer finanzierbar), Gestaltungswille (eine Identifikation der Bewohner mit dem Lebensraum), eine gesellschaftliche Integration (Reduzierung der Anonymität) und Anreizsysteme (z.B. Möglichkeit der aktiven Mitgestaltung, als Motivation um über gewohnte Strukturen hinauszugehen) berücksichtigt.

### Es gibt noch Nachholbedarf

In Arbeitsgruppen wurden von den Teilnehmenden selbst Empfehlungen für Politik und Verantwortliche im Bereich Stadtentwicklung erarbeitet. Die Gruppen teilten sich in thematische Bereiche wie Wohnen und öffentliche Plätze, Mobilität, Information und Kommunikation sowie Strategieentwicklung und Partizipation auf. Nachholbedarf sahen die Teilnehmenden in vielen Bereichen. Neben der gesellschaftlichen Bewusstseinsänderung zum Thema Barrierefreiheit muss beispielsweise barrierefreier Wohnraum auch für Menschen mit niedrigem Einkommen finanzierbar sein. Die Partizipation von Menschen mit Beeinträchtigung bei allen Baumaßnahmen sollte vorangetrieben und das Thema barrierefreies Bauen in die Lehrpläne der Universitäten integriert werden. Eine besse-



re Vernetzung der Akteure national und international sowie die Einführung von Monitoring-Mechanismen, um auch Sanktionen im Fall des Nichteinhaltens von Barrierefreiheit zu verhängen, sollte verfolgt und auch der Privatsektor miteinbezogen werden.

In der Umsetzung der NUA ist die städtische und kommunale Ebene naturgemäß von besonderer Bedeutung. Daher wurden im Rahmen der Tagung zwei Städtenetzwerke, Connective Cities und die Cities Alliance, vorgestellt, die international vernetzt sind und arbeiten. Die ReferentInnen gingen der Frage nach, welche Möglichkeiten es gibt, die Themen Barrierefreiheit und Inklusion aufzunehmen. Des Weiteren wurde ein Projekt im Rahmen internationaler Städtepartnerschaften vorgestellt, das die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderung berücksichtigt.

### **Wie kann Deutschland international zu einer inklusiven Umsetzung der New Urban Agenda und SDG 11 beitragen?**

Diese Frage wurde im Rahmen einer Podiumsdiskussion zum Ende der Tagung diskutiert. Neben Kumaresh Misra, UN-HABITAT III und Dr. Víctor Pineda, GAATES/World Enabled, nahmen Dr. Ilja Seifert, Deutscher Behindertenrat, Peter Meiwald, Bundestagsabgeordneter von Bündnis 90/Die Grünen sowie Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk, Leiterin der Unterabteilung 31 Umwelt und Infrastruktur des BMZ daran teil. Die Diskussion schloss den Bogen zu den eingangs vorgestellten

Strategien des BMZ und des BMUB und konnte der deutschen Regierung so manches Zugeständnis zum Bemühen um Inklusion abringen. Sie zeigte aber auch auf, wo es noch Bedarf bei der Umsetzung gibt, in diesem Zusammenhang wurde beispielsweise explizit die Partizipation von Menschen mit Behinderung im Umsetzungsprozess auf allen Ebenen gefordert.

Ob die Chance ergriffen wird, Inklusion und Barrierefreiheit in der Stadtentwicklung in Zukunft besser umzusetzen, wird am Bemühen aller Akteure liegen, die rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen und guten Beispiele sind in großer Zahl vorhanden und sollten genutzt werden.

Die Tagung wurde gemeinsam mit Caritas international/Germany und Misereor sowie in Kooperation mit der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH organisiert. Die ca. 80 Teilnehmenden kamen aus der staatlichen und nichtstaatlichen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, Hochschulen und Wissenschaft, städtischen und kommunalen Verwaltungen, der Politik und dem Bereich Architektur/Urbanistik.

### **Notes**

- 1 [http://www.berlin.de/senuvk/internationales\\_eu/barrierefreie\\_stadt/de/kurzfilm.shtml](http://www.berlin.de/senuvk/internationales_eu/barrierefreie_stadt/de/kurzfilm.shtml), abgerufen am 27.09.2017

*Jelena Auracher*



## Kurzmeldungen/Announcement

### Neue Broschüre zu inklusiven Aktionen zur Verbreitung der Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Zum Abschluss des Projekts *Global Engagiert nach 2015* hat bezev die Broschüre *Unsere Zukunft, unser Leben* veröffentlicht. Diese stellt die globalen Nachhaltigkeitsziele, ihre Umsetzung in und durch Deutschland, sowie Tipps und Tricks zur Planung und Durchführung eigener inklusiver Aktionen zur Verbreitung der SDGs vor. Im Rahmen des Projekts wurden von einigen Engagierten in Begleitung von bezev verschiedene, öffentlichkeitswirksame Aktionen durchgeführt, welche in dieser Broschüre genauer vorgestellt werden.

**Information:** <http://mailchi.mp/9e66a2d962d5/bezev-newsletter-12017>.

### Children with Disabilities in the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty

At the Conference of State Parties, a side event on children with disabilities deprived of liberty took place the 14. June 2017 at the UN. This side event looked at the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty through a disability lens. President-Elect Sue Swenson spoke to the important role in addressing rights violations against children with disabilities in institutions and other settings. At the end of 2016, the UN appointed an independent expert to conduct a study on children deprived of liberty, including children confined to institutions. Children with disabilities are at an increased risk of being locked in these institutions or harmful health-care facilities in the name of care and treatment, where instead they are subjected to violence at an immense scale, including physical, sexual, mental abuse and neglect, as well as involuntary or inappropriate medical treatment. This study is imperative in shedding light on the number of children living in institutions and their wellbeing, allowing states to make the necessary amendments and bettering the lives of all children, including those with disabilities.

The objectives of this event were to: review the forthcoming Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty through a disability lens and make recommendations to ensure the full inclusion of children with disabilities living in all forms of institutions; raise awareness among those attending the Conference of State Parties about the Study on Children Deprived of Liberty and emphasise its potential to highlight human rights abuses against children with disabilities deprived of their liberty; and encourage relevant participation on the part of States, DPOs, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

**Information:** <https://wearelumos.org/event/children-disabilities-global-study-children-deprived-liberty>.

### Persons with Disabilities on the Move: The Rights of Refugees and Migrants with Disabilities

A side event on the rights of refugees and migrants with disabilities took place on 13th June 2017 during the 10th session of Conference of State Parties (COSP) in New York. Globally, some 65 million people are currently forcibly displaced from their homes, the highest number ever recorded. Among the millions fleeing conflict and persecution, unprecedented numbers are people with disabilities and their families. Despite their numbers, those with disabilities are among the most neglected of all displaced people, facing significant challenges to accessing basic humanitarian assistance such as sanitation, food, and water due to attitudinal, physical and social barriers. On 19th September 2016 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, a landmark political declaration that is directed at improving the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants, as well as to protracted refugee situations. People with disabilities should be at the core of the response.

**Information:** <http://inclusion-international.org/inclusion-international-involvement-10th-session-cosp/>.

### Major Obstacle to Tracking Disability Inclusion in the SDGs

As countries work through the early stages of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, a development agenda designed to represent everyone, some disability experts are questioning how effectively national plans can incorporate people with disabilities. One major challenge could impede this process: there is no accepted definition of what it means to be a person with a disability, and no single, international system for collecting demographic information on people with disabilities. If no clear recommendations can be given, member states have an excuse not to disaggregate data, said Vladimir Cuk, executive director of the International Disability Alliance. The potential setback has come to light as disability experts are beginning to track how individual national plans are implementing the SDGs, which reference disability 11 times. These references are included in the SDGs as the result of disability advocacy work in the lead up to the development framework's adoption in 2015. The goals' predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, made no explicit mention of people with disabilities. The lack of agreement over what it means to be disabled has resulted in both a lack of harmonisation of U.N. statistics disaggregation, and a broader unknown about how many people are disabled, what rights and services they have, and what they are not receiving. Most U.N. agencies recommend that



countries implement the basic six core census questions established by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, a U.N. group set up by the U.N. Statistical Commission. These questions – designed to identify people, including children, with disabilities – measure whether a person has difficulty performing basic universal activities, such as walking, seeing, hearing, and communicating or being understood. The WHO and World Bank, however, have piloted a separate Model Disability Survey, which the organisations say came out of recognition of the need for better disability data. The survey looks at environmental factors, functioning, and capacity and health conditions, with other questions similar to those of the Washington Group. The differing approaches could lead to some people with disabilities not being registered by their governments, and therefore not receiving certain support and benefits, some studies have found. Governments have to realise the importance of disaggregated data to meet the needs of people with disabilities and to make sure their programming is accountable and inclusive.

**Information:** <https://www.devex.com/news/there-is-a-major-obstacle-to-tracking-disability-inclusion-in-the-sdgs-90762>.

### Humanitarian Hands-on Tool (HHoT)

On 19 August 2017, World Humanitarian Day, CBM launched the smartphone app Humanitarian Hands-on Tool (HHoT), which provides step-by-step guidance on how to implement an inclusive emergency response. Easy to use and fully accessible, this is the first application of its kind. With disability-inclusive humanitarian action broken down into individual task cards, which explain the basic *how-to* details in simple language and images, this web-based tool and downloadable mobile app aims to become the *go-to* field resource for all agencies planning humanitarian work that leaves no-one behind.

**Information:** <http://hesp-news.org/2017/08/20/humanitarian-hands-on-tool-hhot/>; [www.cbm.org/HHoT](http://www.cbm.org/HHoT).

### Call to Invest in Disability-Inclusive Education

On Thursday 27th April 2017, more than 40 international and national non-profit organisations launched a Call to Action to Invest in Disability-Inclusive Education. The joint call highlights the shocking fact that more than 32 million children with disabilities in developing countries are estimated to be out of school. In the joint statement the world's leading NGOs working in disability and education in low and middle income countries call on governments and donors to significantly step up action to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure quality education for all children, by investing in inclusive education for boys and girls with disabilities. They also commit to making education for children with disabilities in developing countries a top priority, advocating for better donor financing for inclusive education.

**Information:** <http://hesp-news.org/2017/06/20/call-to-invest-in-disability-inclusive-education-2/>; [https://iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/call\\_to\\_action\\_accessible\\_20170616.pdf](https://iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/call_to_action_accessible_20170616.pdf).

### 2030 Agenda Follow-Up: The Need to Address the Persistent Inequality Challenge Faced Persons with Disabilities

On 8<sup>th</sup> September, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, made remarks at the informal meeting convened by the President of the 71st session of the General Assembly on the status of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Deputy Secretary-General stated that while there were progress made towards the implementation of the SDGs, the assessment clearly shows that the pace of progress is insufficient to fully meet the ambitious goals. Ms. Mohammed underscored that inequality remains a significant challenge, both within and among countries. Children and youth, women and girls, indigenous people, older people, rural workers, people with disabilities, migrants and people affected by conflict remain vulnerable, deprived of their rights and opportunities.

**Information:** <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statement/2017-09-08/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-sustainable-development-goals>.

### Disability in the 2017 High-Level Political Forum Ministerial Declaration

The 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, took place from 10 to 19 July 2017, and concluded in New York on 19 July by adopting its Ministerial Declaration. Disability has been given five specific references in the Ministerial Declaration this year, including in the context of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity; multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, especially faced by women and girls with disabilities; improved and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of statistics and disaggregated data; as well as localising and communicating the SDGs to all stakeholders including persons with disabilities.

**Information:** <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/news/dspd/2017-hlpf.html>.

### Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women

The online platform provides practical information and tools to support activities to end violence against women and girls, including: step-by-step programming guidance; resources for implementation in the Tools Section; search for expert organisations in the Sources of Expertise Section; events & training sessions in the Calendar Section; ongoing programmes in the Leading Initiatives Section;



and ask for programming help in the FAQs Section.

**Information:** <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/>.

### UN Women's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Including Women with Disabilities

UN Women's new Strategic Plan will contribute to women with disabilities reaching decision-making positions; gender responsive national and local plans, strategies, policies and budgets, including support to disability programming; and more and better quality and disaggregated data and statistics, including for those in vulnerable situations. UN-Women wants to continue to strengthen its relationship with women's organisations and networks, including disability organisations. The Strategic Plan has four inter-connected outcomes: women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; live free from violence; and contribute to building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from crisis prevention and humanitarian action.

**Information:** <http://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/second-regular-session-2017>.

### Ending Poverty for Persons with Disabilities

In June 2017 at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), 44 countries presented their progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Disability rights advocates talked about what the UN deliberations means to people's lives on the ground. Read interviews with DPO leaders about what it means to live a life free from extreme poverty. International disability rights advocates have been at work advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities to participate at the HLPF and to be counted in national reports. They want to ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are at the heart of the design, implementation, and review of the SDGs at national and international levels. 44 countries presented their progress towards the goals, including two of the Disability Rights Fund's (DRF) and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund's (DRAF) target countries – Bangladesh and Indonesia. Bangladesh is one of the countries reporting in July 2017 on progress and challenges related to the goals at the HLPF. To support the goal to end poverty for persons with disabilities, recommendations to the government were presented: Include persons with disabilities in all safety net programs; Raise awareness among duty bearers about the abilities of persons with disabilities; Track the data of persons with disabilities living under the poverty line; Ensure access and disability inclusion to infrastructure and information; Implement the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 and Neuro-Developmental Trust Act 2013; Engage DPOs in the SDGs implementation process; Strengthen coordination of Government and non-government actors

**Information:** <http://disabilityrightsfund.org/our-impact/insights/ending-poverty-persons-disabilities/>.

### Enhancing the Relationship between the Disability Movement and People Affected by Leprosy

With an aim at strengthening the 2030 Agenda pledged to Leave no one Behind, Disabled People's International (DPI) and The Nippon Foundation (TNF) have entered into a partnership to undertake Phase 2 of the project on Enhancing the Relationship between the Disability Movement and People Affected by Leprosy. The main objective of this project will be to bridge the gap between the Disability and the Leprosy sector by integrating persons affected by Leprosy, particularly in countries with higher prevalence of Leprosy, into the larger disability movement and to help them align their advocacy initiatives. The project will further seek to create platforms for persons affected by Leprosy to voice the stigma and discrimination faced by them at international disability events.

**Information:** <http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/>  
<http://www.disabledpeoplesinternational.org/>;

### Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC), in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division (UNSD), organised a Regional Meeting on Disability Measurement and Statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The Regional Meeting took place from 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the Meeting was to compile national experiences, including challenges faced and lessons learned, regarding approaches taken to measure the population with disabilities during national censuses of the 2010 round. The meeting also provided an opportunity to initiate a discussion on the way forward towards compilation of data on disability for monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the meeting enabled sharing of national experiences among participating countries.

**Information:** <http://bit.ly/2spkRUH>;  
<http://www.cepal.org/en/node/41425>.

### A New Way to Measure Child Functioning

UNICEF has been working with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics to develop a new way of collecting data on children with disabilities that is devoid of labels and diagnoses. The new Module on Child Functioning covers children between two and 17 years of age and assesses functional difficulties in different domains including hearing, vision, communication/comprehension, learning, mobility and emotions. It focuses on the presence and extent of such difficulties rather than on body function and structure or conditions. The questions can be incorporated into existing data collection efforts and address the need for nationally comparable and internationally harmonised



data. The module is now included into the current round of the UNICEF-supported Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey programme (MICS) that will be implemented in more than 35 low-and middle-income countries over the next three years.

**Information:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lj6iqkaSCGQ>; <https://data.unicef.org/resources/module-child-functioning/>.

### **Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities**

UNICEF India has developed a guidebook: Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and Samartham, a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO), as part of the Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign. Aimed at school administrators, school management committees and parents, the guidebook details the common infrastructural barriers children with disabilities may face within schools and offers possible solutions to address these barriers. A checklist is included which can be used as a tool to assess the accessibility of schools and to identify areas that need improvement. Clear standards and specifications are provided, with photos and illustrations, which can be used with civil works personnel, towards making necessary changes or during construction.

**Information:** [http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub\\_doc119.pdf](http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub_doc119.pdf).

### **New QualityRights Guidance and Training Tools**

The WHO QualityRights initiative has just published guidance and training tools to align services and practices with the requirements of the CRPD in order to promote the rights of people with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. The tools can be used to strengthen capacity of mental health and human rights practitioners, people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, people using mental health services, their families and care partners, NGOs, DPOs and others.

**Information:** [http://who.int/mental\\_health/policy/quality\\_rights/guidance\\_training\\_tools/en/](http://who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/guidance_training_tools/en/).

### **World Bank: Update about Disability**

The World Bank's disability and development team continues to provide technical assistance and knowledge to internal thematic units on disability-inclusive development. As part of this effort, the World Bank recently hosted Light for the World and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) for lunch panel event on the CostingEquity Report that looks at the benefits of financing disability - inclusive education, the current state of education financing with regard to inclusion, and what needs to change in order for education financing to realise of SDG 4 and Article 24 of the CRPD. In addition, the Bank organ-

ised an internal knowledge sharing workshop on building accessible, inclusive and safe cities.

**Information:** <https://iddconsortium.net/resources-tools/costing-equity>.

### **New Human Rights Watch Research on Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**

On 21<sup>st</sup> June, Human Rights Watch released a report and video documenting how persons with disabilities have faced violent attacks, forced displacement, and ongoing neglect in the humanitarian response. Research shows that people with a range of disabilities are often unable to flee violence, are especially at risk of attack while trying to flee, and face unsafe and unhealthy conditions in displacement camps.

On 31<sup>st</sup> May, Human Rights Watch released a report and video on persons with disabilities and older people in a conflict situation. Persons with disabilities are at greater risk of being left behind during attacks and are often the target of grave abuse and violence by the warring parties. Older people and persons with disabilities who are able to flee the violence to Protection of Civilians sites often face barriers to accessing essential humanitarian assistance. This includes using latrines and accessing food distribution sites. The report calls for aid workers and donors to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian services on an equal basis as anyone else. Persons with disabilities should be consulted every step of the way.

**Information:** <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/central-african-republic-people-disabilities-high-risk>; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/31/south-sudan-people-disabilities-older-people-face-danger>.

### **G3ict & IAAP Launch Web Accessibility Specialist Certification**

The International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP), a division of G3ict, recently launched a first of its kind international certification program for Web Accessibility Specialists. This Technical-level exam is the ideal credential for those who personally design, develop, implement, evaluate, or manage the technical details of accessible web solutions. It aims to address the growing demand for web accessibility professionals as more and more countries ratify the CRPD and adopt standards like WCAG 2.0. The lack of skilled personnel to implement ICT accessibility was also raised at a side-event organised by G3ict at the 10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD in June.

**Information:** <http://www.accessibilityassociation.org/>.

### **Survey on Disability and Climate Resilience**

As part of a joint initiative, researchers from Rehabilitation International, Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre are conducting a study on disability



and climate resilience. The overall purpose of the project is to increase understanding of the links between disability and climate resilience and to support delivery of policy and program work that builds the abilities of Persons with Disabilities to handle climate shocks and stresses. The research will focus primarily on two countries: Kenya and Bangladesh. These countries face a number of development challenges, including multiple and diverse environmental hazards, associated with the impacts of climate change; both have already committed to increasing climate-related resilience; and both have track records on disability inclusion. Given the different climate challenges facing each country, they offer useful contextual comparisons from which to develop a range of approaches in this area.

**Information:** <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/leonard-cheshire-research/research/active-research-programmes/disability-climate-resilience>.

### End Supernatural Myth-Making in Africa

Many people in rural African communities still believe that disability is caused by supernatural forces, curses and as *punishment* for wrongdoings, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to neglect and abuse, according to recent research from the University of East Anglia. But the more that communities come into contact with disability, the more awareness and understanding grows. Through the project, Preparation of Communities: Using Personal Narratives to Affect Attitudes to Disability in Kilifi, Kenya, it was found that disability is often explained by things like extra marital affairs invoking a curse, witchcraft, supernatural forces such as demons or ghosts affecting the child, and the will of God, said Dr. Karen Bunning, the lead researcher from UEA's School of Health Sciences. There was a silver lining to the findings: underpinning all of the supernatural explanations was a desire to make sense of disability and to improve the given situation. Real life encounters with people who have disabilities can be a step towards another understanding of disability.

**Information:** <http://www.riglobal.org/ri-global-whats-on-focusing-on-people-the-fall-gas/>.

### Enhancing Coordination for a CRPD Compliant SDG Monitoring

Leonard Cheshire Disability, Handicap International and Sightsavers, on behalf of the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and the International Disability Alliance, co-organised and co-financed an informal meeting to enhance the coordination for CRPD compliant SDG monitoring on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, in London, United Kingdom. The purpose of the two-days event was to share existing or upcoming initiatives with regards to CRPD-compliant SDG monitoring at country and regional levels and learnings from the High-Level Political Forum. Synergies and complementarities in coverage, methods, knowledge-sharing and/or any relevant

area were identified to optimise efforts and resources. With regards to the implementation of the SDGs at national level, Berhanu Tefera of the African Disability Forum discussed the participation of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at the High-Level Political Forum, which has ensured the inclusion of persons with disabilities in each of the thematic areas under HLPF 2017 theme. Angeline Chand of the Pacific Disability Forum noted the use of the toolkit developed by IDA on the implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific region, to guarantee that countries in the Pacific were prepared in order to provide shadow reports in front of the CRPD Committee and at the HLPF. The representatives also discussed value of the BRIDGE CRPD-SDGs training initiative at regional and country levels. In addition, when considering other training initiatives, Victoria Lee, from OHCHR, presented on the Bridging the Gap I, a joint project with the OHCHR and the EU on linking implementation of the SDGs and the CRPD. The project seeks to develop several tools to facilitate this process, including human rights indicators for the CRPD, policy guidelines for SDGs implementation based on the CRPD, a matrix linking the CRPD and SDGs, guidelines for data sources to populate indicators for monitoring of SDGs implementation. The importance of the Human-Rights based approach towards development was stressed in order to ensure that rights and development are universal and applicable to all countries and people; indivisibility of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; and ensuring equality and non-discrimination so that no one is left behind. During the meeting, there was understanding on the need to take advantage of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, as they provide opportunities to secure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, rights and development. However, the 2030 Agenda also presents risks. Though there are explicit references to persons with disabilities, there is a risk that policy makers may not be informed of good practices to ensure inclusion. As such, there is the need to develop concrete tools to link the SDGs to the CRPD for mutual reinforcement. There was also an interactive discussion on the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities at the High-Level Political Forum, which is the mechanism in which persons with disabilities engage in the global SDGs processes. There was agreement on the need to strengthen the strategy of the group, so that the disability community can work together to include a broader group of persons with disabilities from grassroots and national levels at the processes that take place at the global level. The Stakeholder Group will work to strategise with the Members of the group to ensure that the process is inclusive and that the SDGs are meaningfully implemented on the ground at grassroots, national and regional levels.

**Information:** <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sdg-monitoring-september2017>.



### **Workshop to Tackle Impunity for Witchcraft Related Human Rights Violations**

The workshop held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 brought together experts on witchcraft and human rights in Geneva in search of solutions to the issue, estimated to kill, maim and affect thousands of people. In numerous countries around the world, harmful practices related to witchcraft result in serious human rights violations, such as various forms of torture and murder, discrimination and exclusion, including banishment from communities, said the United Nations Independent Expert on the human rights of persons with albinism, Ikponwosa Ero, through a media release before the event. These attacks and violations, which frequently target people in vulnerable situations including persons with albinism, are astonishing in their brutality. In addition, there are gaps in applicable legal frameworks and challenges with implementation and enforcement, and far too often perpetrators are not brought to justice. Persons with disabilities have commonly been associated with witchcraft related practices, based on widespread stigma linked to sociocultural beliefs about persons with disabilities as cursed or supernatural; that their impairment results from retribution for wrongs committed in past lives, or those committed by parents or family. Outreach to and the involvement of communities, particularly religious and spiritual community leaders, is pivotal to dispel the myths at the core of these harmful practices. All such efforts and initiatives must ensure close consultation with, and the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. The workshop enabled UN experts, States, academics and members of civil society to develop a greater understanding of witchcraft and related harmful practices. The event, which put together victims of witchcraft and activists working on the issue from various regions of the world, was held in the margins of the current session of the Human Rights Council.

**Information:** <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/UNWitchcraftWorkshop2017>.

### **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**

From 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017, The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) convened its third session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 2016) in Addis Ababa. Before the launch of the official opening ceremony, the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) came together and discussed their joint statement.

The agreed statement contains two explicit references in SDG 1 and SDG 9. Governments made requests for their services to be accessible for all citizens, and references in national statements to issues of marginalisation and vulnerable populations. There was also a presentation on how the Agenda 2030 (the global) and Agenda 2063 (the continental one) can be reconciled. A clear comparison of goals and indicators was presented to the participants and the presentation of the creation of the SDG center for sustainable development in Africa. The key recommendations and messages that explicitly mention persons with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalised groups incorporated on the final document include expanding social protection programmes and targeting appropriate schemes to the poor and most vulnerable including indigenous, aging, children, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. It also focuses on investing in capacities of people, communities, economies, cities and countries to prevent reduce and manage risks arising from climate changes and natural hazards, conflict, economic, political and social instabilities, is critical to build resilience. It points out that weak data systems and data gaps in some member states pose serious challenges for effective monitoring and evaluation of progress in eradicating poverty. To monitor, there is a need for disaggregation of data by income gender, age race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics. It is important that African Countries and Civil Society Organisations receive the necessary international support, including through appropriate partnerships, to ensure that no one is left behind and to achieve eradication of poverty, sustainable development and Stronger resilience, especially for those in extreme poverty, vulnerable groups, youth, women, persons with disabilities and older people, also in the context of rights-based approach.

Inclusiveness of infrastructure and services should be properly addressed, accessible and affordable for all including most marginalised people and people with disabilities and the poor. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is a significant source of income, which allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards of all people, including women and young people to attain leaving no one behind.

**Information:** <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/african-regional-forum-2017>;  
[http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/major\\_groups\\_statement-final.docx](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/major_groups_statement-final.docx);  
[http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/african\\_forum\\_sd\\_may2017\\_summary.docx](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/african_forum_sd_may2017_summary.docx)



## Literatur

### UNAIDS

#### **Disability and HIV**

UNAIDS has made available a new Reference Report titled Disability and HIV on their website. This report highlights existing key evidence on the relationship between disability and HIV. It discusses the concrete steps needed for a person-centred, disability-inclusive HIV response that allows for increased participation of people with disabilities and integrates rehabilitation within the continuum of HIV care.

**Bezug:** [http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2017/jc2905\\_disability-and-hiv](http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2017/jc2905_disability-and-hiv).

### Inclusion International

#### **Self-Advocacy for Inclusion: A Global Report**

Over the last two years Inclusion International has been building a picture of what self-advocacy looks like around the world. Across their network, many individuals and organisations have taken part in workshops, surveys and interviews. The Report summarises these findings about what self-advocacy means; what good support is; how organisations can be more inclusive, and the vital role that families play in empowering self-advocacy.

**Bezug:** <http://inclusion-international.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Global-report-on-self-advocacy.pdf>.

### J. Morrison/T. Colbourn/B. Budhathoki et al.

#### **Disabled Women's Attendance at Community Women's Groups in Rural Nepal**

There is strong evidence that participatory approaches to health and participatory women's groups hold great potential to improve the health of women and children in resource poor settings. The authors conclude that women's groups are an important way to reach disabled women in resource poor communities. They recommend that disabled persons organisations help to increase awareness of disability issues among organisations running community groups to further increase their effectiveness in reaching disabled women.

**Bezug:** <https://academic.oup.com/heapro/article-pdf/32/3/464/17650888/dav099.pdf>.

### Lilia Angelova-Mladenova

#### **The Right to Live Independently and be Included in the Community: Addressing Barriers to Independent Living across the Globe**

This reports looks at the main barriers to the realisation of disabled people's right to live independently and be included in the community, which is set out in Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

(CRPD). They are grouped in seven broad areas: (1) misunderstanding and misuse of key terms, (2) negative attitudes and stigma, (3) lack of support for families, (4) prevalence of institutional services, (5) barriers related to community support services, (6) barriers in mainstream services and facilities, and (7) barriers, concerning other CRPD provisions, with effect on Article 19. A set of recommendations is also provided, outlining measures required to address these barriers

**Bezug:** [http://enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/The-right-to-live-independently\\_FINAL.pdf](http://enil.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/The-right-to-live-independently_FINAL.pdf).

### A. Gartrell/K. Baesel/C. Becker

#### **We do not Dare to Love: Women with Disabilities' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Rural Cambodia**

There is an urgent need for an evidence base to inform the implementation of disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health policy and programming to address women with disabilities' largely unattained sexual and reproductive health and rights. This paper presents findings from a qualitative study on the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of women with disabilities in rural Cambodia. The findings highlight three critical steps to enhance the physical, communicative and financial accessibility of SRHR information and services. Together these steps will support women with disabilities to claim their sexual and reproductive rights and transform the social attitudes of persons in the lives of women with disabilities, including health care staff.

**Bezug:** <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09688080.2017.1332447?needAccess=true>.

### M. T. Carew/S. H. Braathen/L. Swartz et al.

#### **The Sexual Lives of People with Disabilities within Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Study of Studies Published in English**

Although approximately 80% of the global population of people with disabilities reside in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), very little is known about their sexual lives due to a lack of empirical data. The authors aimed to provide a scoping review of English-language research conducted on disability and sexuality in LMICs. The authors conclude that: (a) disability and sexuality research in African countries has focused predominantly on sexual abuse and violence or HIV, (b) the sexuality of people with disabilities within many LMICs has received little or no empirical investigation, and (c) there have been very few experimental studies on disability and sexuality conducted in LMICs in general.

**Bezug:** <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/16549716.2017.1337342?needAccess=true>.



C. Hanlon

**Next Steps for Meeting the Needs of People with Severe Mental Illness in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**

The explicit inclusion of mental health within the Sustainable Development Goals is a welcome development, borne out of powerful advocacy using public health, economic and human rights arguments. As funding comes on line for scale-up of evidence-based mental health care by task-sharing with primary care, it is time to take stock about care for people affected by severe mental illness (SMI). The existing evidence base for task shared care for SMI provides an imperative to get started, but is skewed towards relatively more affluent and urban populations in middle-income countries where specialist mental health professionals provide most of the care.

**Bezug:** [https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/42C9AE17A6D4CEE962E8C73DCD9E3651/S2045796016001013a.pdf/next\\_steps\\_for\\_meeting\\_the\\_needs\\_of\\_people\\_with\\_severe\\_mental\\_illness\\_in\\_low\\_and\\_middleincome\\_countries.pdf](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/42C9AE17A6D4CEE962E8C73DCD9E3651/S2045796016001013a.pdf/next_steps_for_meeting_the_needs_of_people_with_severe_mental_illness_in_low_and_middleincome_countries.pdf).

E. Williams/E. Hurwitz/I. Obaga et al.

**Perspectives of Basic Wheelchair Users on Improving their Access to Wheelchair Services in Kenya and Philippines: A Qualitative Study**

The United Nations has called for countries to improve access to mobility devices when needed. The World Health Organisation has published guidelines on the provision of manual wheelchairs in less-resourced settings. Yet, little is known about the extent to which appropriate wheelchairs are available and provided according to international guidelines. This study's purpose was to describe wheelchair users' experiences receiving services and acquiring wheelchair skills in urban and peri-urban areas of Kenya and the Philippines. The authors conclude that interventions are needed to provide wheelchairs services efficiently, at scale, in an environment facilitating physical access and peer support, and reduced social stigma.

**Bezug:** <https://bmcinthealthhumrights.biomedcentral.com/track/pdf/10.1186/s12914-017-0130-6?site=bmcinthealthhumrights.biomedcentral.com>.

M. Duffy/M. Sharer/H. Cornman et al.

**Integrating Mental Health and HIV Services in Zimbabwean Communities: A Nurse and Community-led Approach to Reach the Most Vulnerable**

Alcohol use and depression negatively impact adherence, retention in care, and HIV progression, and people living with HIV (PLWH) have disproportionately higher depression rates. In developing countries, more than 76% of people with mental health issues receive no treatment. This Zimbabwe pilot study examined the acceptability and feasibility of an integrated mental health and HIV stepped-care approach in nurses, community health workers, and traditional medicine practitioners. This study indi-

cates that integration of mental health and HIV services can expand availability of mental health services for people living with HIV.

**Information:** [http://www.nursesinaidscarejournal.org/article/S1055-3290\(15\)00224-1/pdf](http://www.nursesinaidscarejournal.org/article/S1055-3290(15)00224-1/pdf).

C. Dionicio/S. Grech/I. Mactaggart et al.

**Guatemala National Disability Study (ENDIS 2016)**

The Guatemala National Disability Survey (ENDIS) was undertaken to gain disability disaggregated population data and understanding of the lived situation for people with disabilities in order to inform and motivate evidence-based advocacy, policy and service planning. The study had three components: 1) A population based survey to estimate the prevalence of disabilities. 2) A case-control study to compare people with and without disabilities in terms of their socio-economic situation and their use of education, health, water and sanitation, and employment services. 3) A qualitative component to explore the conceptual, cultural and social interpretation and responses to disability.

**Bezug:** [http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Guatemala\\_National\\_Disability\\_Survey\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/54741/Guatemala_National_Disability_Survey_full_report.pdf).

**P. De Beudrap/G. Beninguisse/E. Pasquier et al. Prevalence of HIV Infection among People with Disabilities: A Population-Based Observational Study in Yaoundé, Cameroon (HandiVIH)**

In resource-limited settings, people with disabilities have been left behind in the response to HIV. In the HandiVIH study, the authors estimate and compare HIV prevalence and associated risk factors between people with and without disabilities. They conclude that the higher prevalence of HIV infection in people with disabilities than people without disabilities reflects a higher exposure to HIV infection as well as the presence of disability-associated HIV infection. The susceptibility of people with disabilities to HIV infection seems to be shaped by social and environmental factors.

**Bezug:** [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIIS2352-3018\(16\)30209-0.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIIS2352-3018(16)30209-0.pdf).

**Barefoot Guide****Barefoot Guide 5: Mission Inclusion**

Everyone agrees that inclusion is hard, that reaching the poorest and most marginalised is difficult. Many organisations, large and small, are tackling the deep challenges of exclusion and coming up with creative, innovative and workable solutions that are putting into practice the policies and strategies that everyone is talking about. This Barefoot Guide, written by 34 practitioners from 16 different countries on all continents makes many of these successful approaches and solutions more visible.

**Bezug:** [http://www.barefootguide.org/uploads/1/1/1/6/111664/bfg-5-mission\\_inclusion-final.pdf](http://www.barefootguide.org/uploads/1/1/1/6/111664/bfg-5-mission_inclusion-final.pdf).



J. Hanass-Hancock/S. Nene/N. Deghaye et al.  
**These Are not Luxuries, It Is Essential for Access to Life: Disability Related Out-of-Pocket Costs as a Driver of Economic Vulnerability in South Africa**

Middle-income countries are home to a growing number of persons with disabilities but with limited evidence on the factors increasing economic vulnerability in people with disabilities in these countries. This article presents data related to elements of this vulnerability in one middle-income country, South Africa. Focusing on out-of-pocket costs, it uses focus group discussions with 73 persons with disabilities and conventional content analysis to describe these costs. A complex and nuanced picture of disability-driven costs evolved on three different areas: care and support for survival and safety, accessibility of services and participation in community. The development of poverty alleviation and social protection mechanisms in middle-income countries like South Africa should, the authors argue, better consider diverse disability-related care and support needs not only to improve access to services such as education and health but also to increase the effect of disability-specific benefits and employment equity policies.

**Bezug:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5502471/pdf/AJOD-6-280.pdf>.

United Nations Secretariat, Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)  
**Mainstreaming Disability in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

The present report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/4, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-fifth session, a report on the implementation of that resolution, including the Chair's summary of the discussions and the proposals made during the multi-stakeholder panel discussion on disability at the Commission's fifty-fourth session. The report provides an overview of the inclusion of disability in existing international development frameworks, as well as of the status of persons with disabilities in social and economic development. It notes that, worldwide, persons with disabilities are still at a disadvantage in many aspects of their participation in development processes, mechanisms and institutions. The report presents the information concerning: (a) the review and follow-up mechanisms of relevant international frameworks on disability-inclusive development; (b) the role of the Commission for Social Development in mainstreaming disability in the development agenda; (c) summary of the multi-stakeholder panel discussion on disability held at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development; and (d) conclusions and recommendations.

**Bezug:** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.5/2017/4;](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.5/2017/4;)  
[http://www.asksource.info/node/71793/.](http://www.asksource.info/node/71793/)

A. Akiyama/J. Hollis/T. Kretzschmar  
**Accessibility for All: Good Practices of Accessibility in Asia and the Pacific to Promote Disability-Inclusive Development**

This publication seeks to support policymakers in promoting accessibility at a policy and practical level. It contains information on relevant global and regional mandates that support and promote disability-inclusive development and accessibility, with a view to demonstrate the multi-faceted value of focusing on disability and accessibility policies to achieve broader development goals. Readers will learn about the core concepts of disability and accessibility, and be empowered with knowledge on standards, tools and means of promoting accessibility. Furthermore, this publication will outline and analyse examples of good practices of accessibility identified in Asia and the Pacific. The majority of the good practices featured in this publication were initially discussed at two international and multi-stakeholder workshops that took place in 2014 and 2015, with a few additional examples drawn from Pacific island member States. The selection of practices for this publication is based on their embodiment of the principles of accessibility, demonstrated success, measurable impact on the community, and their adaptable and replicable nature.  
**Bezug:** [http://www.unescap.org/resources/accessibility-all-good-practices-accessibility-asia-and-pacific-promote-disability/;](http://www.unescap.org/resources/accessibility-all-good-practices-accessibility-asia-and-pacific-promote-disability/) [http://www.asksource.info/node/71794/.](http://www.asksource.info/node/71794/)

United Nations Secretariat, Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)  
**Toolkit on Disability for Africa**

A Toolkit on Disability for Africa has been developed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD). It is designed for the African context and aims to: Provide practical tools on various disability-related issues to government officials, members of parliament, civil and public servants at all levels, disabled persons organisations (DPOs) and all those with an interest in the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society and development; support the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) and disability-inclusive development; offer examples of good practices from many countries in the African region.

**Bezug:** [https://www.un.org/development/desa/technical-cooperation/2016/11/18/toolkit-on-disability-for-africa/;](https://www.un.org/development/desa/technical-cooperation/2016/11/18/toolkit-on-disability-for-africa/)  
[http://www.asksource.info/node/71845/.](http://www.asksource.info/node/71845/)

Women's Refugee Commission  
**Strengthening the Role of Women with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: A Facilitator's Guide**

Strengthening the Role of Women with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: A Facilitator's Guide was designed by the Women's Refugee Commission, in collaboration with organisations of women with disabilities in Africa and South Asia. It is a tool to support women leaders to provide training to members, colleagues and/or partners on humanitarian action. The training is intended to enhance the capacity of women with disabilities to effectively advo-



cate on women's and disability issues within relevant humanitarian forums at national and regional levels by: increasing understanding of the humanitarian system; helping participants identify gaps and opportunities for inclusion of women and girls with disabilities within the humanitarian system; and developing advocacy plans to strengthen access and inclusion.

**Bezug:** <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/populations/disabilities/research-and-resources/1443-humanitarian-facilitators-guide/>  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71804/>.

M. Fembak

### **Zero Project Report 2017. Employment Work and Vocational Education & Training**

The results of the Zero Project Survey 2016–2017 consisting of 21 questions with a particular focus this year on employment and vocational and educational training are presented. After five years of Social Indicator research, for the first time data trends are published as well as comparisons between world regions. The Social Indicators section also includes analysis of data availability on youth employment with regards to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, and of the *data gap* of persons with disabilities living in institutions. 56 Innovative Practices have been selected, and 13 common solutions and threads have been identified. 11 Innovative Policies have been selected, and 13 ways to create a significant impact have been identified.

**Bezug:** [https://s3.amazonaws.com/zeroproject-uploads/zeroproject/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Zero+Project+Report+2017+on+Employment\\_Vocational+Education+and+Training\\_English\\_6MB.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/zeroproject-uploads/zeroproject/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Zero+Project+Report+2017+on+Employment_Vocational+Education+and+Training_English_6MB.pdf);  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71846/>.

### **WaterAid/CBM Australia/Di Kilsby Gender Equality and Disability Inclusion within Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Exploring Integrated Approaches to Addressing Inequality**

WaterAid, in collaboration with CBM Australia and Di Kilsby consulting have published a paper to examine the linkages, common approaches and learning in both areas. The discussion paper provides reflections on applying integrated gender and disability approaches to rights-based water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea. The paper is intended as a conversation starter for WASH program managers and other development practitioners looking to strengthen their conceptual and practical understanding of challenges and successes in integrating gender and disability in WASH and those looking to move towards more transformative and sustainable practice.

**Bezug:** <http://www.wateraid.org/au/news/news/integrating-gender-and-disability-in-water-sanitation-and-hygiene/>; <http://www.asksource.info/node/71859/>.

Advantage Africa/Kibwezi Disabled Persons Organisation (KDPO)/International Foundation of Applied Disability Research (FIRAH)

### **Tackling Sexual Abuse of People with Disabilities - Report. What to do in the Case of Rape or Sexual Assault (A Guide for Victims, their Families and Friends)**

The aim of the research was to investigate the social, cultural and institutional factors which contribute to the high incidence of sexual abuse of persons with disabilities in East Africa and to identify interventions which could change detrimental attitudes, beliefs and practices which perpetuate this high incidence. The study used a qualitative participatory action research approach and worked with local partner organisations and Ugandan and Kenyan field level researchers to collect data. Survivors of sexual abuse were not interviewed but instead the research investigated the understandings, beliefs and practices of a range of service providers and key responders who are involved in the prevention of and response to sexual abuse against persons with disabilities in their communities. Groups consulted included police, teachers, health-care workers, government administrators, faith and community organisations and traditional leaders, as well as persons with disabilities and their parents. Participatory workshops were run with a reference group of people with disabilities (with a range of impairments and experiences) and relevant specialists at the initial stage and during the participatory analysis process. After initial orientation and training the field researchers undertook a total of 52 individual interviews and nine focus group discussions with a range of stakeholders. Powerpoint slides of the research findings and posters are also available. The booklet is a simple guide written to support victims of sexual abuse and their families to know their rights and to understand what services are available to them.

**Bezug:** <http://www.advantageafrica.org/file/advantage-africa-full-research-report-sexual-abuse-of-persons-with-disabilities-pdf/>; <http://www.asksource.info/node/71843/>.

S. Deepak/F. Ortali/G. Mason Halls et al.

### **Disability Data Collection in Community-Based Rehabilitation**

Today there are Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) programmes in a large number of countries. In many countries, the CBR approach is a part of the national rehabilitation services. However, there is a lack of reliable data about persons with disabilities who benefit from CBR and the kind of benefits they receive. This article reviews the disability data collection systems and presents some case studies to understand the influence of operational factors on data collection in the CBR programmes. The review shows that most CBR programmes use a variable number of broad functional categories to collect information about persons with disabilities, combined occasionally with more specific diagnostic categories. This categorisation is influenced by local contexts and operational factors, including the limitations of human and material resources available for its implementation, making it difficult to have comparable CBR data. Therefore, any strategies to strengthen the data collection in CBR programmes must take these



operational factors into account.

**Bezug:** <http://dcidj.org/article/view/476/335>;  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71864/>.

## UNICEF

### Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

The purpose of Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action is to strengthen the inclusion of children and women with disabilities, and their families, in emergency preparedness, response and early recovery, and recovery and reconstruction. This series of booklets provides insight into the situation of children with disabilities in humanitarian contexts, highlights the ways in which they are excluded from humanitarian action, and offers practical actions and tips to better include children and adolescents with disabilities in all stages of humanitarian action. The booklets were created in response to UNICEF colleagues in the field expressing a need for a practical resource to guide their work. The information and recommendations are based on evidence and good practices gathered from literature and field staff experiences. The six booklets on how to include children and adolescents with disabilities in humanitarian programmes are as follows: 1) general guidance; 2) child protection; 3) education; 4) health and HIV/AIDS; 5) nutrition; 6) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). In addition to the PDF versions in English, Arabic and French, the guidance is also available in a range of accessible formats, including EPUB, a Braille-ready file and accessible HTML formats.

**Bezug:** [http://epub\\_general\\_guidance\\_including\\_children\\_with\\_disabilities\\_in\\_humanitarian\\_action.epub/](http://epub_general_guidance_including_children_with_disabilities_in_humanitarian_action.epub/);  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71942>.

## International Committee of the Red Cross International Humanitarian Law and Persons with Disabilities

International humanitarian law (IHL) is a set of rules that, in times of armed conflict, seeks – for humanitarian reasons – to protect persons who are not, or are no longer directly participating in hostilities, and to restrict means and methods of warfare. IHL requires parties to armed conflicts to afford special respect and protection to persons with disabilities and helps ensure their inclusion. A number of weapons-related treaties aims to prevent certain disabilities from occurring by prohibiting the use of particular weapons and reducing the dangers they pose. They also seek to ensure that victims receive appropriate assistance. In addition to IHL, international human rights law (IHRL) – particularly the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol – contains important protections. For example, the CRPD recognises States Parties' obligations under, inter alia, IHL and IHRL and obliges States Parties to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities during armed conflict (Art. 11).

**Bezug:** <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/ihl-and-persons-disabilities>;  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71955/>.

## Human Rights Watch

### Central African Republic: People with Disabilities at High Risk - 4 Years into Conflict, More Support, Protection Needed

People with disabilities in the Central African Republic have faced violent attacks, forced displacement, and ongoing neglect in the humanitarian response, Human Rights Watch said today. A peace accord signed on June 19, 2017, offers a chance to help this abused and marginalised group. People with disabilities face high risk from violent attacks and forced displacement and are being neglected by aid groups as conflict in the Central African Republic intensifies. New Human Rights Watch research in the country shows that people with a range of disabilities are often unable to flee violence, are especially vulnerable to attack while trying to flee, and face unsafe and unhealthy conditions in displacement camps. The video and blog page report on the problems faced by people with disabilities as conflict in the Central African Republic intensifies.

**Bezug:** <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/21/central-african-republic-people-disabilities-high-risk>;  
<http://www.asksource.info/node/71941/>.



## VERANSTALTUNGEN/EVENTS

- 13.11. - 16.11.2017 International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.  
**Information:** <http://inclusioninternational.cmail20.com/t/t-l-kditad-ijxzdjh-v/>  
Kontakt: [admin@iassid.org](mailto:admin@iassid.org).
- 18.11. - 24.11.2017 23rd Conference of Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
**Information:** <http://afid23.org>.  
Kontakt: Conference Secretariat: SWID Bangladesh, 4/A Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh; E-Mail: [swid@afid23.org](mailto:swid@afid23.org).
- 27.11. - 01.12.2017 UNESCAP High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, Beijing China.  
**Information:** <http://www.unescap.org/events/high-level-intergovernmental-meeting-midpoint-review-asian-and-pacific-decade-persons>.  
Kontakt: The United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand. Tel.: (66-2) 288-1234; E-Mail: [escap-sdd@un.org](mailto:escap-sdd@un.org).
- 01.12. - 03.12.2017 Auftaktveranstaltung der inklusiven Fortbildungsreihe Aus aller Welt – in Aktion vor Ort, Jugendherberge Düsseldorf.  
**Information:** <http://www.bezev.de/de/home/auslandsengagement/info-fuer-ehemalige/aus-aller-welt-in-aktion-vor-ort/>.  
Kontakt: Jelena Auracher, [auracher@bezev.de](mailto:auracher@bezev.de).
- 03.12.2017 International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all.  
**Information:** <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-3-december/idpd2017.html>.
- 07.02. - 12.02.2018 9th World Urban Forum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
**Information:** <https://unhabitat.org/kuala-lumpur-to-host-world-urban-forum-in-2018/>.  
Kontakt: E-Mail: [infohabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:infohabitat@unhabitat.org).
- 21.02. - 23.02.2018 Zero Project Conference 2018 on Accessibility, Vienna, Austria.  
**Information:** <https://zeroproject.org/>.  
Kontakt: E-Mail: [office@zeroproject.org](mailto:office@zeroproject.org).
- 30.05. - 01.06.2018 Inclusion International 17th World Congress, Birmingham, UK.  
**Information:** <http://inclusion-international.org/part-world-congress-2018/>.



## Schwerpunktthemen kommender Ausgaben der Zeitschrift Focal Topics of Upcoming Issues

- 3/2017: UN-CRPD after 10 Years: Implementing Equal Rights and Participation in the Health Sector under Conditions of Poverty (verantwortlich/responsible: Prof. Dr. Sabine Schäper)
- 1/2018: Behinderung und Forschung/Disability and Research (verantwortlich/responsible: Jana Offergeld)
- 2/2018: Kultur und Behinderung/Culture and Disability (verantwortlich/responsible: Dr. Thorsten Hinz)

Interessierte Autorinnen und Autoren mögen sich für nähere Informationen und unseren *Leitfaden für AutorInnen* bitte an die oben genannten Verantwortlichen wenden. Darüber hinaus sind Vorschläge für weitere Schwerpunktthemen willkommen unter [info@inie-inid.org](mailto:info@inie-inid.org).

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<b>Kurzbeiträge/Other contributions</b>	15.10.2017	15.01.2018	28.04.2018

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