

Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung Disability and International Development

Themen: Inklusion in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
Themes: Inclusion in German Development Cooperation

man
woman
human

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Sehr geehrte Leserinnen und Leser,

Sehr geehrte Leserinnen und Leser,

Menschen mit Behinderungen mussten lange warten, ehe sie in der Geschichte der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit einen nennenswerten Stellenwert erlangten. Noch zu Beginn des neuen Jahrtausends wurde ihre Förderung als nicht prioritäre Aufgabe des BMZ betrachtet.

Zu diesem Zeitpunkt hatten die Menschenrechte bereits Einzug in die deutsche Entwicklungszusammenarbeit gehalten, allerdings ohne Behinderung als menschenrechtlich relevantes Thema anzuerkennen. Menschen mit Behinderungen wurden als zu kleine Zielgruppe im Vergleich zu Querschnittsthemen wie Frauen, Umwelt, Menschenrechte und Armutsbekämpfung betrachtet. Ein Meilenstein in der Anerkennung der Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen stellt die UN-Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen (UN-BRK) dar, die als völkerrechtlich verbindliches Dokument in Deutschland im März 2009 in Kraft trat. Gleichzeitig hatten sich zu Beginn des neuen Jahrtausends zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen für eine bessere Berücksichtigung von Menschen mit Behinderung in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit eingesetzt und bereits für eine menschenrechtliche Anerkennung geworben.

Nachdem das BMZ 2006 mit dem Politikpapier Behinderung und Entwicklung das erste politische Papier zum Thema Behinderung veröffentlicht hatte, folgte 2013 der Aktionsplan zur Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen, der zur Umsetzung von Art. 32 der UN-BRK beitragen sollte. Dieser verfolgte das Ziel einer systematischen und querschnittsmäßigen Verankerung der Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der deutschen Entwicklungspolitik und konnte wichtige Impulse setzen.

Mit der UN-BRK waren die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit als menschenrechtliches Thema angekommen, wenngleich die Umsetzung den Praxistest noch bestehen muss. So konnte der BMZ-Aktionsplan gemäß der Evaluation durch das Deutsche Evaluierungsinstitut der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (DEval) dem Thema zwar einen Schub verleihen und die Sichtbarkeit deutlich erhöhen, aber noch keine systematische Verankerung von Inklusion

Dear readers,

persons with disabilities had to wait a long time before they achieved a noteworthy status in the history of German development cooperation. Even at the beginning of the new millennium, their promotion was not considered a priority task of the BMZ.

At that time, human rights had already found their way into German development cooperation, but without recognising disability as a human rights issue. Persons with disabilities were considered as a minor target group compared to cross-cutting issues such as women, the environment, human rights, and poverty reduction. A milestone in the recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which entered into force in Germany in March 2009 as a binding document under international law. At the same time, at the beginning of the new millennium, civil society organisations had campaigned for better consideration of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation and had already advocated for recognition under human rights.

After the BMZ published the first policy paper on disability in 2006, the Action Plan on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, which was intended to contribute to the implementation of Article 32 of the UNCRPD, followed in 2013. This pursued the goal of systematically and cross-sectionally anchoring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation and was able to provide important impetus.

With the UN CRPD, the rights of persons with disabilities had arrived in German development cooperation as a human rights issue, although implementation still has to pass the practical test. Thus, according to the evaluation by the German Development Cooperation Evaluation Institute (DEval), the BMZ Action Plan was able to give the issue a boost and significantly increase visibility, but has not yet been able to systematically anchor inclusion in German development cooperation. The findings and recommendations from the DEval evaluation were to be incorporated into the Inclusion Strategy published by the BMZ at the end of 2019. However, concrete plans for implementation could not be developed at that time, as the BMZ 2030 reform process was taking place in parallel and the inclusion of persons

in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit erreichen. Die Erkenntnisse und Empfehlungen aus der DEval-Evaluation sollten in die Inklusionsstrategie einfließen, die das BMZ Ende 2019 veröffentlichte. Konkrete Pläne zur Umsetzung konnten zu diesem Zeitpunkt aber noch nicht erarbeitet werden, da parallel der Reformprozess BMZ 2030 stattfand und die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen gemeinsam mit den Themen Menschenrechte und Geschlechtergleichstellung zu einem Gütesiegel der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit avancierte. Allerdings steht bis zum heutigen Tag die Konkretisierung aus, so dass noch nicht ersichtlich ist, wie eine systematische und verbindliche Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit umgesetzt werden wird.

Nichtsdestotrotz haben Menschen mit Behinderungen in den letzten Jahren in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit an Bedeutung gewonnen. Sie sind sichtbarer geworden und werden in mehr Aktivitäten und Maßnahmen berücksichtigt.

Einen Einblick möchte Ihnen diese Ausgabe der Zeitschrift verschaffen, in der wichtige Akteure zu Wort kommen. In dem einleitenden Interview gibt Dr. Zattler aus dem BMZ einen Überblick über die Entwicklung des Themas, den aktuellen Stand sowie Perspektiven.

Weitere Beiträge beleuchten Aktivitäten deutscher staatlicher Akteure im Bereich Inklusion. So stellen Lars Wissenbach und Thomas Ongolo ein Vorhaben zur Stärkung des behindertenpolitischen Rahmens in Afrika vor; Helle Deertz und Johannes Ludwig berichten über die Bedeutung der Beteiligung von Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen in entwicklungspolitischen Maßnahmen und Alexander Hobinka berichtet über die Suche nach inklusiven methodischen Ansätzen. Ein schwerpunktunabhängiger Beitrag zur schulischen Bildung von Kindern mit Behinderungen in Äthiopien während der Corona-Pandemie von Jana Zehle und Marieke Boersma rundet diese Ausgabe ab.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine interessante Lektüre!

Ihr Redaktionsteam

with disabilities, together with the topics of human rights and gender equality, had become a seal of approval for German development cooperation. However, to this day, the concretisation is still pending, so that it is not yet apparent how a systematic and binding inclusion of persons with disabilities will be implemented in German development cooperation.

Nevertheless, persons with disabilities have gained importance in German development cooperation in recent years. They have become more visible and are included in more activities and measures.

This issue of the journal would like to give you an insight, in which important actors have their say. In the introductory interview, Dr. Zattler from the BMZ gives an overview of the development of the topic, the current status as well as perspectives.

Other articles highlight the activities of German state actors in the field of inclusion. Thus, Lars Wissenbach and Thomas Ongolo present a project to strengthen the disability policy framework in Africa; Helle Deertz and Johannes Ludwig report on the importance of the participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in development policy measures; and Alexander Hobinka reports on the search for inclusive methodological approaches. A non-focus article on the schooling of children with disabilities in Ethiopia during the Corona Pandemic by Jana Zehle and Marieke Boersma rounds off this issue.

We wish you interesting reading!

Your editorial board

Interview on the Inclusion of People with Disabilities in German Development Cooperation

Our Editorial Board had the opportunity to interview Dr. Jürgen Zattler, Director-General for International Development Policy; 2030 Agenda; Climate at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), about the topics of inclusion and disability. Among others, the interview deals with important milestones on the road to more inclusive German development cooperation, but also difficulties and weaknesses such as the (global) lack of data regarding disability. Dr. Zattler explains BMZ's strategic approach towards inclusion and gives an insight into actual achievements, the collaboration with partners and the way forward. The interview was conducted by the editors of this issue, Isabella Bertmann-Merz and Lars Wissenbach.

Dr. Zattler, your department deals with the topics of inclusion and disability, among other. What does inclusion of persons with disabilities imply for the Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ)?

Let me start by talking about the people who are in our focus here. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), over one billion people live with disabilities. That is 15 per cent of the world's population. Many of these people are excluded from a dignified life either through ignorance, indifference or with intent. Discrimination is commonplace. The majority of people with disabilities in the global South have limited access to basic and vocational education, health and social security systems, financial services or the labour market. Numerous barriers in infrastructure and information or the stigma that prevails among the population prevent persons with disabilities from fully participating. This is a violation of their basic human rights. It is time to address this effectively.

Supporting our partner countries in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs), with its guiding principle of Leaving No One Behind, and implementing international agreements such as the United Nations

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) are politically and also legally binding points of reference for the Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in its efforts to enable the equal participation of persons with disabilities in society. In this context, BMZ pursues the cross-sectoral goal of ensuring a systematic mainstreaming of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation in order to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy equal opportunities and participate in the life of society.

What is the importance of the topic in the overall political context of BMZ?

First of all, the BMZ has a dedicated unit for the issue of inclusion, together with the topics of gender equality and human rights. This is where the political guidelines are developed and implemented. The most visible evidence of our work on the topic of inclusion is our new inclusion strategy for German development cooperation, which was adopted in 2019. This is one element of the larger BMZ 2030 reform process we are currently undergoing. In that process we have identified the inclusion of persons with disabilities, together with human rights and gender equality, as one of several

quality criteria that must be applied to everything we do. In this way, we want to ensure that the inclusion of persons with disabilities is implemented even more consistently in development cooperation in the future.

In practice, we can already report an increasing number of German development cooperation projects focusing on inclusion. We are striving to increase our project portfolio in order to ensure the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities in developing countries and emerging economies to participate fully in society.

One step toward greater inclusion and accessibility can also be seen on our website. There you will find explanatory videos on our work with subtitles and sign language. And content is also available in easy-to-understand language. In addition, we place great emphasis on digital accessibility and have been certified in this regard.

In looking back, what do you see as important milestones on the road to more inclusive German development cooperation?

An important milestone was the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) in 2006. It stipulates that the rights of persons with disabilities must be upheld by all member states and that their participation in political, social, cultural and economic life must be ensured. So far 182 states have ratified the UN CRPD. Germany did so in 2009. In 2013, BMZ adopted an Action Plan on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (BMZ-AP) to take account of Article 32 of the UN CRPD regarding inclusive design of development cooperation. A BMZ strategy on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation was adopted in 2019. The BMZ 2030 reform process, which makes inclusion an overarching quality criterion of our work, is also worth mentioning.

Another important milestone towards more inclusion in German development cooperation was the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development with its SDGs. In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the 2030 Agenda includes persons with disabilities in various goals, sub-goals and indicators. People with disabilities are addressed and explicitly mentioned in five of the 17 development goals, including the important areas of education and employment. Thus, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development addresses the provisions of the UN CRPD that persons with disabilities should not be left behind and should participate in development activities on an equal footing.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities is also being increasingly and more systematically incorporated into the strategies of bilateral and multilateral institutions. For example, in 2019 the UN adopted its United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UN-DIS). The World Bank Group published a Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework in 2018 to specifically advance disability mainstreaming in its activities. In addition, the International Development Association (IDA) has included disability inclusion as a cross-cutting theme in its 2019 replenishment round and will focus on these issues in IDA20 as well.

Have there also been major setback or failures along the way?

Inclusion is a process. We started down this path early but are still learning every day. People with disabilities have not always been able to benefit from German development cooperation projects in the past. This is reflected in the evaluation of the BMZ Action Plan that was conducted in 2016/17 by the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval). It clearly showed that there are still gaps in the mainstreaming of inclusion in the implementation of German development cooperation.

A lack of data also makes inclusive development cooperation more difficult, which is why we are now stepping up our efforts in this area. BMZ has also contributed to the OECD-DAC Secretariat's decision to voluntarily introduce a new marker on inclusion. We are currently looking into how we can introduce this marker as part of our reform process BMZ 2030.

From the outside, we often see mainly multilateral policy processes or large project plans in partner countries with references to inclusion. What does the day-to-day work actually look like when you want to put the inclusion of people with disabilities on the agenda of the German Federal Ministry for Cooperation and Development?

Our task is to draw up a basic concept for the Federal Republic of Germany's development cooperation, which also takes into account the implementation of democratic principles and human rights in the partner countries. Based on these principles, goals and measures are agreed upon in bilateral agreements with our partner countries.

The daily work of a Federal Ministry also includes participating in international networks and putting the issue of inclusion of persons with disabilities on the agenda of international institutions in cooperation with other actors. For example, BMZ is a member

A lack of data makes inclusive development cooperation more difficult, which is why efforts of German development policy need to be intensified in this area in accordance with requirements of the international community.

of the Steering Committee of GLAD network (Global Action on Disability), an international association of bilateral donors, international organisations, financially strong private foundations and international NGOs that actively promote the interests of people with disabilities in international cooperation.

We should not forget that people with disabilities should be involved in all relevant decision-making processes that affect them, in line with the overall motto Nothing About Us without Us. We are in very close contact with the self-advocacy organisations of people with disabilities and civil society organisations. For example, the BMZ Inclusion Strategy of 2019 was developed in close cooperation with civil society.

Last year, the BMZ adopted a new inclusion strategy. How can you briefly describe BMZ's strategic approach to inclusion?

The inclusion strategy defines the basic principles and guidelines for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation. This establishes the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a binding goal and a universal obligation for all policy areas, policy instruments and strategies of German governmental development cooperation and its partners. The active participation of experts with disabilities in the implementation of measures is also a firmly established practice.

Three strategic target dimensions provide a concrete framework for the implementation of the rights

of persons with disabilities: (1) German development cooperation institutions work inclusively, as defined by the UN CRPD, (2) German development cooperation institutions promote the implementation of the UN CRPD in their cooperation with partner countries, and (3) German development cooperation institutions are advocates for the strengthening and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in international policy dialogue.

An inclusive development policy that serves to respect, protect, promote, and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities is a binding goal of German development cooperation.

What makes the new strategy particularly strong?

In order to be inclusive at different levels and across sectors, German development cooperation follows a twin-track approach: firstly, inclusion is to be mainstreamed in all existing procedures and structures, and secondly, there are to be specific measures for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Consequently, people with disabilities will be included in all relevant goals, processes and measures of German development cooperation as part of an integrated process.

Where do you think it has weaknesses?

The formulation of specific implementation plans has been delayed due to the overlapping BMZ 2030 reform process and, of course, the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we are currently working at full speed on a joint quality criterion on human rights, gender and inclusion, which will also include statements on actual implementation in practice. It will incorporate the key points of the inclusion strategy and will create synergies with our approach to human rights and gender.

The practical implementation of the strategic goals must ultimately be carried out by the specialist and country units. What do your colleagues in the country units think of the new strategy?

The inclusion strategy has been very well received by the various departments and country units. The topic of inclusion of people with disabilities is now at the forefront of our efforts, as evidenced by the growing portfolio of projects in various countries and fields of action. But we still need to raise awareness of specific approaches. And the positive experience we are gaining in international development cooperation needs to be publicised more widely and incorporated into work at country level.

Which of the strategic goals are already being implemented in practice? What exactly does that look like?

Together with our partners and implementing organisations, we have made progress on implementation. We are increasingly working inclusively in the spirit of the UN CRPD, we are promoting the implementation of the UN CRPD in cooperation with numerous partner countries, and we are advocates for the strengthening and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in international policy dialogue.

New interventions are currently being planned, for example in the area of digital innovations for greater inclusion, inclusion of persons with disabilities in textiles supply chains, and accessible and inclusive financial services. Here, the focus in the projects with our partner governments is primarily on inclusive education, digital accessibility and employment promotion for people with disabilities. The work of incorporating regional inclusion strategies into reform processes in our partner countries is also well underway, for example with the African Union. Through Germany's active role in international processes, issues such as intersectionality and multiple discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, barrier-free and inclusive urban development, and other topics of inclusive development cooperation have also been brought into the international dialogue.

Where do you currently see the biggest gap?

Despite all the progress made in implementing the inclusion strategy and openness to the issue, we must continue to work on mainstreaming inclusion of persons with disabilities more within German development cooperation.

Where does German official development cooperation stand today in terms of the inclusion of persons with disabilities? What has changed specifically at BMZ?

By international comparison, German official development cooperation is, to my mind, in a good position with regard to the inclusion of people with disabilities. First of all, human rights, including the rights of people with disabilities, are a guiding principle of German development cooperation. In other words, here at ministerial level we see the inclusion of persons with disabilities as an essential element of a development process leading to a society in which all people have equal opportunity to develop their potential, realise their right to participation, contribute to the common good according to their individual abilities and enjoy social services on an equal footing.

The German government takes the provisions of the UN CRPD very seriously. And so German development cooperation has committed to an approach that takes into account human rights in their totality, indivisibility and universality, including the rights and principles contained in the UN CRPD.

What has been achieved by BMZ's partners at home and abroad?

The developmental sensitivity and technical expertise of the relevant actors in German development cooperation has improved considerably over recent years. Innovative methods and instruments are increasingly used by the individual departments of the Federal Ministry and the implementing organisations and in the projects. For example, both GIZ and KfW have safeguards in place to systematically identify, minimise and, where possible, eliminate risks to persons with disabilities in the implementation of projects. In addition, inclusion has been established as a cross-cutting issue in some core areas of bilateral cooperation, such as vocational training and economic development. Our portfolio has increased: currently more than 120 technical cooperation projects focusing on persons with disabilities are being implemented as part of development cooperation. The trend is rising.

What role does multilateral cooperation play?

Multilateral cooperation plays a very important role. The UN CRPD and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development have given strong impetus to greater inclusion in recent years, which is increasingly reflected in the engagement of international development organisations. For example, the UN conducted a system-wide evaluation of its portfolio regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the European Union published its Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2021-2030) in 2021.

The German government is actively strengthening this international momentum towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the context of multilateral cooperation and is visibly positioning itself in relevant networks as part of the global political dialogue.

What are the major tasks ahead in the next few years to make German development cooperation more inclusive?

We see the topic of digitisation as a major task, or rather opportunity, with regard to making German development cooperation even more inclusive in the coming years. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact

on persons with disabilities made this shockingly clear. We have to create more training and employment facilities for persons with disabilities. The trend toward more and more digitisation is increasing rapidly, especially in our partner countries. In this context, there is an increasing opportunity to make targeted use of digital technologies to empower people with disabilities. I see this as a major task, particularly in cooperation with the private sector, in order to facilitate sustainable local economic development and create inclusive jobs.

What exactly will the BMZ use to measure progress and success in the inclusion of people with disabilities in the future?

We are currently in the middle of this process and will also take into account the results and recommendations of the 2017 evaluation by DEval (German Development Cooperation Evaluation Institute).

What needs to happen for the inclusion of persons with disabilities to become an ongoing agenda item on the agenda of the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development?

The most important element is for inclusion of persons with disabilities to be mainstreamed in German development cooperation on a systematic basis. In my opinion, we are on the right track here. Once again, we are addressing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in German development cooperation in our new Inclusion Strategy and the BMZ 2030 reform process. However, inclusion should also be understood as a long-term process.

What would you like to read about the inclusion of people with disabilities in German development cooperation in the 1/2030 issue of the journal Disability and International Development?

First of all, I would like to see the following trends reflected: our efforts towards more inclusion of people with disabilities in German development cooperation and the fact that our project portfolio is continuing to grow.

Furthermore, I would like to read that German development cooperation - together with all other actors, especially the committed self-advocacy organisations of persons with disabilities and civil society - has done a good job on effectively advancing the issue of inclusion worldwide.

The African Union Disability Architecture (AUDA) – Reflections on a Project to Strengthen the Disability Policy Framework in Africa

Lars Wissenbach/Thomas Ongolo

The African Union Disability Architecture builds a continental framework for the implementation of the rights of people with disabilities in Africa. This article provides an insight into the project Sustaining the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through the African Union Disability Architecture (AUDA II). The project was commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFAF) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The implementation was realised by African Union Commission's Department of Social Affairs in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH from 2017 to 2019. The article outlines the framework and objectives of the project and attempts to assess what outcomes it has been able to achieve.

Background

The period of 1983 to 1992 was the first United Nations Decade of Persons with Disabilities, a period in which UN member states were expected to implement the World Programme of Action Concerning People with Disabilities (UN 1982). The programme had limited outreach and lacked adequate funding both by the UN and by governments of UN member states (UN 1987a; UN 1987b; Ars Vivendi n.d.). While the initiative scored some success in specific regions, there was limited impact on the African continent (ibid.). Realising the shortcomings of the Global Decade, the UN, international and African umbrella organisations of persons with disabilities strongly advocated for a regional decade on the African continent in the mid-1990s.

The Organisation of African Unity (replaced by the African Union in 2002) later declared the period from 1999 to 2009 as the first African Decade of Persons with Disabilities to develop an African approach and African solutions to the

challenges people with disabilities across the continent were facing at that time. Amongst others, the initiative aimed at poverty alleviation amongst persons with disabilities and their families, awareness raising, empowerment of persons with disabilities across the continent, promoting the implementation of the UN Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and setting disability on the social, economic and political agenda of African governments (Lord et al. 2010; UN n.d.; AU 2002). Following the UN adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2006, sixteen African states signed the Convention on the first day it opened for signature and many African States were among the first to ratify, a momentum which continued until the end of the first African Decade in 2009. In 2010, the AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development decided to call for a second African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019) and this time focusing on advocacy for the full

participation, equality, and empowerment of persons with disabilities in Africa (AU 2010).

Commitment to disability in the continent is reflected with 47 African countries being States' Parties to the CRPD (as of July 2021). The majority of African countries developed national disability policies or disability mainstreaming plans (Fernandez et al. 2017). However, many countries are struggling to put in place implementation and independent monitoring mechanisms and/or have an out-dated legal framework that is in discord with the CRPD, as documented by several States Parties reports and Alternative reports to the UN. In early 2013, a new framework for implementing the extended African Decade was endorsed by the African Union Executive Council, namely the African Union Disability Architecture (AUDA) (AU 2013). The AUDA framework is composed of (1) a legal component, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (Disability Protocol), officially adopted in 2018 and currently in its ratification process (ACHPR 2019), (2) a programmatic component, the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2010-2019 (AUC 2010) and (3) an institutional component, the African Union Disability Institute (AUDI), which is meant to play the role of specialised agency for advocacy, research and capacity building of member states regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, replacing the former African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI).

The Department of Social Affairs (DSA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) oversees the coordination of the AUDA framework. For the implementation of the Continental Plan of Action (CPoA) (2010-2019), the AUC-DSA has been supported by the Governments of Finland and Germany. The first project phase Finnish Support to Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa through the Operationalisation of African Union's Disability Architecture Programmatic Pillar and Related Capacity Building started in July 2013 and came to an end in June 2016. Subsequently, a second project phase titled Sustaining the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities through the African Union Disability Architecture (AUDA II) was commissioned by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFAF) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in early 2017.

The AUDA II Project – Objectives and Activities

The desired outcome of the AUDA II project was the creation of conducive conditions for more effective

disability mainstreaming throughout the different organs of the African Union Commission and the enhancement of disability mainstreaming in AU member states. In a long-term perspective, the project aimed to strengthen the realisation of the rights of people with disabilities within the AU Agenda 2063 process. The project had a volume of 1.5 million Euro for a period of 28 months (March 2017 to June 2019), provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFAF) and the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The technical implementation was coordinated by AUC-DSA in cooperation with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. For the implementation, the Department of Social Affairs was supported through an embedded expert (Thomas Ongolo). The work of the embedded expert and the DSA within the AUDA II project framework was further supported by a project manager and an office manager based at the GIZ AU Office at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and backed up by the Sector Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities at GIZ Head Office. The overall outcome was disaggregated into four results areas which are explored in more detail below.

Results Area 1: Development of a Future AUDA Programmatic Framework

As the current programmatic framework – the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2010-2019 (CPOA) – came to an end, the preparation and adoption of a successor framework was one of the core objectives of the project. In 2015, a mid-term evaluation on the state of implementation of the CPoA was conducted based on a questionnaire survey with all member states of the African Union in the first phase of the AUDA project. This survey was repeated during AUDA II in 2018, compiling the feedback of 33 out of 55 AU member states, to inform the development of a successor framework. The project further developed an assessment tool to collect perspectives of member states and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) on aspired objectives, strategic directions and needs with regard to the priorities of a new framework – the African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework. Feedback was collected through questionnaires to all AU Member States, continental and Sub-Regional OPDs through the African Disability Alliance (ADA) and the African Disability Forum (ADF) as well as five disability organisations (CBM, Light for The World, Sightsavers, Handicap International and Special Olympics). Face to face consultations were held with 35 member states officials and 20 leaders of continental,

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sub-regional and national OPDs at a project meeting in Dakar, Senegal in May 2018. In addition, 45 participants were consulted in a separate session at the AU High Level Dialogue on Disability in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organised by the project in July 2018, involving OPDs, academia, AU organs and AU member states. In 2018, the project further organised a study tour to the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) in Bangkok, Thailand, in order to learn about the coordination of the transition process of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012 to the current Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 as well as the development and implementation of the Incheon Strategy to Make the Right Real for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (see UN ESCAP 2012). After several validation loops with representatives of the AU, AU member states, OPDs and academia, the new African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework was finally adopted by the AU in 2019.

Results Area 2: Capacity Development in the AUC and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

The project implemented several activities to provide AUC, RECs, and member states officials with adequate skills on disability mainstreaming in their respective fields of competence. At AUC level, departments were asked to nominate focal points on

disability mainstreaming which were then trained and invited to regular learning and exchange sessions on awareness raising for disability-inclusion within the AUC. While establishing a systematic mainstreaming structure appeared challenging, the initiative led to fruitful cooperation with some departments. These included for example a cooperation with HR and the Youth Volunteer Programme, the facility and communication departments, on hiring people with disabilities, accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the workplace, or accessible communication. The facilities department was consulted on accessibility in the planning process of a new building at the AUC campus. Besides this, the presence of the project and the embedded expert with disability was regarded as having a considerable effect on the awareness of AUC staff when it comes to the relevance of mainstreaming disability into other programmes. This was for example demonstrated by a programme to end child marriage which included a focus on girls with disabilities in the 2nd African Girls Summit in November 2018 in Accra, Ghana and in all the subsequent events, or the participation and inclusion of experts with disabilities in the development of two policy documents: an AU Social Protection Protocol and the AU Social Agenda 2063.

A second objective under Results Area 2 was to enhance the capacities of RECs and AU members state officials on gender-responsive disability mainstreaming. Therefore, the project developed and implemented several training formats, reaching 315 persons throughout the project period, including a high level and wide scope of government officials. A Disability Mainstreaming Training for Member States held in Gaborone, Botswana in January 2019 for example included officials from 14 out of 17 national ministries, four representatives of the Office of the President, the national statistics agency, and representatives of 8 out of 16 district, city, and town councils. The trainings continued a series of continental disability training formats which started as part of AUDA I and were the first AU ones ever of their kind. The trainings were based on a very practical approach to guide participants in reflecting on their country-specific implementation scenario of the CPOA and CRPD and to draw concrete conclusions and develop measures to support these processes in their national working contexts. All trainings were strongly supported by external trainers from the African Disability Alliance (ADA), the African Disability Forum (ADF), Light for the World and UNDP which were part of a network of experts that cooperated closely with the project team.

In cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria, the project developed a Training Manual on Disability Mainstreaming for Senior Government Officials of the African Union Member States which built the basis for content-related design of the trainings and was also used as a Training-of-Trainers Handbook. The Manual was translated into French, Arabic and Portuguese and officially published by the University of Pretoria Press.

Results Area 3: Knowledge Exchange and Strategic Partnerships

Despite increasing networks in the disability field across Africa, key stakeholders still reported a lack of coordination in sharing learning and communication on disability across the continent, expecting the AU to take over the role as a principal legitimate agent for the coordination of the continental development process in the field of disability inclusion. At the same time, external and AUC stakeholders reported a lack of (personnel) resources within AUC-DSA to adequately fulfil this role. Against this background, expanding the network of the AUC-DSA with disability stakeholders both at the national, continental, and international level was another key strand of the AUDA II project.

Right from the start, the project team intensified the cooperation with key continental disability activists and managed to build up a network of committed cooperation partners that included, amongst others, the Africa Disability Alliance (ADA), the African Disability Forum (ADF), Light for the World, and UNDP. These stakeholders provided substantial support through participation and representation of persons with disabilities in all project areas. Two regional roundtables were held in Southern and West Africa in cooperation with the governments of Namibia and Senegal to share best practices on disability inclusion among AU member states and to validate the draft of the African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework.

In addition, as part of the project the AUC-DSA hosted the first African Union High-Level Dialogue on Disability in July 2018. Participants included ambassadors and representatives of 16 AU member states, leaders of OPDs and NGOs working at the continental level as well as international development agencies. The objective of the event was to promote disability mainstreaming in global and regional development cooperation and to discuss corner stones of the future African Disability Architecture. The event further contributed to the networking of key disability stakeholders in Africa and was perceived as an indicator for the African Union to position itself as the principal coordinator of the continental development process in the field of

disability. The High-Level Dialogue was further organised as a Satellite event to the 2018 Global Disability Summit to prepare and present the African voice at the Summit. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Mrs Amira Elfadil Mohammed Elfadil, participated in the London Summit. She made a strong call on the inclusion of people with disabilities in Africa and called upon AU member states to ratify the African Disability Protocol (see below).

Finally, through joint activities and publications, the project also established closer cooperation with and between Disability Councils in AU member states and established strategic exchange with development partners and their programmes as well as African academia in the field of disability.

Results Area 4: Ambassador States on Disability-Mainstreaming

In order to strengthen networks and activities on disability and inclusion at the regional and national levels, the project started a closer cooperation with two Implementing Member States that show strong commitment to implementing the Continental Plan of Action and the CRPD and serve as regional ambassadors for disability mainstreaming. The Republics of Namibia and Senegal were selected by AUC. The two countries then selected Botswana and Guinea respectively as their sister states or the implementation of measures under the African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework. The countries identified specific measures to be implemented with support of AUDA II and developed operational plans to guide these processes. This set-up was chosen to develop sustainable partnerships between more and less progressive countries with regard to disability mainstreaming to allow for peer-learning on disability inclusive policy development and implementation. The approach of regional twinings was regarded as a promising practice and recommended to be expanded to other regions by stakeholders involved. The format provided the AUC with opportunities to bridge the gap between the continental policy level and national implementation processes. It opened new opportunities to advocate for disability mainstreaming on the highest government levels and provided practical opportunities to jointly develop tailored implementation approaches for continental policies and legislation at the national level. In addition, the format opened further opportunities for the AUC to coordinate knowledge exchange and peer learning processes on disability inclusion across the continent. Apart from that, it also provided for high level sponsorship for advocacy activities of OPDs at the national level.

Cross-Cutting Result: Adoption and Ratification of the African Disability Protocol

The starting point for the development of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (African Disability Protocol) dates back to the first AU Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Africa in 2003, when delegates called upon member states to develop a Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly (AU 2003, para. 20). The drafting process of then two separated Protocols started in 2009. After several years of development, the AUC-DSA conducted a successful validation workshop on a draft African Disability Protocol in the interim phase of AUDA I and AUDA II in November 2017, which was supported by GIZ. While the AUDA projects had a clear focus on the programmatic pillar of the African Union Disability Architecture, it became evident that the development of the Disability Protocol, representing the legal pillar, was acquiring a new dynamic with a good probability to be adopted in a timely manner. Against this background, in the inception phase of AUDA II, the steering committee decided to support the adoption process as a cross cutting issue throughout all project activities.

This support included numerous consultations with member states officials to inform about the disability protocol process, as well as the coordination of expert meetings in preparation of the endorsement of the Protocol by the AU Specialised Technical Committee (STC) Meeting on Justice and Legal Affairs which opened the track to the final adoption by the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2018, much earlier than expected by most key stakeholders involved and the disability community. From the date of adoption onwards, the project team promoted the ratification during all official events and missions to member states and included the ratification as a key task for the cooperation with the Implementing Member States. In March 2018, the Pan African Parliament (PAP) embarked on the development of a Model Disability Law to address areas for uniformity and consistency across state borders following the adoption of the African Disability Protocol in January 2018. The AUDA II project enabled the start of the drafting process of the Model Disability Law through contacting legal drafters, resource persons and the AU Council on International Law, which led to initiation of the drafting process.

Analytical Reflections on Project Results

The further in-depth description of project results is based on the results of an appraisal mission on the project conducted in late 2018 as well as a proposal by the AUC-DSA to Finland and Germany for a potential new phase. It documents the achieved outcomes from the individual perspectives of the embedded expert to the AUDA II project (Thomas Ongolo) and the lead consultant of the appraisal mission (Lars Wissenbach) and therefore does not necessarily represent the views of all stakeholders involved in the project. The description is clustered along the DAC Principles for Evaluation of Development Assistance.

Without question, the project shows high relevance to priorities and policies on disability mainstreaming by supporting the development and implementation of the regional legislative (African Disability Protocol) and policy framework (African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework) and by addressing key requirements of the AUC with regard to resources and capacities for the coordination and implementation of the AUDA framework. Further, it appears well aligned with both the provision of the CRPD, particularly Article 32 on fostering inclusive international cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the AU Agenda 2063 as well as Finnish and German development approaches on disability mainstreaming and human rights.

Effectiveness of the project is first demonstrated by the achievement of agreed objectives in all four results areas. At the level of outputs, these are e.g. the adoption of the new African Union Disability Strategic Policy Framework, a successful series of training formats which included high level government officials with planning responsibilities and decision-making powers, the development of multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships around the AUC-DSA, the setting-up of the regional twinning-approach for peer-learning of member states and the adoption of the African Disability Protocol, to which the project activities made a noteworthy contribution. Further uptake of disability inclusion has since been seen with AU organs like the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) establishing a working group on children with disabilities to oversee their specific rights issues.

However, not all objectives could be reached to the aspired quantity and quality. While the CPOA evaluation report (results area 1) provided a laudable overview on activities on disability mainstreaming, it did not allow for a comprehensive assessment of its implementation across the continent. The report

remained silent on the implementation structures and processes of the CPOA between the AU and the member states and it remained unclear how and to which extent the CPOA had guided national developments in disability-related areas. The institutionalisation of a focal point structure in the AUC (results area 2) failed largely despite some promising initiatives, and maybe an evidence approach would have been a better option. A stronger cooperation of AUC with the Regional Economic Communities (results area 3) could only be realised to a very limited extent towards the end of the project. The implementation of the regional twinning approach (results area 4) required enormous (time) resources in preparation and could only be started within the project period, with promising follow-up unfulfilled. Overall, the magnitude of project activities in relation to the available human resources and limited project period probably resulted in the fact that not all activities could be carried out in such a way as to achieve the intended effects. Nevertheless, the project achieved most of its set objectives.

The efficiency of the AUDA II project could not be systematically and comprehensively assessed by the appraisal team. A financial audit was carried out by PWC at a later date. The appraisal team, however, found a couple of examples of efficient coordination and utilisation of synergies across the results areas and existing networks and structures of the organisations involved. Moreover, the use of valuable resources in the project's professional environment e.g. through cooperation with disability activists or other projects raised the general efficiency of the implementation process throughout the four results areas.

The project was able to create impact through sustainable structures which were put in place by or with support of the project. These particularly include the African Disability Protocol, the Model Disability Law and the AU Disability Strategic Policy Framework which influence the continental framework for disability mainstreaming in Africa in a mid- and long-term perspective. Another dimension on which the project created impact is its contribution to the enhancement of cross-continental disability networks participating in and influencing policies. The project could enhance access of OPDs to policy dialogues and decision-making processes at both AU and national level. However, a longer-term impact will also depend on the extent to which the AUC and partners will find resources in the future to maintain and sustainably facilitate their participation and expand these networks' representation. This in turn has a decisive impact on future possibilities of promoting and implementing the above

legislative and policy instruments.

When looking at project processes and results, we can address sustainability dimensions of time (likelihood to be continued after the end of the current project phase), scope (likelihood of wide adoption through target groups), system orientation (changes of structures and performance processes) and innovation (innovativeness of approaches). Supported by the project, the AUC was able to set crucial pre-conditions for sustainable disability mainstreaming in Africa like e.g. the adoption of the African Disability Protocol in January 2018, the current process on the Model Disability Law, or the drafting of a new AU Disability Strategic Policy Framework. At the same time, however, it should be noted that the process of signing and ratifying the Protocol has been slow to get underway after the end of the project. So far, nine countries have signed the Protocol (AU 2020) with one ratification, Mali being the first (as of May 2021, information from AUC-DSA). The four Implementing Member States of the AUDA II project have not yet signed the protocol. The approach of Implementing Member States Twinning is regarded as innovative and effective among key stakeholders and can be scaled up to further AU member states. The quality and quantity of sustainable impact of these structures and processes, however, depends on numerous factors linked to their implementation which is currently no longer accompanied by this support framework.

Conclusion

The project has undoubtedly made a significant contribution to enhancing favourable conditions for disability mainstreaming in Africa and has thus achieved the overall project objective. The project was successful in expanding the outreach and network of the AUC-DSA with disability stakeholders both at the national, continental, and international levels. It further supported the AUC-DSA to take over the coordination role of the African Disability Architecture more strongly. While important legal frameworks and policy objectives have been put in place, it remains unclear in what quality and quantity the promotion and coordination of corresponding measures by the AUC will proceed in the future.

Initiatives with a transformative character such as AUDA usually require time and continuity in personnel, networks, and communication processes, which a project framework that is strongly limited in time and dependent on short-term effects can only offer to a limited extent. The AUDA projects started this journey, but newly created relationships, networks and

processes need further nurturing and support beyond the project framework to remain effective. While the project increased the resources of the AUC-DSA enormously in the short term, it remains unclear to what extent the project advocacy had impact in its call for a stronger resource base for disability issues within the AUC. This will undoubtedly be an important factor in the successful coordination and subsequent medium to long-term impact of the African Union Disability Architecture in improving the lives of people with disabilities across the continent.

Regrettably, the absence of a new cooperation phase might impact the inspiration set for AUC to be an example in leading the regional disability inclusion agenda. The investment made on inclusive change is likely to skip momentum, with member states expecting scaling up, and a technical support from AUC which may not be able to adequately respond to follow-up their expanded roles. Also, people with disabilities had positioned themselves as strategic facilitators in operationalising the strategic frameworks. Therefore, the gap is also likely to be an opportunity loss in systematising cooperation with organisations of and for persons with disabilities at regional, sub-regional and national levels.

At AUC level, respective action would have to include an appropriate increase in staff capacity to effectively coordinate the implementation of the disability agenda within the AUC, continentally, regionally and at member state level. Moreover, as the disability-related legislative, policy and strategy environment is evolving across the continent, the integration of a human rights-based approach to disability could be more systematically backed by coordinated capacity development and knowledge sharing initiatives at AUC, RECs, and member state level as part of the AUDA framework. This could be actualised by building on innovative approaches such as supporting a sustainable AUC learning and development directorate to adapt disability inclusion modules in its trainings or producing a compilation of good practices on the implementation with policy examples. Further, RECs could be strengthened to take up an active coordination and development role on regional cooperation and peer learning on disability mainstreaming to accelerate implementation. Finally, as the above findings suggest, the ratification process for the Disability Protocol requires active advocacy by the OPDs and AUC at member state level in order for the African Disability Protocol to enter into force in the foreseeable future.

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Zusammenfassung

Die *African Union Disability Architecture* bildet einen kontinentalen Rahmen für die Umsetzung der Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Afrika. Dieser Artikel gibt einen Einblick in das Projekt Förderung der Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen durch die *African Union Disability Architecture* (AUDA II). Das Projekt wurde vom finnischen Außenministerium (MFAF) und dem deutschen Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) in Auftrag gegeben. Die Umsetzung erfolgte durch die Abteilung für soziale Angelegenheiten der Kommission der Afrikanischen Union in Zusammenarbeit mit der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH von 2017 bis 2019. Der Artikel skizziert den Rahmen und die Ziele des Projekts und versucht zu bewerten, welche Ergebnisse es erzielen konnte.

Résumé

Le projet *African Union Disability Architecture* crée un cadre continental pour la mise en œuvre des droits des personnes handicapées en Afrique. Le présent article donne un aperçu du projet Soutenir l'inclusion des personnes handicapées par l'Architecture du Handicap de l'Union Africaine (AUDAI). Le projet a été commandé par le Ministère des affaires étrangères de la Finlande (MFAF) et le Ministère fédéral allemand de la coopération économique et du développement (BMZ). La mise en œuvre a été réalisée par le Département des

affaires sociales de la Commission de l'Union africaine en coopération avec Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH de 2017 à 2019. L'article expose le cadre et les objectifs du projet et cherche à évaluer les résultats obtenus.

Resumen

La Arquitectura de la Discapacidad de la Unión Africana construye un marco continental para la aplicación de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en África. Este artículo ofrece una visión del proyecto Mantener la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad a través de la Arquitectura de la Unión Africana para la Discapacidad (AUDA II). El proyecto fue encargado por el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Finlandia (MFAF) y el Ministerio Federal de Cooperación Económica y Desarrollo de Alemania (BMZ). La implementación fue realizada por el Departamento de Asuntos Sociales de la Comisión de la Unión Africana en cooperación con la Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH de 2017 a 2019. El artículo esboza el marco y los objetivos del proyecto e intenta evaluar los resultados que ha podido alcanzar.

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Living Inclusion: Organisations of Persons with Disabilities as Change Agents for an Inclusive Development Cooperation

Helle Deertz/Johannes Ludwig

With the ratification of the UN CRPD in 2009, Germany committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its international development cooperation. Global Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (GP Inclusion) focuses on empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities to overcome social barriers and stigmatisation. The most efficient way to change attitudes is to let persons with disabilities share their personal experiences. This article shows how the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) involves Organisations of Persons with Disabilities as experts of change to anchor disability inclusion in development cooperation projects.

Nothing About Us without Us is a prominent slogan connected to global movements of the late 1970s to achieve the full participation of persons with disabilities (Kastl 2017). The Disability Rights Movements introduced a new paradigm shift from charitable or medical approaches to a rights-based approach to disability. This paradigm emphasises their right to enjoy life on an equal basis with others. Till today it remains a challenge to fully achieve this aim.

Understanding Disability

[...] „disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others” (UN 2006: Preamble Nr. 5).

According to the World Disability Report (WHO 2011), about 15 percent of the world’s population have some form of disability, of which an estimated 80

percent live in low and middle-income countries. Many persons with disabilities experience exclusion and discrimination in everyday life and face difficulties in accessing basic services, education, and vocational skills development. Their rightful participation in society and access to education, health, social security, and employment is significantly impeded.

Crises like the Covid-19 pandemic have reinforced discrimination and inequality and made the slogan Nothing About Us without Us even more relevant. Because without the participation of people with disabilities in decision-making processes, a large part of the world’s population remains unheard, which jeopardises a sustainable global future. For German Development Cooperation the active involvement of persons with disabilities through representative organisations for persons with disabilities (OPDs) is key-way to realise the rights-based approach to disability. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) attaches great importance to the issue

of inclusion of persons with disabilities both within the company and in its development activities for the German Government. A project within GIZ called Global Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (GP Inclusion) advises the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on disability inclusion and implements activities for an inclusive world together with governments, the private sector, and the civil society.

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are representative organisations or groups of persons with disabilities and they are considered as legitimised interest groups of their members. OPDs can be single disability organisations (i.e., formed of members with a single type of impairment) or cross-disability organisations (i.e., formed of individuals with different types of impairments). They work in various fields of action like:

- a) to force the rights of persons with disabilities and to progress the lobbying.
- b) to inform the public about the interests of persons with disabilities.
- c) to make sure that the government and other relevant organisations promote the rights of persons with disabilities
- d) being an expert and give advice to other institutions concerning disability-inclusion
- e) to implement their own development projects and to offer services to persons with disabilities.

The *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* is a global service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, with 22,199 employees. GIZ has over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment, energy and the environment, and peace and security. Our business volume is around 3.1 billion euros. As a public-benefit federal enterprise, GIZ supports the German Government – in particular the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) – and many public and private sector clients in around 120 countries in achieving their objectives in international cooperation. With this aim, GIZ works together with its partners to develop effective solutions that offer people better prospects and improve their living conditions sustainably.

The purpose of this article is to show how GP Inclusion, together with OPDs, raises awareness of disability

inclusion within their own responsibilities, thus contributing to mainstreaming disability in German development cooperation. The first step is to show the international legal framework on which the work of the GP Inclusion is based. Then, two cases from Jordan and Guinea are used to illustrate how actors within GIZ were sensitised to the issue of inclusion of persons with disabilities with the help of OPDs.

International Framework

The work of GP Inclusion is based on the Agenda 2030 and on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities (UNCRPD). In 2012, the UN General Assembly recognised the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a major challenge of transforming today's society. The Agenda 2030 with its principle Leave No One Behind offers an unprecedented opportunity of related change for persons with disabilities. Unlike its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals, the Agenda 2030 explicitly include and reference persons with disabilities in various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Until now a total number of 182 countries have ratified the UNCRPD which came into force in 2008. This Convention marks the paradigm shift from a charitable or medical approach of disability to one that is firmly rooted in human rights equality and empowerment. It recognises the importance of international cooperation. Article 32 requires State Parties to ensure that international development programming is inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities. Among the most important principles arising from the UNCRPD is that persons with disabilities and their self-advocacy organisations are to be consulted from now on in all matters that affect their lives. The motto Nothing About Us without Us is reflected throughout the Convention and places a clear emphasis on the requirement that persons with disabilities be involved in all processes of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Thus, persons with disabilities in all their diversity are no longer viewed solely as objects in need of assistance, but as political subjects with rights entitling them to participate on an equal footing.

Inclusion in German Development Cooperation

With the ratification of the UNCRPD in 2009, Germany committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in its international development cooperation. The German development policy pursues the cross-sectoral goal of ensuring “a systematic, cross-cutting anchoring of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in

*For German Development
Cooperation the active involvement
of persons with disabilities through
representative organisations for
persons with disabilities (OPDs) is
keyway to realise the rights-based
approach to disability.*

German development cooperation” (BMZ 2019: 3). To ensure this, the BMZ adopted a cross-sectoral strategy paper in December 2019 (BMZ 2019). This strategy was developed in close cooperation with civil society and self-advocacy organisations. Three strategic target dimensions provide a concrete framework for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities: (1) German development institutions work inclusively in the sense of the UNCRPD, (2) German development institutions promote the implementation of the UNCRPD in their cooperation with partner countries, and (3) German development institutions are promoters for the strengthening and implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities in international policy dialogue. An inclusive development policy that serves to respect, protect, promote, and guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities and their empowerment is a binding goal of the BMZ.

In order to be inclusive at different levels and across different thematic areas, BMZ and its implementing agencies such as GIZ follow a twin-track approach: (1) embedding disability inclusion in all existing procedures and structures, and (2) specific measures for the empowerment of persons with disabilities. Consequently, persons with disabilities shall be included in an integrated process in all relevant BMZ goals, processes and measures, organisations representing them shall be supported.

GP Inclusion focuses on empowerment and participation of persons with disabilities to overcome social barriers and stigmatisation. The most efficient way to change attitudes is to let persons with disabilities share their personal experiences. Persons with disabilities can be change agents to provide their expert

advice to actors in the field of development cooperation. In this way, the portfolio of German development cooperation can develop positively in the sense of a stronger consideration of persons with disabilities and their self-advocacy organisations. The added value for GIZ lies in the practical use of the specialised knowledge and experience of self-advocates, a greater proximity to the target group of persons with disabilities, while at the same time strengthening the capacity of GIZ staffs in country offices and projects, who advise their partners in the sustainable anchoring of inclusive approaches, takes place. This approach was successfully implemented in Jordan and Guinea and shall now to be scaled up in other countries.

OPD Advises GIZ in Jordan

GP Inclusion started to apply the OPD approach in Jordan in 2019. The aim was to promote the topic of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of GIZ country office in Jordan and to inform about the role of OPDs. Hereby local OPDs were promoted as carriers of knowledge for the mainstreaming of the inclusion of persons with disabilities within GIZ projects in Jordan. The approach is a basis for promoting OPD approaches within GIZ country portfolios.

GIZ in Jordan implements projects on behalf of BMZ, the Swiss Agency of Development and Cooperation, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the European Union in the fields of education, vocational training, employment, strengthening women in decision-making, public urban spaces, water-over-conflict, and sport for development. In this activity GP Inclusion worked together with the German international NGO Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) and the national umbrella OPD I Am Human, who had worked with CBM on various projects before. CBM is committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities. They address poverty both as a cause and a consequence of disability, and they work in partnership with local and national civil society organisations to promote an inclusive society for all. They are strongly based in Jordan and established the connection to I Am Human. I Am Human is a national umbrella OPD concerned with all types of impairments. They are experts in doing awareness raising. The chairperson is a member of the Higher Council of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), a government institution supporting OPDs. The HCD is situated in the Prime Minister’s Office.

The *Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities in Jordan (HCD)* is working to support the shift in the traditional role of OPDs in Jordan from service providers into organisations fulfilling their expected role under the Convention of Rights for Persons with Disabilities. HCD is empowering OPDs through promoting their participation in decision-making, the Board of Directors of the HCD includes representatives of OPDs. In addition, HCD is involved in building capacity of newly formed OPD. Two assessment tools are being introduced to ensure that those organisations who wish to be considered as OPD fulfil minimum standards in terms of governance, organisational capacity, membership and general assembly, management, and accountability.

The awareness raising activities of CBM and I Am Human for GIZ in Jordan started with a kick-off workshop in Amman. GIZ staffs from all GIZ projects of the different mentioned thematic fields as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour participated.

The workshop dealt with the legal frameworks of the human-rights-based approach to inclusive development cooperation. To enhance the understanding of disability the OPD members reported about the various barriers they face in daily situations of their lives. They got to know possibilities how to overcome them and clarified the impact barriers may have on persons with disabilities and their families. Furthermore, OPDs explained the situation of persons with disabilities in Jordan and mentioned the importance of disability data.

Based on the input of I Am Human and CBM all participants discussed in multiple sessions how inclusion can be implemented in the activities of GIZ in Jordan and how OPDs can be involved in the development processes and activities. In the preparation with GIZ in Jordan all participating organisations agreed to work on inclusive education as the focus together with vocational training and employment.

Subsequently, in this workshop OPD experts shared their experiences regarding education and employment. The barriers were clustered according to the four categories physical, attitudinal, information/communication and institutional.

The participants developed a detailed system-mapping of the inclusive education system in Jordan and the employment sector. The results were used as a foundation of inclusive strategies on education and employment in Jordan. Since participants were eager to learn more about inclusive education in Jordan,

a mapping about current running GIZ programmes was done. For example, the participants have been informed about an initiative from the Ministry of Social Welfare on inclusive education where 50 pilot schools were selected to be reconstructed into accessible schools. Additionally, talks about concrete measures of disability inclusion were held with team members of the programmes.

In the end the participants (GIZ staffs and the state partners) agreed to foster inclusion of persons with disabilities in their education programmes. Therefore, they will work on reducing identified barriers which hinder the participation of this target group and establish different activities which are inclusive. Furthermore, this activity with CBM made an important contribution to the implementation process of the new GIZ project Promoting Quality in Inclusive Education in Jordan (PROMISE). The workshops of CBM and I Am Human contributed to the fact that I Am Human has built up a strong cooperation within this GIZ project. Thus, the involvement and importance of Jordanian OPD's have got a significant role for the GIZ projects in general.

OPD Advises GIZ in Guinea

GP Inclusion launched a similar activity with CBM for the GIZ country-office in Guinea. GIZ Guinea's programmes focus mainly on social development like reproductive and family health and basic education. Prior to the workshops, the inclusion of persons with disabilities was only a marginal topic. Like in Jordan, CBMs role was to act in an advising and coordinating function between GIZ and the national OPD. In this case the OPD partner was the Fédération Guinéenne Pour La Promotion Des Associations De/Pour Personnes Handicapées (FEGUIPAH). This is an umbrella organisation which includes more than 64 OPDs. Similar to the activity in Jordan the first joint activity in Guinea was a kick-off workshop in the beginning of 2019 followed by advisory sessions for the development of action plans. This plan should define the entry points for disability inclusion in existing programme activities of GIZ in Guinea. In addition, OPD advised GIZ country staffs in a one-day workshop on how to make their buildings and workplaces inclusive for people with disabilities.

In the kick-off workshop, OPDs provided knowledge on the international legal frameworks towards inclusion for GIZ staffs in Guinea and two representatives of the Ministry of Social Welfare. Next to the introduction of the UNCRPD and its definition of disability, the inclusive focus of the Agenda 2030 with its sustainable

development goals were presented in relation to the inclusive-development principles. They also provided training on sensitive language and the right attitude towards persons with disabilities. To enhance the understanding of disability, the OPD members reported about the various barriers they face in daily lives.

The goal of the subsequent consultative sessions was to find entry points to mainstream inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Basic Education Programme and Reproductive and Family Health Programme and in the administration sector of GIZ Guinea. Finally, the GIZ team agreed that they want to mainstream inclusive education in every aspect of GIZ's interventions with the Guinean government. After the last workshop they designate individuals on the team who are more engaged with the issue of inclusion of persons with disabilities. This applies especially for the part of the team which advises the government and other stakeholders concerning strategic issues. Against this background, a joint session which brought together the education team of GIZ Guinea was organised. As a result, disability inclusion was identified as a priority theme in educational programmes. The work areas of the GIZ employees working in the different programmes in Guinea were adjusted for this purpose and the objective of anchoring inclusion in the programmes was defined. One concrete outcome was that Reproductive and Family Health Programme has hired three persons with disabilities for an internship in their different regional offices concerning administrative tasks. By now the educational programme in Guinea have several inclusion focal points in order to strengthen the topic of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Conclusion

The direct exchange between OPDs, NGOs like CBM and development agencies such as GIZ has sensitised the employees and has led to a more inclusive exposure of their programmes. The workshops raised the participants knowledge, confidence, and willingness to deal with disability. The mentioned activities in Jordan and Guinea show how important the participation of OPDs as experts and potential change agents is, underlining the mottos Nothing About Us without Us and Leave No One Behind. OPDs have been able to raise the awareness of employees that disabilities are mainly caused by social barriers.

Since the UNCRPD was adopted, actors working in development cooperation recognise the importance of mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, many development actors do not have direct interaction with persons with disabilities.

So, there is still a long way to go before the concerns of people with disabilities are systematically considered in every project. Therefore, it is important to involve persons with disabilities represented by OPDs as experts.

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Zusammenfassung

Mit der Ratifizierung der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention im Jahr 2009 hat sich Deutschland zur Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit verpflichtet. *Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit fördern (GP Inclusion)* setzt auf Empowerment und Partizipation von Menschen mit Behinderungen, um soziale Barrieren und Stigmatisierung zu überwinden. Der wirksamste Weg, Einstellungen zu verändern, ist, Menschen mit Behinderungen über ihre persönlichen Erfahrungen berichten zu lassen. Dieser Artikel zeigt, wie die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen als Experten für Veränderungen einbezieht, um die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Projekten der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit zu verankern.

Résumé

Avec la ratification de la CPDH de l'ONU en 2002, l'Allemagne s'est engagée à inclure les personnes handicapées dans sa coopération au développement internationale. GP Inclusion met l'accent sur l'autonomisation et la participation des personnes handicapées afin de surmonter les barrières sociales et la stigmatisation. Permettre aux personnes handicapées de partager leurs expériences personnelles est la manière la plus efficace de changer les attitudes. Le présent article montre comment la GIZ implique les organisations de personnes handicapées comme experts de changement pour ancrer l'inclusion du handicap dans les projets de coopération au développement.

Resumen

Con la ratificación de la CDPD de la ONU en 2009, Alemania se comprometió a incluir a las personas con discapacidad en su cooperación internacional al desarrollo, la inclusión se centra en el empoderamiento y la participación de estas personas para superar las barreras sociales y la estigmatización. La forma más eficaz de cambiar las actitudes es dejar que ellas compartan sus experiencias personales. Este artículo muestra cómo la GIZ involucra a las Organ-

izaciones de Personas con Discapacidad como expertos del cambio para afianzar la inclusión de la discapacidad en los proyectos de cooperación al desarrollo.

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Putting Theory into Practice: Searching for Inclusive Methodological Approaches – Actual Experiences from the German Technical Cooperation

Alexander Hobinka

International development cooperation faces significant challenges when it comes to elaborating participative and empowering approaches to address specific needs of persons with disabilities. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), as implementing organisation of the German Government, currently develops tools and instruments to increase the quality of inclusion in project management and in technical advisory within their partner countries. This article discusses how GIZ is conceptualising findings from the field and translating them into inclusive project management. Further, the article sets out the importance to bundle different perspectives and expertise from both sides - governmental and non-governmental actors - together. Two promising approaches are presented in more detail: First, the development of a toolbox to strengthen the participation of persons with disabilities and their specific needs in the context of GIZ project management. And secondly, the Disability Management Information System (DMIS) in Rwanda to improve the collection of disaggregated data and to lay the foundation for a targeted and transparent system for disability-related services.

Public and private institutions of international cooperation are still facing significant challenges when it comes to elaborating and implementing effective approaches to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities in programmes of various sectors (such as governance, Technical Education & Vocational Training (TVET)/employment promotion, forced displacement, urban and municipal development, health, social protection etc.). At the same time, there are promising experiences from the field and a creative source of practicable and context-specific approaches, which help to support project planners and implementers of development agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) and their partners in their daily work.

In particular, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in its function as one of the principals implementing organisation for technical cooperation of the German Government,

is developing tools and instruments for a more inclusive and impact-oriented programme management. One of a key challenge, they are confronted with, is to find more evidence-based, targeted, and differentiated approaches to reach persons with disabilities (and their representing organisations) as beneficiaries and as actors/experts within different intervention areas.

Recent examples on how GIZ is conceptualising findings from the field and translating them into concrete processes of new instruments for inclusive project management, shows the importance to bundle different perspectives and expertise from both sides - governmental and non-governmental actors - together.

Example 1: Toolbox for Disability-Inclusive Participation¹ in Project Management

While successful examples of empowerment and inclusion of persons with

disabilities already exist in different programmes of German Development Cooperation (GDC), the participation of persons with disabilities has not yet been systematically and sector-wide anchored within the GIZ portfolio (see also the article about promising examples in the article from H. Deertz/C. Friedl in this edition). Based on an initiative by the Global Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (GP Inclusion) GIZ together with the German international NGO Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) and the sectorial and planning department of GIZ (FMB) has therefore set out to develop practical guidance on how participation can be anchored more systematically. To structure this process in a broader sense, the toolbox is intended to provide project planners and implementers with concrete orientation and practical advice on how the participation of marginalised groups, not only people with disabilities, can be improved in GDC.

Background

A qualitative study was conducted to analyse the needs and potentials for greater participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in the context of technical cooperation by GIZ and CBM Germany (November and December 2020). Selected GIZ staff members and self-advocates from Germany and abroad were interviewed for the study.

Key findings of the study are the following:

- Representatives of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) were rarely consulted by existing projects in the external structure or involved in project planning - or implementation.
- There is a lack of a comprehensive approach to a more systematic participation of OPDs in GIZ project work (participation and consultation takes place based on initiatives of individually *convinced* OPDs and/or GIZ staff).
- A basic need for awareness-raising measures on the part of GIZ staff has been identified (there is a lack of basic knowledge about inclusion and exclusion dynamics and the empowerment of OPDs).
- OPDs are potential knowledge carriers and mediators who could take on such a role within GIZ in the future.
- In this context, respondents underlined a strong need for practice-oriented approaches and methodologies that would foster a contribution to more implementation knowledge (and that would be answered by the toolbox to be developed).

Strategic Options for a Demand Driven Toolbox

Considering the results of the study and importance to elaborate methods and instruments with a high utility and context specific orientation, the core team

identified three potential strategic references to increase the demand of the Toolbox within GIZ and their partners in the future.

In the perspective of the project team, three selected reference processes lend themselves particularly well to a strategic location and linkage of the toolbox development:

- Quality feature 1 Human Rights, Gender, Inclusion (BMZ Agenda):

In the view of the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), the so-called Quality Feature 1 is characterised to be more binding in the consideration of the three cross-cutting issues of human rights, gender, and inclusion in the project work of implementing organisations within the framework of the reform process of BMZ. Therefore, the toolbox can make an important contribution in this regard, providing planners and project staff in the external structure with practical methods to increase the participation of people with disabilities and thus meet the requirements of the quality feature in the respective projects. It can be assumed that the need for support services in the area of technical and methodological advice in the field of inclusion will increase on the part of the projects and that there will be a demand for such a toolbox.

- Participation portfolio of GIZ (projects relevant to participation):

There are currently several ongoing and emerging projects (in the sectors of governance, urban development, infrastructure, water etc.) that have already implemented participatory approaches with different population groups. Here, possible synergies and conceptual gaps should be examined in order to offer the inclusion toolbox and make it usable. It is precisely through the significant number of participation-relevant projects that the topic of inclusion (especially in the context of participation rights and practices) could be anchored and would thus have a positive impact on the bilateral portfolio.

- LNOB mainstreaming approach of GIZ

As part of a cross-cutting process, a mainstreaming tool (Tree4 Option) has been developed with the aim of systematically anchoring the guiding principle of LNOB (Leaving No One Behind) in GIZ's programme work. A more specific toolbox with a focus on inclusion would build a bridge to this company-wide approach and thus reach an even larger community. The involvement of the sector-wide LNOB-team of GIZ in the process is crucial in order to exchange experiences in method development

Public and private institutions of international cooperation are still facing significant challenges, when it comes to elaborating and implementing effective approaches to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities in programmes of various sectors [...].

and to benefit from an already existing institutional visibility in the company.

Prioritising the Project Practitioners' Perspective

During the first discussions about the question on how the Toolbox could respond effectively to the needs of the different project staff and partner institutions, it became obvious that there are barriers and certain resistances of programme managers due to an overload of obliging management tasks and additional requirements with regard to mainstream policies (such as gender, inclusion, LNOB). Therefore, it was important to consider these difficulties, such as limited time availability for additional tasks and project management procedures and regulations, limited capacities to build up additional know how for inclusive approaches among the project staff and even missing awareness and expertise on disability assessment/empowerment tools and how to target persons with disabilities more effectively. Furthermore, in most of those GIZ programmes, which focus on participatory approaches, representatives of OPDs are not being consulted or actively involved in relevant activities.

The working context of project planners and implementers is decided to be the conceptional framework, in which the Toolbox will be embedded and respond realistically to the supporting needs of this prioritised user group. Key questions in the ongoing preparation phase of the Toolbox are the following:

- How do the selected tools and instruments respond effectively to needs and contexts of project planners and implementers?
- What are realistic approaches to strengthen the participation of OPDs and/or inclusion mainstreaming in an ongoing project (particularly, if OPDs do not

exist or are institutionally weak)?

- Where do entry points for inclusive approaches exist (for mainstreaming as well as for specific support measures)? Where can inclusion be complemented within existing mainstreaming processes (e.g. gender)?
- What is the existing national (and international) legal framework, which helps the GIZ management to convince the partner institution?
- What could the interested programme learn from good practices in the GIZ in which cooperation with OPDs in projects has been successful?

Finally, during the conceptualisation of the elaboration process, it became clear to continuously clarify the specific needs of the user groups as well as the expectations of the commissioning ministry BMZ and the collaboration partner CBM Germany during the elaboration of the actual toolbox.

Conceptual Framework on Methodology and Structure

After vivid and constructive discussions between different sectorial unities within GIZ (FMB/GLOBE) and the collaboration partner CBM Germany, all different members of the core development team were aware about the need for a strong user orientation, i.e., thinking from the user's/reader's point of view. A balance between obvious or general instructions for action and (where necessary) specific, in-depth explanations was recommended. Rather concrete, hands-on instructions for immediate interventions at the different stage of the project cycle instead over-theorised and time-consuming orientation were recommended. As an innovative and practitioner-oriented toolbox, the design will be currently based on two different user journeys, which will be divided along two strands: First journey of a project planner and a second journey of a consultant in the implementation phase.

The concept considers from the beginning the existence of different sectors with different challenges and specific requests. When it comes to an appropriate sector-specific design of useful tools, it is important to keep the approaches rather lean, without overloading the content with specialised sectorial knowledge. For example, if a project planner of an urban development programme reads ten principles for better participation of OPDs in for instance youth parliaments, participatory budgeting processes or inclusive employment approaches, the person will lose interest; therefore, through design cues, it is recommended to present more transferable, cross-sector approaches and action steps so that colleagues from as many sectors as possible feel addressed.

The use of existing approaches for inclusive development within GIZ, are helpful to learn more about and interlink potential formats of promising methods. Particularly the already applied LNOB Tree4Options is helpful in that sense. It uses a clickable decision tree with short, concise information, examples, and further links with the overall objective to mainstream LNOB policies in all interested different sectorial programmes of GIZ. In this regard, a close collaboration has already started to learn from the elaboration of this tool and to integrate, especially the virtual and flexible format, which allows the user to start from the point where the person is currently located along the project cycle – without clicking through each of the module (e.g., rather playful, short learning units). Finally, to guarantee a continuous capacity development, a learning opportunity on how to use and apply the up-coming Toolbox for planners at head quarter level and project staff in partner countries will play a key role in increasing competencies and awareness on inclusive and participatory project management.

What Comes Next! Collaboration and Participatory Elaboration

The further development process of the tool will be designed in strong collaboration with different strategically important entities of GIZ and CBM as an international NGO with a deep expertise in inclusion and the empowerment of OPDs. This is a preliminary recommendation and idea and that is currently being further differentiated with relevant stakeholders. While content-related aspects, based on the study (November to December 2020) as well as the workshop (January 2021), are already well differentiated, it is recommended to use specific methods of design thinking in order to develop a suitable format for knowledge transfer together with the target groups. In this context, design thinking is based on the assumption that problems can be solved better if people from different disciplines (with different perspectives and different know-how) work together in an environment that promotes creativity, develop a question together, take people's needs and motivations into account, and then develop concepts to solve identified problems.

Potential cornerstones of the further Toolbox development process are the following:

- The development of the toolbox is an iterative process using selected design thinking methods (e.g., prototyping of solutions, use of existing processes, such as the GIZ-LNOB tool Tree4Option). Therefore, the core team applies selected design thinking methods involving different groups to prototype the format of the tool. These groups involve selected GIZ

staff, experts from CBM Germany and representatives of OPDs to broaden the different perspectives and experiences along the whole process. During the development of the LNOB Tree4Options, good experiences were made with the design thinking format. This ensures a high degree of user orientation and provides space for innovative ideas.

- A participatory process design needs to involve CBM and different target groups (such as one group of technical planners of GIZ - optionally involving other relevant departments - and a second one of national and international consultants from development co-operation projects).

Conceptual and moderated support as well as the creation of the tool by an externally commissioned consulting firm (tender) is a central success factor during the whole elaboration process. For guarantee it is recommended that the content as well as the actual format (layout/design) will be developed externally. Consultancy agencies in the public participation and communication nexus are suitable (ideally with inclusion expertise or alternatively involve additional experts for this expertise). Backstopping by the FMB is recommended to ensure connectivity with the internal GIZ planning process and to make the tool known in different sectors. Attention should be paid to the possibility for selected OPD representatives (possibly via the sounding board) to provide feedback on the content and layout as needed. Emphasis must be placed on presenting the content of the tool in easy-to-understand language. Also screen reader software, etc. should be usable. In order to make the tool itself accessible, it is recommended to integrate the expertise of CBM as well as selected OPDs (e.g., including the national OPDs Interessensvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland e.V., and the German Disability Council (DBR)). An official support service available for public and private organisations of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (BMAS) is the Bundesfachstelle Barrierefreiheit (Federal Agency for Accessibility)², which advises public and private institutions on the development of accessible digital communication formats. During the whole process, care is taken to ensure that (internal/external) expertise on universal design of digital tools is involved.

Example 2: Disability Management Information System (DMIS) in Rwanda³

While Rwanda has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and is committed towards building an inclusive society, persons

with disabilities still face major inequalities. Exclusion of persons with disabilities from participating equally in society makes them invisible. CRPD calls on States Parties to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities. Although disability data is collected occasionally, through surveys at districts or sector level by NGO's, there is a gap of nation-wide reliable disaggregated data (see UN-CRPD 2019: Para. 57 – 60). For follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG), it is recognised that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress towards disability inclusion. Considering the complexity of the institutional landscape and the need for disability-specific knowledge, GIZ in Rwanda collaborates closely with one of the main change agents, the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD). This council represents the views of persons with disabilities and is a forum for advocacy and social mobilisation on issues affecting persons with disabilities to build their capacity and ensure participation in the national development. NCPD assists the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to implement programmes and policies that benefit persons with disabilities and strengthens the disability network in Rwanda. There is a strong commitment by NCPD to tackle the lack of disability data and they are currently developing – with accompanied technical support of GIZ – a DMIS, which will support NCPD and key stakeholders with evidence for inclusive based policies, increased accountability, improved service delivery and better coordination, ultimately to improve living conditions of persons with disabilities in Rwanda. Due to the COVID-19 crisis in Rwanda and worldwide, the elaboration process was at the beginning of this year negatively affected. Nevertheless, first concrete steps towards the design and development of a DMIS were already made during the last month and an agreement with the IT company is signed to develop the IT infrastructure before the end of this year 2021.

Problem Analysis: Lack of Systematic Data Collection on Disability

In Rwanda, the absence of disability data makes it difficult to effectively advocate for inclusion of persons with disabilities, actively target them and measure change. Currently identification and categorisation of persons with disabilities in Rwanda is incomplete and done through a medical model instead of the WHO advised bio-psycho-social

model whereby Washington Group (WG) questions are included similar to the national census. Persons with disabilities are a very heterogeneous group. Due to their different limitations and environment they live in, they have different needs and barriers to overcome in areas of health, education, livelihood/employment, social life, and empowerment, in line with Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR). Currently there is no data available in these areas, hence it is not possible to target individual support, offer case-management and monitor progress of planned activities. In Rwanda there are many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), NGOs, and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) that are licensed to provide disability services. Although good progress has been made towards disability inclusion there is lack of oversight of the different services provided by partners and therefore sometimes lack or duplication of disability services provided.

Inclusive and Participatory Approach

The design, development, and implementation of the DMIS is designed as an inclusive and participatory process. Therefore, the involved stakeholders (in collaboration with located GIZ development advisor) consult all relevant actors in the disability movement. Representatives of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), NGOs, FBOs, Development Partners (DP) and Government of Rwanda (GoR) institutions are asked to participate in Technical Working Groups (TWG) and Steering Committee (SC) to ensure a participatory approach. Collection of disability data has different purposes. It is not only useful for NCPD and other Governmental entities, also NGOs, FBOs, OPDs, and individual persons with disabilities will make use of this pooled information in DMIS. DMIS is designed as an innovative digital support tool, which consists of three key elements:

- I. Disability registry including identification of all persons with disability;
- II. Case-management for the most in need;
- III. Disability service directory with relevant information

I. Disability Registry Including Identification

An important step during the implementation of the DMIS project is the identification of as many as possible persons with disability. Consequently, in every village, persons with disabilities will be interviewed through a questionnaire developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Identification of persons with disabilities will be administered through a questionnaire where only relevant questions⁴ pop-up. Answers given

are linked with (SDG) indicators about demographics, socio-economic status, functional limitations, assistive devices, personal assistance, health care utilisation, barriers, wellbeing including specific needs and priorities of persons with disabilities and will be the base for on-demand dashboards and maps for M&E purposes. Besides general types of questions the questionnaire will make use of the Washington Group (WG) sets of questions. WG questions are broadly accepted as international standard for disability identification, which are in line with CRPD for identification of persons with disabilities, surveys, research, and the national census. WG questions can capture significant impairments that result in a disability. WG questions will focus on functions, such as walking, and listening are easy to administer for local staff. Categorisation and classification as required in the Ministerial Order will be automatically calculated within the DMIS environment including printing of a Disability ID-card. After the project phase in 2023, DMIS will continue through on-demand identification embedded in the GoR administrative structure.

II. Case Management

A case-manager – located as NCPD staff at district level – supports persons with disabilities through a case-management process, including several steps such as assessment, planning, referral and monitoring of different services. Case-management is available for those persons with disabilities who have specific needs and additional support assessed during the identification process of disability. This will be in general persons who have a severe type of disability. A case-manager will support, assist, and refer but will not take over the responsibilities of the individual person with disability. Together with a person with disability and/or family a case-manager will make an Individual Support Plan (ISP) including proposed actions.

III. Disability Service Directory

The Disability Service Directory provides instant information about all organisations including OPDs working with and for persons with disabilities throughout Rwanda. It's designed in a way to help persons with disabilities and their families to look

for specific disability services and have access to all sort of information related to disability. The directory utilises a disability inclusive chatbot, which supports persons with disability in an integrated web-based environment to have access to the information. In the directory also annual plans, reports and by-laws of the licensed service providers could be uploaded for reference. The service directory is a stand-alone module and will be developed independently from the registry and case management at a later stage.

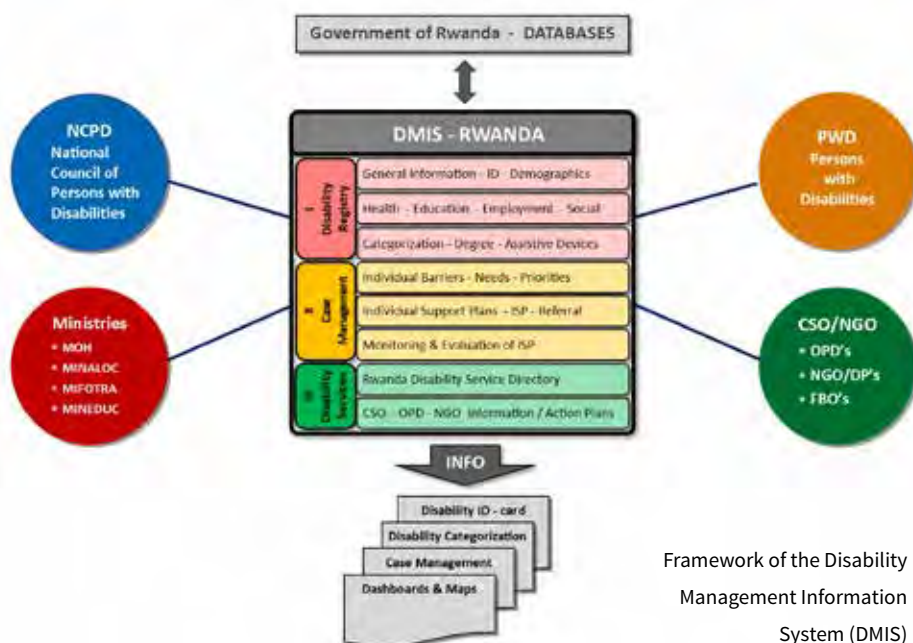
A Transformative

Character of the Approach

Within a politically institutionalised and technically feasible DMIS in the future, concerned representative bodies and individuals of the Rwandan society will be able to express their diversity of needs, challenges, barriers and priorities in disability-relevant areas of life. It will support NCPD and stakeholders in the disability sector to make coordinated and well planned, targeted and evidence-based support plans and advocate for change towards equal participation of persons with disabilities in their communities and a more inclusive Rwandan society.

Key Functions of DMIS

DMIS is a web-based database, which is linked with the National ID Agency (NIDA) database to have demographic information for disability ID cards. Through the DMIS questionnaire we will have the full overview. We will identify and register all persons with disabilities in Rwanda through this questionnaire. Further, DMIS considers universal standards of accessibility,



which leads to a database that is accessible anytime and anywhere by all groups of stakeholders (such as

NCPD staff, persons with disabilities, ministries, etc.) through a secure environment in line with the national personal data security law and with different levels of access for different users and through different devices. Based on this practice, the system creates conditions for comprehensive accessibility (in terms of technical and communicative barriers), in line with international recognised Web Accessibility Guidelines (both through Kinyarwanda and English languages), where persons with disabilities could check their own profile and search for disability information. Disability service providers are invited to share relevant information about their services and update plans and reports in line with the GoR requirements. Finally, DMIS creates an option of sending SMS and/or email notifications for M&E purposes linked with NCPD approved plans.

DMIS will transform data into information through easily accessible and diverse formats such as maps, charts, and dashboards for different purposes and for all relevant stakeholders.

The framework above shows clearly the most relevant benefits of the DMIS. The key stakeholders, which work in the area of disability inclusion or receive any disability related services benefit obviously from the implementation of a disaggregated data management at the national and sub-national level. Particularly, the system permits e.g., state bodies to win a clearer picture of those citizens, who did not receive any supporting measure oriented at their specific needs.

The DMIS Questionnaire: Practicable and Specific

The questionnaire is the heart of the DMIS. Persons with disabilities face many challenges in their daily life in Rwanda. It was clear to guarantee a context-specific data management would need a comprehensive set of questions to collect reliable and specific data. The DMIS questionnaire provides a complete picture of most important challenges for the target group based on a systemic identification and registration of all persons with disabilities in Rwanda. Therefore, the system envisages four groups of questions:

- A. Demographic information including background on health, education, and employment/livelihood
- B. Washington Group questions including specific age-group and children's questions.
- C. Assistive Devices - Personal Assistance - Cause of disability - Wellbeing - Environment
- D. Barriers, needs, and priorities based on CBR/CBID areas

Questions related to needs and priorities are important to organise individual (case-management)

support and to identify alternative solutions for the beneficiaries. These questions are linked with Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), which is one of the leading principles for disability inclusive development, equal opportunities, and social inclusion. Relevant questions within the CBR areas are about health, education, livelihood/employment, social life, and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

CBR is also called Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID). The CBR matrix is still relevant and the DMIS questionnaire makes use of the validated questions and indicators from the Rwanda CBR guidelines (See World Health Organisation 2015).

After the project phase in 2023, the DMIS will continue through on-demand identification and registry of persons with disabilities embedded in the GoR local administrative structure.

Conclusion

The two examples show pertinently how the bilateral development agency GIZ together with practical expertise from international NGOs (e.g., CBM Germany) and representatives of local OPDs elaborate concrete inclusive approaches and instruments for a more evidence-based and needs-orientated technical cooperation in partner countries. The examples prove the crucial role of collaboration, participatory and reciprocal learning between all relevant stakeholders in the field of inclusion. Taking international and national policies and standards into consideration, the current elaboration of a DMIS in Rwanda and the development of a toolbox for better participation of persons with disabilities (as a GIZ-wide iterative process) made it clear that an existing theoretical and legislative ground needs a practical response to be credible within the international community. In Rwanda the close collaboration between national government and independent OPDs contributes to rather accepted and committed DMIS and integrates all relevant perspectives and areas of information due to guarantee the disaggregation of disability-related data. Furthermore, assessing concrete requests from technical staff in the beginning helps to facilitate elaborate inclusive instruments, which finally should lead to more acceptance and utility in daily project management.

Notes

- 1 Participation means the active involvement of people with disabilities in decision-making and in the implementation measures that affect them, their living environment or society as a whole. The central guiding principle is: "Nothing about us without us" ("Nothing about us without us"). People with disabilities and

their representative organisations must be recognised as subjects and actors in their own development. Participation is more than just taking part - it includes co-determination, co-decision-making and co-design: People with disabilities must be able to participate with others, effectively and comprehensively in political and public life on an equal footing with others. This includes all areas of life, such as school, work, leisure time, sport, and culture (Art. 4 UNCRPD).

- 2 Find their homepage under: https://www.bundesfachstelle-barrierefreiheit.de/DE/Home/home_node.html
- 3 For further background information, please contact Fried Lammerink, Development Advisor, GIZ Rwanda (contact: fried.lammerink@giz.de).
- 4 The questions are relevant for certain age-groups, because the Washington Group has several sets of questions for children from 2-4 and 5-17 years old and specific questions for adults 18 and above. Other questions are related to certain limitations. (e.g., questions about individual difficulties regarding sensorial capacities, such as seeing and hearing impairments)

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Zusammenfassung

Die internationale Entwicklungszusammenarbeit steht vor großen Herausforderungen, wenn es darum geht, partizipative und befähigende Ansätze zu entwickeln, um den spezifischen Bedürfnissen von Menschen mit Behinderungen gerecht zu werden. Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), als Durchführungsorganisation der Bundesregierung, entwickelt derzeit Werkzeuge und Instrumente, um die Qualität der Inklusion im Projektmanagement und in der technischen Beratung in ihren Partnerländern zu verbessern. In diesem Artikel wird erörtert, wie die GIZ Erkenntnisse aus der Praxis konzeptionell aufgreift und in ein inklusives Projektmanagement umsetzt. Darüber hinaus wird dargestellt, wie wichtig es ist, unterschiedliche Perspektiven und Expertise beider Seiten - staatlicher und nichtstaatlicher Akteure - zu bündeln. Zwei vielversprechende Ansätze werden ausführlicher vorgestellt: Erstens die Entwicklung einer Toolbox zur Stärkung der Partizipation von Menschen mit Behinderungen und ihrer spezifischen Bedürfnisse im Rahmen des GIZ-Projektmanagements. Und zweitens das Disability Management Information System (DMIS) in Ruanda, um die Erhebung disaggregierter Daten zu verbessern und die Grundlage für ein zielgerichtetes und transparentes System für behinderungsbezogene Dienstleistungen zu schaffen.

Résumé

La coopération au développement internationale fait face à des défis importants lorsqu'il s'agit des approches élaborées de participation et d'autonomisation pour répondre aux besoins spécifiques des personnes handicapées. Cet article traite de la manière dont la GIZ conceptualise les conclusions des examens. Cet article traite de la conceptualisation des conclusions des examens et leur traduction en gestion inclusive de projets par la GIZ. En outre, l'article explique l'importance de regrouper les perspectives et l'expertise des deux parties - acteurs gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux. Deux approches prometteuses sont présentées plus en détail ci-après. Premièrement, l'élaboration d'une boîte à outils pour renforcer la participation des personnes handicapées et leurs besoins spécifiques dans le cadre de gestion de projets de la GIZ. Et deuxièmement, le Disability Management Information System (DMIS) au Rwanda qui a pour but d'améliorer la collecte de données désagrégées et de jeter les bases d'un système ciblé et transparent pour les services liés au handicap.

Resumen

La cooperación internacional para el desarrollo se enfrenta a importantes retos a la hora de elaborar enfoques participativos y de empoderamiento para abordar las necesidades específicas de las personas con discapacidad. El artículo analiza cómo la GIZ está conceptualizando los hallazgos del terreno y los traduce en una gestión de proyectos inclusiva. Además, el artículo expone la importancia de aunar las diferentes perspectivas y conocimientos de ambas partes -actores gubernamentales y no gubernamentales-. Se presentan con más detalle dos enfoques prometedores: En primer lugar, el desarrollo de una caja de herramientas para reforzar la participación de las personas con discapacidad y sus necesidades específicas en el contexto de la gestión de proyectos de la GIZ. Y en segundo lugar, el Sistema de Información sobre la Gestión de la Discapacidad (DMIS) en Ruanda para mejorar la recogida de datos desglosados y sentar las bases de un sistema específico y transparente para los servicios relacionados con la discapacidad.

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Response to COVID-19 – How Can Education for All Further Be Strengthened in Ethiopia?

Jana Zehle/Marieke Boersma

In this article, the authors put a glance on the situation for students after school closure due to COVID-19 in Ethiopia with regard to learning and well-being. Emphasis is put on children and youth with disabilities, coming from poor socio-economic background. It is clearly shown that measures undertaken by the Government cannot reach this vulnerable student group and they run risk to dropout from their further school education.

Preface

Schools all over the globe closed due to COVID-19 in order to contain the dissemination of the virus. Never before so many children and youth were not allowed to go to school at the same time. According to UNICEF (2021) the pandemic has affected the learning and well-being of 95% of school children across the globe. School closures negatively affect children and youth in their cognitive development, learning progress as well as their socio-emotional well-being. Beyond this, access to alternative learning opportunities outside the classroom is limited. Digital learning seems to be the solution, however not for people without access to internet, without even possessing a computer, tablet, or smartphone. People with disabilities are often excluded from retrieve information through the fore-mentioned tools due to sensory, physical, or cognitive constraints. Often these two predicaments apply on people with disabilities. There is a strong interrelation between disability and poverty. Rather the majority of people with disabilities live in poverty (UN 2019).

According to UNICEF (March 2021) an estimated 1/3 of students worldwide had no access to distance school education and consequently had to interrupt learning. Interruption might lead to dropout, and the longer the absence from school continues the more likely the dropout will be final. Moreover, the majority of these predicted dropouts affect the socio-economic poor part of the population, these are children and young people who often have to carry out labour work in order to contribute to the family income. In various declarations, education has been emphasised as an important strategy to break out of the poverty trap (Giovetti 2020). In line with this, remarkable increase in school enrolment has been reached within the last years in countries of the Global South focusing on those children and young people who were often denied access to school education in the past, e. g. poor children, children with disabilities and vulnerable children for other reasons. Apart from gaining skills, knowledge and advancing cognitive development, the importance of the school community for the socio-emotional

development of each child must not be underestimated. School community and social interaction among peers and with the teacher gives trust and security to each student: they can exchange and play with peers, and they can address their teacher if socio-emotional support is needed. Thereby, students' wellbeing and self-confidence are strengthened. Furthermore, with school closures and absence from school some children might run risk to experience abuse and domestic violence (UNICEF April 2021). Finally, school feeding programmes – often financially supported by external donors – offer at least one proper meal per day for many students. If this food supply is omitted due to school closure these children and youth suffer from little or mal-nutrition.

Having this general situation in mind, we focus on Ethiopia, a country on which the so far mentioned consequences of school closures due to COVID-19 are applicable. In the following, we target the situation in Ethiopia for vulnerable and poor students as well as students with disabilities from the beginning of the pandemic to the challenges for re-opening schools. Subsequently the presentation of a case study offers an insight in the effects the pandemic had on the younger deaf students in Bahir Dar.

Facts About Enrolment in Ethiopian Governmental Schools

As the Ministry of Education (MoE) (2020) states, from March 2020 onwards the Ethiopian Education System is highly challenged by COVID-19 leading to the entire school closure at all levels for at least seven months. How does the long school closure affect enrolment rates¹ in Ethiopia? The net enrolment ratio (NER)² 2019/20 for grades 1-8 is 95.3%, which shows an increment of 0.6 percentage points from last year. There is a wide regional variation, with Afar (44.9%) and Somali (72 %) having a much lower NER than other regions (MoE 2020: 25). The figures prove that Ethiopia has made tremendous efforts to increase school enrolment since the beginning of data collection. The Ethiopian Education and Training Policy from 1994 states: "The gross participation rate of primary education is below 22% of the relevant age cohort" (FDRGE 1994: 3). Increased enrolment still goes hand in hand with ongoing high dropout rates: "Dropout rates have decreased from last year nationally, and grade 1-8 dropout rates are now at 13.9%. Dropout is highest in grade 1, at 22%" (MoE 2020: 33). This latent challenge for the Ethiopian Education system might reinforce after re-opening schools.

Challenges for and Inequity in the Ethiopian Education System

As York, Rose, Tassew Woldehanna and Belay Hagos Hailu (2020) claim, strategies are needed to encourage all students to return to school with extra support provided for the most disadvantaged. The authors carried out phone surveys with 127 school principals and 316 teachers across seven diverse regional states and one city administration (Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromiya, SNNP, Somali and Tigray and Addis Ababa), in both rural and urban locations. They refer to existing contacts from previous research undertaken in these schools. Based on this phone survey, the authors conclude that students' dropout is likely to increase, in particular those who are at more risk, like students from low-income families, girls and rural students. Notwithstanding this concern, not all schools are prepared to support these students who are likely to drop out on returning to school. As Yorke et al. (2020) state, only 60 percent of school principals and 41 percent of teachers indicated that their schools were making preparations to support those who are likely to drop out on returning to school. Obviously, responsibility for these students is neglected and instead submitted to the students themselves and their families. The Concept Note for Education Sector COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan from 3rd April 2020, published by the Ministry of Education stresses the objective to ensure the continuity of general education in times of COVID-19. Although vulnerable and disadvantaged children are explicitly mentioned within this document, they cannot really benefit from the Governments' strategy. According to this ministerial note, continuity of education should be ensured through using various media including radio and television programmes as well as a mobile application (Telegram). However, in Ethiopia, the majority of households do not have these tools, they might have mobile phones but not the needed smartphones. Moreover, simply offering a learning programme is not sufficient, monitoring of the learning process is pivotal. In addition to this, Yorke et al. (2020) assume that in many cases parents do not follow up with activities of their children's lesson due to personal reason not willing to replace the teacher. Taking into account the limited access to devices as well as lack of parental monitoring, there seems to be a huge barrier for disadvantaged groups within the population, like pastoralists communities, families with very low income, students with non-literate families and students with disabilities. Considering the last group, students with disabilities, in another survey, posted by Dawit Tibebe Tiruneh, Singal, Sabates and Tirussew

[...] strategies are needed to encourage all students to return to school with extra support provided for the most disadvantaged.

Teferra (2021) summarise:

Children with disabilities were provided with inadequate formal learning opportunities, due to the absence of specialised learning materials and personnel.

- They lacked access to specialist services, such as physiotherapy or speech therapy, which would have been available at school - however there is a lack of access overall.
- Significant concerns were raised about these children's socio-emotional wellbeing, especially increased feelings of loneliness and anxiety.
- Their parents voiced considerable challenges in meeting the educational and emotional needs of their children, as well as continuing to engage with their livelihood activities.

Case Example: Students with Hearing Impairment in Bahir Dar

The authors emphasise that there is a need to acknowledge that children with disabilities, like all children, will need targeted support in re-engaging with learning, settling back into school routines and dealing with the significant impact on their socio-emotional wellbeing.

The following case example is the experience of one of the authors who lived in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Through her work she was in touch with the Deaf community during the COVID pandemic. The case example shows how deaf children in pre-school periods experienced the school lock down. In Bahir Dar, the capital of the Amhara Region in Ethiopia, three of the government schools have specialised classes for deaf children and one NGO (KAL Centre) that supports deaf education with a focus on the pre-school age. Many deaf children grow up with a limited possibility to communicate with their hearing family members. For most of them, the school with teachers communicating in sign language is the only place where they can express their

thoughts, questions, fears, happiness, and discoveries. The teachers act like an intermediate between the parents and the child and give support to the children to solve problems they face in their homes or the communities. For this group of children, the closure of the schools meant isolation from their language development and their ability to express themselves. Most of them had to resort to the use of home developed gestures that in many cases does not give room for the expression of feelings sufficiently. When one of the authors passed by a school which offers deaf education in town during the school closure period, there was always a large group of deaf teenagers hanging out at the closed school. They were independent to travel around by themselves and they needed to be together and have a place to communicate with others. For the younger children this was not an option.

For this group of children the closure of the school was not about lagging behind in their education. It had a large impact on their language development and on their socio-emotional well-being.



A group of deaf children and their teacher interacting in a classroom. (© Ephrem Taye, Light for the World)

Final Reflections

Summing up, thoughts and experiences presented in this article and in particular authentic insights offered by the case example prove that simply offering a learning programme is not sufficient, monitoring of the learning process is pivotal. In order to encourage students to stay or rather to return to school, their academic advancement as well as their socio-emotional development and well-being must be considered under a systemic perspective.

Notes

- 1 In this article we only consider enrolment rates in primary education (grade 1-8).
- 2 The Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) is a measure of student enrolment for those who are of the official age group for the given level of education, i.e., in Ethiopia context; it only looks at 7- to 14-year-olds that are enrolled in primary education. This indicator includes enrolment in Alternative Basic Education (ABE) centres as well as formal primary schools.
- 3 According to the Ethiopian way of quoting the first name is mentioned first, the second name (the father's name) plays a subsidiary role in addressing and communicating as well as in referring.

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Zusammenfassung

In diesem Artikel werfen die Autorinnen einen Blick auf die Situation von Schüler*innen nach der Schulschließung aufgrund von COVID-19 in Äthiopien in Bezug auf Lernen und Wohlbefinden. Der Schwerpunkt liegt dabei auf Kindern und Jugendlichen mit Behinderungen, die aus armen sozioökonomischen Verhältnissen stammen. Es zeigt sich deutlich, dass die von der Regierung ergriffenen Maßnahmen diese gefährdete Gruppe an Schüler*innen nicht erreichen können und sie infolgedessen Gefahr laufen, ihre weitere Schulbildung abbrechen.

Résumé

Cet article traite de la situation des élèves après la fermeture de l'école à cause de la COVID 19 en Éthiopie en ce qui concerne l'apprentissage et le bien-être. L'accent est mis sur les enfants et les jeunes handicapés issus de milieux socio-économiques défavorisés. Il est clairement démontré que les mesures adoptées par le gouvernement ne peuvent atteindre ce groupe vulnérable d'élèves et qu'ils risquent d'abandonner leurs études.

Resumen

En este artículo echamos un vistazo a la situación de los estudiantes tras el cierre de la escuela debido a la COVID 19 en Etiopía con respecto al aprendizaje y el bienestar. Se hace hincapié en los niños y jóvenes con discapacidad, procedentes de entornos socioeconómicos pobres. Se muestra claramente que las medidas adoptadas por el Gobierno no pueden llegar a este grupo de estudiantes vulnerables y corren el riesgo de abandonar su educación escolar.

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A New Landmark Resolution on Disability Adopted at the 74th World Health Assembly

A new landmark Resolution EB148.R6 The Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Persons with Disabilities was adopted by the 74th World Health Assembly. The resolution aims to make the health sector more inclusive by tackling the significant barriers many persons with disabilities face when they try to access health services.

Persons with disabilities (PWD) have a much more hampered access to effective health service, such as physical, informational, and attitudinal barriers, which severely affects the rights of persons with disabilities. Also, PWD are disproportionately affected by public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic because they have not been considered in national health emergency preparedness and response plans. Lastly, public health interventions do not reach persons with disabilities because the information has not been provided in an accessible way and the specific needs and situation of persons with disabilities have not been reflected in the interventions. On top of tackling the barriers, the resolution also aims to improve collection and disaggregation of reliable data on disability to inform health policies and programmes. The resolution lists a range of actions to be taken by the WHO Secretariat including developing a report on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities by the end of 2022, implementing the United Nations

disability inclusion strategy across all levels of the organisation, supporting the creation of a global research agenda on health and disability, and providing Member States with technical knowledge and capacity-building support necessary to incorporate a disability-inclusive approach in the health sector.

Information: <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2021-a-new-landmark-resolution-on-disability-adopted-at-the-74th-world-health-assembly>

Disability in Children and Adolescents Must Be Integrated into the Global Health Agenda

Childhood disability is not a priority in health systems. A recently published article in the BMJ by Alarcos Cieza and colleagues argues why this needs to change. Firstly, the number of children with disability is increasing. This means more children need health services to optimise their functioning. However, most health systems cannot deal with the current needs of children with disability, let alone meet the rising demand. Secondly, children with disability often need specific rehabilitation services related to their impairment or functioning limitations. Yet these interventions often do not exist, are underdeveloped or under-resourced. When available, services are often costly, not physically inclusive, or accessible only in urban areas. Lastly, access to care is a human right. Children with disability repeatedly face barriers to care causing suffering, hardship, and isolation. Without change, these

children will continue to be denied access to services by health providers. The authors demonstrated that because of these factors, disability urgently needs higher priority in child and adolescent health agendas. To move forward a shift of attitudes and the commitment of all relevant parties in the disability and health sectors are required, governments need to scale up service delivery with a strong focus on primary healthcare, rehabilitation services should be expanded to reach all children in need and countries must commit to prioritising children who are among the most disadvantaged in society. Follow the link to read the full article.

Information: <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-04-2021-disability-in-children-and-adolescents-must-be-integrated-into-the-global-health-agenda>

Persons with Disabilities Tell Their Stories

Over one billion people live with some form of disability and this number is growing as a result of population increase, ageing, and the increasing number of people living with noncommunicable diseases. Persons with disabilities experience significant barriers and are often excluded from accessing and receiving everyday healthcare services. This can be seen in three main areas: access to effective health services, protection during health emergencies and access to public health interventions across different sectors. Within this context, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and partners teamed up to develop a series of videos to raise awareness about the significant barriers that persons with disabilities

experience in accessing healthcare services and health information as well as highlighting the issues they encounter during a health emergency and humanitarian crisis. The videos feature persons with disabilities from India, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, and Lebanon and highlight the urgent need for a disability inclusive health sector. The videos can be accessed under the following link.

Information: <https://www.who.int/news/item/19-07-2021-persons-with-disabilities-tell-their-stories>

UK Government Cuts Funding for Neglected Tropical Diseases

The UK's foreign aid budget is being cut by £4 billion, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) has announced. The cut includes ending funding, apparently permanently, for the FCDO's flagship neglected tropical disease programmes. Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are a set of 20 diseases and disease groups that principally affect the poorest people in the poorest countries. They kill, blind, disfigure and maim, causing considerable and largely untold suffering to millions of people worldwide. Nearly all NTDs are preventable or treatable with relatively simple interventions. On 16th June 2021 the World Health Organisation (WHO) warned about the impact of the cuts, stating that no obvious alternative source of funding exists to fill the funding gaps left by this exit. The organisation Sightsavers had been working in this field and call in a joint statement upon the UK government to return to their leadership position as soon as possible and pointed out that NTDs need to be prioritised in future global health plans – only through prioritisation and demonstrable leadership will the world be able to eliminate these diseases and build on the momentum that has been achieved previously.

Information: <https://www.sightsavers.org/news/2021/06/uk-government-cuts-funding-for-neglected-tropical-diseases/>

Trachoma is Eliminated in The Gambia

The Gambia has become the second country in Sub-Saharan Africa to eliminate trachoma, ensuring that millions of people will no longer have their sight threatened by this potentially blinding disease. In April 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed the elimination of the public health problem. The disease has already been eliminated in Ghana, as validated by WHO in June 2018. Trachoma, part of a group of conditions known as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. Trachoma was eliminated in The Gambia thanks to partnership between the Ministry of Health and the National Eye Health Programme, as well as local communities, the World Health Organisation, Sightsavers, UNICEF, the Medical Research Unit for The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the International Trachoma Initiative. Together, the partners delivered the WHO-endorsed SAFE strategy (surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, and environmental improvements) to prevent the spread of the infection and lead to elimination. The success story of The Gambia shows that it is possible that trachoma can be eliminated worldwide.

Information: <https://www.sightsavers.org/news/2021/04/trachoma-is-eliminated-in-the-gambia/>

Position Statement on Educational Rights for Deaf Learners During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

In April 2021, the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) has released a position statement on Educational Rights for Deaf Learners During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its effect on access to education has significantly impacted deaf learners. Around the world, deaf children and youth lack access to quality bilingual education in national sign languages, and parents of deaf children lack support for learning sign languages. The WFD calls on all governments to ensure deaf children and youth receive equitable access to information and education in national sign languages during and after the pandemic, including the access to instruction by sign language-proficient teachers and the provision of visual learning materials. Also, parents of deaf children must receive support for sign language learning, including remote learning where available, to support family communication and children's language development. The full position statement can be accessed online and is also available in International Sign Language.

Information: <http://wfdeaf.org/news/position-statement-educational-rights-for-deaf-learners-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond/>

IDA-IDDC Statement Following G7 Declaration on Girls' Education: Recovering from COVID-19 and Unlocking Agenda 2030

IDDC's Inclusive Education Task Group and International Disability Alliance (IDA) have developed a statement around global efforts to push forward the agenda of girls' education, more specifically the focus on inclusion and the need to prioritise marginalised girls such as girls with disabilities. At the G7 summit on 11th to 13th June in the UK, leaders endorsed the G7 Foreign and Development Ministers Declaration on Girls' Education: Recovering from COVID-19 and Unlocking Agenda 2030. The statement welcomes global efforts to kick start an international drive towards disability-inclusive quality education and sets out recommendations for strong commitments that governments and international development actors should make in relation to the inclusion of all children with disabilities in education. The goal is to push the momentum for inclusive education and the focus on girls' education through to the Global Disability Summit in 2022. Follow the link to read the IDDC and IDA's statement.

Information: <https://www.iddcconsortium.net/blog/ida-iddc-statement-following-g7-declaration-on-girls-education-recovering-from-covid-19-and-unlocking-agenda-2030/>

Social Protection in Africa: A New Path Towards Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

On 30th and 31st March 2021, the European project Bridging the Gap II in partnership with the UNPRPD/ILO/UNICEF inclusive social protection programme, the International Disability Alliance and the African Disability Forum organised a policy dialogue conference on inclusive social protection in Africa involving

the main continental public players. Structured in a technical seminar and a policy conference, the session aimed to trigger and reinforce the policy dialogue on inclusive social protection in Africa based on interesting practices across the continent to enhance coordination, cooperation, and commitment for inclusion in line with the provisions of the UN CRPD and the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The specific objectives were to share good practices and experiences on inclusive social protection in Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Sudan, and other African countries, to reflect on the challenges and opportunities deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic, to propose new solutions and commitments for inclusion, also with the involvement of OPDs and the international donor community, and to propose a path for future action and related accountability mechanisms.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/social-protection-africa-conference>

Disability Inclusive Social Protection: In-Depth Workshop for Uganda DPOs

From 20th to 22nd April 2021, the African Disability Forum (ADF), National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU), the Uganda National Association of Cerebral Palsy (UNAC) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA), in partnership with the Disability Rights Fund (DRF/DRAF) and the Centre for Inclusive Policy (CIP), hosted a 3-day workshop in Uganda. The aim of the workshop was to bring together a diverse group of OPDs to build a common understanding of what disability-inclusive social protection means for persons with disabilities and to learn more about national initiatives and

advocacy around this issue. The workshop facilitated building the capacity of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to advocate for social protection for persons with disabilities with the aim to promote their full and effective participation in society.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/social-protection-Uganda>

Innovative Approaches to Employer Training through Inclusive Futures

On World Creativity and Innovation Day on 21st April 2021, Inclusion International were highlighting how their members are testing innovative new approaches to employer engagement through the Inclusive Futures programme. Inclusive Futures is a UK Aid funded programme that aims to use innovative approaches to support inclusion for people with disabilities across health, education, employment, and other themes. The work of Inclusion International and their members as partners in Inclusive Futures focuses on inclusive employment for people with intellectual disabilities. Through this programme, Inclusion Uganda, Down Syndrome Foundation Nigeria, Down Syndrome Society Bangladesh, and SEID Bangladesh have been testing out innovative strategies for speaking to employers about workplace inclusion. Delivered through a mix of virtual and in-person sessions, self-advocate leaders have been hosting training workshops for employers to give employers the tools they need to make workplaces more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities. Employers in Uganda, Nigeria, and Bangladesh have heard directly from self-advocates about the barriers they face to accessing formal sector employment and got

clear direction from self-advocates. It is mentioned that self-advocates felt that the opportunity to speak to employers directly was impactful, and that it helped the employers to get a better understanding of what they can contribute to an inclusive workplace.

Information: <https://inclusion-international.org/innovative-employment/>

The Costs of Exclusion: Economic Justice for Women and Girls with Disabilities

On 30th March 2021, during the first edition of the Generation Equality Forum, Mexico chapter, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) held a special session with the aim to raise priorities of women with disabilities, reflecting on access to decent and safe work and employment, disability inclusive social protection and the impact of COVID-19 and the opportunity it presented to reimagine what inclusive access really means. The special session was perceived as an important event during the Generation Equality Forum as it was the only event focused on the intersectionality of gender and disability and brought together a diverse group of stakeholders – including state representative, self-advocates, and members of the CRPD Committee - and to propose a set of recommendations to governments and international cooperation stakeholders. A brief report was put together and can be accessed online.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/cost-of-exclusion>

Minen-Räumung wird immer schwieriger und gefährlicher

Anlässlich des Internationalen Tages der Aufklärung über die Minengefahr am 4. April 2021 wies die Hilfsorganisation Handicap International (HI) auf die Risiken und die hohe Verseuchung durch Landminen, explosive Kriegsreste, Sprengfallen und improvisierte Minen hin. Diese bedrohen vor allem in Wohngebieten das Leben der Zivilbevölkerung und machen die Rückkehr zu einem normalen sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Leben unmöglich. Die Räumung wird immer komplizierter und langwieriger, erklärt HI und fordert außerdem, dass die Gefahrenaufklärung der Bevölkerung dringend ausgeweitet werden muss. Laut dem aktuellen Landminen Monitor sind 80% der Opfer Zivilisten*innen – darunter 43% Kinder. Nach jahrelangen Konflikten sind insbesondere viele Gebiete in Syrien, Jemen, Irak oder Libyen mit einer Vielzahl von explosiven Kriegsresten übersät, darunter Blindgänger aus Bomben und Munition, Sprengfallen sowie improvisierte Minen.

Information: <https://handicap-international.de/de/neuigkeiten/aufklaerung-ueber-minengefahr>

Joint Submission on Promoting and Protecting the Human Rights of Women and Girls in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations

The International Disability Alliance initiated a joint submission to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325. The submission was jointly prepared by Humanity & Inclusion, Human Rights Watch, International Disability Alliance, Women Enabled International and the Women's

Refugee Commission. It sets out information and recommendations on promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict situations. Women and girls with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by armed conflicts and yet remain underreported and excluded from peace and security processes. Women and girls with disabilities account for nearly one-fifth of all women and girls worldwide and face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination based on their gender, as well as their disability. Sustainable peace, recovery and inclusive humanitarian action requires the full, equal, and meaningful participation of diverse women, including women and girls with disabilities. The joint submission calls for the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to request member states, the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as other stakeholders to ensure that monitoring and reporting on the experiences of women and girls in conflicts includes the specific experiences of women and girls with disabilities, and ensure their meaningful participation in conflict prevention, response, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/hr-women-girls-ida-ohchr>

Mehr Unterstützung für geflüchtete Menschen mit Behinderung

Expert*innen und Selbstvertreter*innen diskutierten am 9. Juni 2021 mit Vertretenden einiger Bundestagsfraktionen über die vielfältigen Probleme und Herausforderungen geflüchteter Menschen mit Behinderung in Deutschland. Ziel der fachpolitischen Tagung *Inklusion: eine*

Frage des Aufenthaltstitels? Geflüchtete Menschen mit Behinderung zwischen Asyl- und Teilhaberecht war nicht nur der Austausch über die zahlreichen Barrieren und über den Bedarf an Unterstützung, sondern auch die Debatte über konkrete Forderungen für die politische Agenda der Bundestagswahl 2021. Organisiert wurde die Online-Tagung mit über 400 Teilnehmenden aus dem ganzen Bundesgebiet vom *Handicap International* (HI) Projekt *Crossroads | Flucht. Migration. Behinderung*. Zu den Herausforderungen, denen geflüchtete Menschen mit Behinderung tagtäglich in Deutschland gegenüberstehen, gehören laut HI eine fehlende systematische Identifizierung des Unterstützungsbedarfs bei der Erstaufnahme, zu wenig Berücksichtigung von behinderungsspezifischer Unterstützung im Asylverfahren, ein nicht vorhandenes Angebot von Sprachkursen für Menschen mit einer kognitiven Beeinträchtigung, der erschwerte Zugang zu Teilhabeleistungen und eine nicht garantierte Finanzierung von Dolmetschleistungen

Information: <https://handicap-international.de/de/neuigkeiten/fachtagung-inklusion>

Online Discussion Ten Years After the World Report on Disability

On 15th June 2021, the International Centre for Evidence in Disability held an online discussion to look back to the World Report on Disability published by the World Health Organisation and the World Bank in June 2011. The report was the first document to review the global picture on the lives of people with disabilities. It highlighted barriers to health, rehabilitation, environments, education, and employment, experienced by people with disabilities.

Now, 10 years on, the International Centre for Evidence in Disability wanted to discuss how much has happened ever since and if the World Report on Disability made a difference. The online discussion *World Report on Disability: 10 years on* included the editors of the report and disability advocates. It was recorded and can be watched afterwards (including subtitles). When you follow the link, you can click on the small black button next to the photo on the right side to watch the session.

Information: <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/newsevents/events/world-report-disability-10-years>

Improving the Well-Being of People with Disabilities

The 14th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was held between 15th and 17th June both virtually and in-person at the UN headquarters in New York. The conference gave room to discuss what major barriers and challenges still prevent people with disabilities (PWD) from enjoying the right to enjoy independent lives and being included in their communities and how these barriers can be removed. In order to try and address these issues, representatives of civil society organisations and UN agencies, dedicated to promoting the rights of people with disabilities, participated in a roundtable discussion. The importance of independent living for people with disabilities and how to make communities more accessible were discussed. The roundtable called for greater attention to creating accessible environments, and eliminating barriers, discrimination, and prejudice in all its forms to reduce the daily challenges that affect the ability of people with disabilities to enjoy these rights and freedoms.

Furthermore, those actions are necessary as to prevent people with disabilities from becoming further isolated, marginalised or at risk of institutionalisation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information: <http://www.riglobal.org/improving-the-well-being-of-people-with-disabilities/>

National Disability Policy Announced by President of Zimbabwe

The launch of the National Disability Policy (NDP) by President Mnangagwa has been hailed as a historic development in addressing the rights and welfare of persons living with disabilities. The president launched the NDP jointly with the Labour Migration Policy at the Harare International Conference Centre. Senate representative for people living with disabilities, Senator Rejoice Timire, welcomed the launch of the policy and thanked President Mnangagwa for prioritising their welfare. She said there had been a vacuum on how to effectively address disability issues since 1980 and that the policy therefore comes at the right time as the country moves towards the Vision 2030. She hopes this will result in the inclusion of people living with disabilities in all programmes and activities towards attainment of Vision 2030, which was declared in 2018 under the motto Towards a Prosperous and Empowered Upper Middle Income Society by 2030. Senator Timire said it was now up to all Zimbabweans to ensure that the provisions of the policy were implemented.

Information: <https://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2021/06/12/national-disability-policy-announced-by-president-of-zimbabwe/>

South Africa: Process to Make Sign Language 12th Official Language Begins

Sport, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa proclaimed during his response to parliamentary questions that the long-awaited process to amend the constitution so that Sign Language can be included as the 12th official South African language has finally got under way. He said the Department of Justice and Correctional Services had already taken the necessary steps to kick-start the constitutional amendment process. The deaf community were included in the working sessions and gave input to the draft 19th Constitutional Amendment Bill. According to Mthethwa, the department plans to conduct further consultative meetings with all relevant structures of the deaf community as users of the South African Sign Language to understand their specific needs, which will inform the draft implementation plan to give effect to Section 6 of the Constitution when it is amended.

Information: <https://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2021/05/26/south-africa-process-to-make-sign-language-12th-official-language-begins/>

Technical Workshop on Ensuring the Rights of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities - Kenya, June 2021

From 21st to 23rd June, the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN), the Narok South Disability Network and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) were hosting the Workshop on Ensuring the Rights of Indigenous Persons with Disabilities. The workshop was taking place in Nairobi, Kenya, and was attended by representatives of organisations of indigenous persons

with disabilities (IDPOs) from different counties and different constituencies, including indigenous persons with psychosocial disabilities, albinism, persons with small stature and deaf people. During the three-days' workshop, participants were getting exposure to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Furthermore, they were reviewing the commitments made during the Global Disability Summit (GDS) and its implementation to the indigenous peoples in Kenya. The main goals of this workshop were to strengthen the capacity of the indigenous with disabilities group in Kenya on the CRPD, UNDRIP and SDGs as well as to understand how the COVID-19 crisis have affected indigenous peoples with disability and their representative organisations.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/technical-workshop-kenya-june2021>

Persons with Disabilities and Climate Action: How Can We Be More Inclusive?

On 29th April 2021, the International Disability Alliance, the European Disability Forum, the Pacific Disability Forum, Stakeholders Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development, United Nations High Commission for Refugees and International Displacement Monitoring Centre co-hosted an event in the framework of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) 2021 to discuss the relationship between disability and climate change. As the first one in the history of HNPW, the event focused on the urgent need to build

bridges between disability rights, environmental and climate justice movements to ensure that no one is left behind in the context of unpredictable weather patterns (i.e., drought, hurricanes, storms). The event was attended by more than 65 individuals including humanitarian actors, climate activists, disability inclusion experts and academics. The main topics of discussion were the impact of the climate crisis on persons with disabilities including displacement, the relationship between enhancing disability inclusion and accessibility and combatting climate crisis and the measures that are taken to enhance disability inclusion in response to climate crisis including from the intersectionality perspective. The discussion was recorded and can be re-watched online.

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/hnpw-2021>

World Health Organisation
Towards Zero Leprosy. Global Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Strategy 2021–2030

Leprosy is classified by the World Health Organisation as one of twenty neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Often related to poor socio-economic conditions, it affects the skin and peripheral nerves and, if untreated, can progress to permanent impairments to the skin, nerves, face, hands, and feet, and hence, to disabilities and social exclusion. The Global Leprosy Strategy 2021–2030 Towards Zero Leprosy was developed through a broad consultative process with all major stakeholders during 2019 and 2020. Valuable inputs were provided by national leprosy programme managers, technical agencies, public health and leprosy experts, funding agencies and persons or members of communities directly affected by leprosy. The strategy aims to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It is structured along four pillars, which are to implement integrated, country-owned zero leprosy road maps in all endemic countries, to scale up leprosy prevention alongside integrated active case detection, to manage leprosy and its complications and prevent new disability, and to combat stigma and ensure human rights are respected. Interruption of transmission and elimination of disease are at the core of the strategy.

Bezug: <https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789290228509>

International Disability and Development Consortium
Adjust and Respond – The Experience of Organisations Working with People with Disabilities in Adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic

This report from the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) has one central purpose: To provide guidance to support United Nations (UN) agencies and government structures to ensure disability inclusion and abide by the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) even in challenging and disruptive contexts such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The report draws lessons from analysing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related emergency measures implemented by authorities to curb its spread on civil society organisations, with a particular focus on projects and programmes and the continuation of service provision for people with disabilities run by IDDC members and its partners in the Global South. Supported by the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNPRPD) through its global programme on COVID-19 inclusive response and recovery, the report records IDDC members' experiences of how they adapted and are still adapting to challenges posed by the pandemic. The report shows that while the COVID-19 pandemic tested Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in a huge variety of ways, it has shone a clear and harsh light on the realities of discrimination and human rights abuses that people with disabilities experience on a daily basis across the globe.

Bezug: https://www.iddcconsortium.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IDDC-Adjust-and-Respond_web.pdf

Leonard Cheshire
Crisis Talks: Raising the Global Voice of Youth with Disabilities on the COVID-19 Pandemic

The report was put together by five youth-led organisations across Africa and Asia, namely from India, Indonesia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Zambia, with a mission to improve the lives of youth with disabilities in their countries. More than a year after the World Health Organisation declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, they have been driven by a determination to understand how the pandemic has been experienced by the millions of youth with disabilities, like them, in their countries. Through this research project, the organisations sought to get youth with disabilities talking about the COVID-19 pandemic. The views of youth with disabilities are too often side-lined, but the organisations defend the opinion that in times of crisis we need to hear from marginalised groups more than ever. The findings of this youth-led research have shown that youth with disabilities have faced additional stigma and discrimination during this current time of crisis. The five organisations sum up that urgent action is required to ensure that youth with disabilities are consulted and included in public emergency planning, health response and recovery efforts, that they are seen as actors who can contribute to the rebuilding of societies.

Bezug: <https://www.leonardcheshire.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/Crisis-talks-report.pdf>

*Islay Mactaggart/Sally Baker/
Luke Bambery et al.*

Water, Women and Disability: Using Mixed-Methods to Support Inclusive WASH Programme Design in Vanuatu

Adequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) is imperative for health and wellbeing, yet people with disabilities, people with incontinence and people who menstruate often experience unmet WASH requirements. In 2019 the authors completed a mixed-methods study in two provinces of Vanuatu. The study comprised a population-based disability survey, a nested case-control study to explore associations between WASH, disability and gender, and an in-depth qualitative assessment of the experiences of WASH users with additional requirements: people with and without disabilities who menstruate, or experience incontinence. 11,446 households were enrolled into the survey. People with disabilities were statistically more likely to experience barriers in seven of eight intra-household indicators. WASH-related stigma, reliance on informal caregivers, and under-resourcing of WASH personnel were critical issues for people who menstruate or experience incontinence. People with disabilities, people with incontinence and people who menstruate in Northern Vanuatu face continued challenges in accessing safe, affordable, and appropriate WASH that meets their requirements. Outputs from this study have supported progression towards gender and disability-inclusive WASH programming in the area and highlighted the value of mixed-methods research.

Bezug: <https://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/4661157/1/PIIS2666606521000183-13.pdf>

Human Rights Watch **Years Don't Wait for Them: Increased Inequality in Children's Right to Education Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the education of an estimated 90 percent of the world's school aged children. This report is based on over 470 interviews with students, parents, and teachers in 60 countries between April 2020 and April 2021. It documents how COVID-related school closures did not affect all children equally, as governments failed to provide all children with the opportunity, tools, or access needed to keep learning during the pandemic. Students from groups already facing discrimination and exclusion from education even before the pandemic, e.g. students with disabilities, were disproportionately adversely affected. Governments' long-term failures to remedy discrimination and inequalities in their education systems, and often to ensure basic government services meant schools entered the pandemic ill-prepared to deliver remote education to all students equally. Children from low-income families were more likely to be excluded from online learning because they did not have reliable electricity or sufficient access to the internet or devices. Historically under-resourced schools particularly struggled to reach their students. Education should be at the core of all governments' recovery plans: governments should address both the impact of the pandemic on children's education and pre-existing problems.

Bezug: https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2021/05/global_covideducation0521_web.pdf

UNESCO **Education Sector Analysis Methodological Guidelines. Vol. 3: Thematic Analyses**

This volume is the third in a series of Education Sector Analysis

(ESA) guidelines following two volumes published in 2014. The series provides methodologies and applied examples for diagnosing education systems and informing national education policies and plans. This volume proposes guidelines to strengthen national capacities in analysing education systems in four areas: inclusive education system for children with disabilities, risk analysis for resilient education systems, functioning and effectiveness of the educational administration, and stakeholder mapping and problem-driven analysis (governance and political economy). The present volume was prepared by experts from various backgrounds (including education, economics, sociology, political science and other social sciences) from UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning, UNICEF, the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the Global Partnership for Education.

Bezug: <http://www.iiep.unesco.org/en/publication/education-sector-analysis-methodological-guidelines-vol-3-thematic-analyses>

International Disability Alliance **Our Right to Education: A Compilation of Evidence Gathered by OPDs on Progress Towards SDG 4 and CRPD Article 24**

In the framework of the IDA Inclusive Education Flagship Initiative, the IDA Inclusive Education Task Team decided to produce a compilation report of OPD-led evidence around CRPD Article 24 (Education) and SDG4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all). This compilation report looks at the enabling mechanisms and/or key barriers that impede the right to inclusive education for learners with disabilities. It outlines key challenges and gaps in implementation of SDG 4 and Article 24 of the

CRPD and identifies common trends across countries and regions. The objective is to understand what OPDs are highlighting as major challenges facing the implementation of inclusive education in their countries, and their priorities in this area. As such, this compilation supports the implementation of the second phase of the IE Flagship Initiative, which aims at disseminating, enriching, and consolidating the OPD-led, evidence-based consensus perspective on how to achieve SDG 4 in line with the CRPD and its Article 24, enshrined in the 2020 IDA Inclusive Education Global Report.

Bezug: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/sdg4_crpd24_compilation_april_2021_final.pdf

UNICEF

Our Opinion Matters: Perspective of Children and Adolescents on Discrimination and the Barriers to Inclusive Education

Recognising the multiple obstacles to inclusive education in Latin America identified through various studies, an innovative process of participatory research was developed, which collects and analyses qualitative information from the perspective of children and adolescents with and without disabilities and their families. The study allows a look inside schools and classrooms through the eyes of those who participate and learn in them – children and adolescents with and without disability. It seeks to be an advocacy tool and provide technical support at the regional and national levels to inform the design of programmes and policies about inclusive education, based on an analysis from the expertise of the participating organisations (Fundación Saraki de Paraguay, Sociedad Peruana de Síndrome de Down y ASDOWN Colombia) and the team of Catalyst for Inclusive Education of

Inclusion International.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/lac/media/23096/file/Our_opinion_matters.pdf

Nicola Deghaye

Disability Support & Accessibility in Mainstream Schools in South Africa

Increased access to education among children with disabilities is key to reducing economic inequality, by disability status, later in life. Increasingly, in many parts of the world including South Africa, inclusive education has been accepted as the means to provide increased educational access for all. Monitoring of progress in inclusive education tends to focus on measuring enrolment of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. There is little systematic collection of appropriate data on the availability of disability support structures and provision of services to learners with disabilities, who are enrolled in mainstream schools in South Africa. This hinders accountability for policy implementation in South Africa and makes budgeting for inclusive education difficult. This study provides new evidence on disability support, accessibility of schools and learning environments, and adequacy of teacher training in inclusive education in South Africa, using multivariate analysis of the School Monitoring Survey 2017, and a follow-up qualitative study.

Bezug: https://resep.sun.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Disability-support_Resep_May2021_final.pdf

*Brent C. Elder/Mbuh Payne/
Benson Oswago*

The Community-Based Actions That Removed Barriers to Inclusive Education in Kenya

This article represents a culmination of inclusive education projects implemented in Western Kenya since 2010. The authors discuss the 2018

iteration of this on-going community-based participatory research (CB-PR)-informed project in which they utilised multiple theoretical frameworks. They conducted qualitative interviews as a way to learn about the ways in which inclusion committees facilitated the partial removal of barriers to the development of an inclusive education system in the region over the last decade. In this article, an overview of the barriers to inclusive education in the Global South and Sub-Saharan Africa is provided, with a particular focus on Western Kenya. It presents findings that highlight the various inclusion committee actions that contributed to the partial removal of barriers which included sensitising communities about inclusive education, promoting access to inclusive education, and implementing inclusive strategies like income generating activities (IGAs) and co-teaching. The article concludes by suggesting potential ways forward for inclusive education in Kenya including a multi-sector approach for family supports, providing government incentives to inclusive schools, and promoting IGAs and co-teaching practices in teacher education programmes and in schools.

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/dgs_08_02_01-1.pdf

Yuchen Wang

Teachers Did Not Let Me Do It: Disabled Children's Experiences of Marginalisation in Regular Primary Schools in China

The large-scale mainstreaming of disabled children in education in China was initiated with the launching of a national policy called Learning in Regular Classrooms in the late 1980s. More than thirty years on, and little is known about disabled children's daily experiences in regular schools due to a lack of research that foregrounds their voices. This paper reports the

main findings from an ethnographic study conducted in 4 state funded primary schools in Shanghai. Data were collected through participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and child-friendly participatory activities, and thematically analysed to identify patterns in practices and beliefs that underpin the processes of inclusion and exclusion. The research found that the child participants were facing marginalisation in many aspects of school life with rather limited participation in decision-making. The exclusionary processes were reinforced by a prevailing special educational thinking and practice, a charitable approach to the disadvantaged in a Confucian society, and an extremely competitive and performative schooling culture. The findings address the need to hear disabled children's voices to initiate a paradigm shift in understanding and practice to counterbalance deep-rooted barriers. The paper concludes with suggestions for future research.

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/dgs_08_02_03.pdf

*UN Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the
Pacific (ESCAP)*

How to Design Disability-Inclusive Social Protection

This is the fifth in a series of policy guides developed to support policy-makers and practitioners in Asia and the Pacific in their efforts to strengthen social protection. This policy guide explains why social protection is important for persons with disabilities and introduces key concepts and schemes that are necessary for disability-inclusive social protection.

Bezug: https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/knowledge-products/Social_Protection_module_5_E.pdf

World Health Organisation **A Report on the Social Protection. Response to COVID-19 for Persons with Disabilities, South Asian Region**

The World Report on Hearing (WRH) has been developed in response to the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA70.13), adopted in 2017 as a means of providing guidance for Member States to integrate ear and hearing care into their national health plans. Based on the best available evidence, this report presents epidemiological and financial data on hearing loss, outlines available cost-effective solutions, and sets the way forward through Integrated People-Centred Ear and Hearing Care (IPC-EHC). The report proposes a set of key interventions that must be delivered through a strengthened health system to realise the vision of IPC-EHC. The WRH was developed in collaboration with experts and stakeholders in the field of ear and hearing care who informed the report's strategic direction and ensured that it reflects a range of cultural contexts and approaches to hearing care. The report is global in its reach while keeping a special focus on low- and middle-income countries, where the number of people with hearing loss is not matched by the availability of services and resources.

Bezug: <http://ps3fq9ntvh3qpknt1381p2m8.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/World-Hearing-Report-WHO.pdf>

*Heidi Ullmann/Bernardo
Atuesta, Mónica Rubio García/
Simone Cecchini*

Non-Contributory Cash Transfers: An Instrument to Promote the Rights and Well-Being of Children with Disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean

This study establishes a sociodemographic profile of children with

disabilities, the majority of whom are living in poverty, and analyses non-contributory cash transfer programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean that cover or prioritise families with children or adolescents with disabilities. These programmes may be the gateway to the establishment of full inclusion routes for children and adolescents with disabilities and their families, both in the social and the labour sphere. While the region has seen an increase in the number of cash transfer programmes that cater to or prioritise families with children or adolescents with disabilities, there is a need for comprehensive action to ensure accessible services, strengthen selection tools as well as recipient registries and disability certification processes, and establish cash transfer amounts that cover all costs associated with childhood disability.

Bezug: https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/46747/1/S2100040_en.pdf

*Refilwe E. Morwane/Shakila
Dada/Juan Bornman*

Barriers to and Facilitators of Employment of Persons with Disabilities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review

Unemployment rates for persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are high. This is despite the call to action by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Sustainable Development Goals aimed at improving the economic well-being of the marginalised. This study explores barriers to and facilitators of employment for persons with disabilities in LMICs through a scoping review. Factors that hinder and facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in LMICs were mainly found in the environment, with personal factors also influencing participation. The presence of negative attitudes and lack of services mainly

in health and transport were major factors within the environment whilst personal factors included the lack of educational qualifications and skills. These results indicate the importance of consideration of contextual factors when developing intervention strategies aimed at facilitating the employment of persons with disabilities in LMICs.

Bezug: <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/833/1583>

*Stevens Bechange/Emma Jolley/
Ben Gascoyne et al.*

Livelihood Outcomes in a Cohort of Youth with Disabilities Following Participation in an Economic Empowerment Programme in Rural Uganda

This paper reports changes in employability and livelihood outcomes among a cohort of youths with disabilities who participated in an economic empowerment programme in rural Uganda. The data suggest that a targeted package of interventions comprising vocational skills training, apprenticeships scheme and a start-up financial package can bring some positive livelihood outcomes for young people with disabilities in rural African settings.

However, further evaluations are needed to assess the effect of the interventions in the longer term. There is also a critical need for studies with more rigorous designs, including larger sample sizes and control groups. Studies that integrate cost-effectiveness (or cost-benefit) analyses are of critical importance, in order to assess opportunities for the scale-up of similar interventions.

Bezug: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1936657421000108?via%3Dihub>

Fatima Arroyo-Arroyo **Connecting the Dots: People, Jobs, and Social Services in Urban Ghana**

Major Ghanaian cities are at a critical point that will determine whether they become an engine of or a burden on the country's development. Ghana's urban areas contribute to more than two-thirds of the country's gross national product, and cities will continue to grow rapidly. However, if nothing is done to change the current trends, the cost of congestion and externalities will outweigh any productivity benefits the cities can deliver. The study aims to assess the constraints to accessing jobs and social services in Ghanaian cities, especially those faced by women, low-income groups, people with disabilities, and children, and proposes a path to transform urban mobility and public transport. The report focuses on two intermediary cities—Kumasi and Tamale—as well as on the Greater Accra region. It includes a comprehensive analysis of mobility and accessibility issues and recommends a programmatic phased approach to address these issues. Finally, in the context of COVID-19, the report analyses not only major challenges for the urban transport sector, but also opportunities to rethink the role of urban mobility for more inclusive and sustainable growth.

Bezug: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/35719/9781464816765.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>

Lena Morgon Banks/Shaffa Hameed/Ola Abu Alghaib et al.

It Is Too Much for Us: Direct and Indirect Costs of Disability Amongst Working-Aged People with Disabilities in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Nairobi, Kenya

Globally, people with disabilities face a heightened risk of poverty. Drivers of poverty include exclusion from work and other livelihood activities

(indirect costs) and disability-related direct costs – such as for rehabilitation, or personal assistance – that are required for participation and functioning. This research explores sources of direct and indirect costs, their impact and mitigation strategies using 42 in-depth interviews with working-aged people with disabilities in Nairobi, Kenya and Dhaka, Bangladesh. This research finds that people with disabilities and their households face high direct costs, such as for health-care, assistive devices, transportation and accommodations at school and work, and indirect costs, such as un- and underemployment and lower salaries when working. Many direct costs were unmet or covered through out-of-pocket spending. Unmet direct costs frequently led to higher future indirect costs. Direct and indirect costs could cause financial strain, decreased participation, health, and wellbeing, particularly when unaddressed. Challenges mitigating costs included not just insufficient income, but also lack of decision-making power within the household and insufficient information on and poor availability of needed goods, services, and opportunities – factors which should be considered in the design of interventions.

Bezug: https://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/4660369/15/Banks_etal_2021_It-is-too-much-for.pdf

World Bank **Inclusive Resilience: Inclusion Matters for Resilience in South Asia**

South Asia is identified as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate-induced consequences, such as increased poverty, agricultural prices, spread of disease and child mortality. Social exclusion exacerbates these impacts, as vulnerable populations are often poor and disproportionately exposed to hazards while often lacking access to information and resources to adequately respond to and recover from

disasters. The socially excluded or marginalised include women, persons with disabilities (PWD), ethnic and religious minorities, the indigenous, the elderly, and the poor. Yet, it is important to note that marginalised groups are not only victims of disasters, but they also have unique abilities to contribute to the resilience of their communities. The report acknowledges that although most South Asian countries have put in place several disaster risk management (DRM) policies, programmes, and plans that commit to promoting social inclusion, a gap persists between these policy instruments and the actions on the ground. Throughout the entire DRM cycle measures must be both designed and implemented to reflect the needs, capabilities, and voices of socially excluded groups. The World Bank points out that only after these gaps between de jure policies and de facto actions are addressed will it be possible to ensure the resilience of all people in South Asia to withstand climate- and disaster-related impacts in the future.

Bezug: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/219851614941632074/pdf/Inclusive-Resilience-Inclusion-Matters-for-Resilience-in-South-Asia.pdf>

*Julian Eaton/Aleisha Carroll/
Nathaniel Scherer et al.*

Accountability for the Rights of People with Psychosocial Disabilities: An Assessment of Country Reports for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been identified as a milestone in human rights protection, offering people with psychosocial disabilities the opportunity to hold their governments accountable for the realisation of their rights. To facilitate such accountability, the country reports produced under the CRPD reporting process should adequately reflect these persons'

experiences and relevant positive or negative developments in the country. The study used content analysis to review the extent and quality of reporting related to mental health and psychosocial disabilities in 19 country reports. The criteria used were based on provisions of the CRPD and on priorities identified by a steering committee of people with psychosocial disabilities. The authors found a wide variation in the quantity and quality of states' reporting, with an indication that this variation relates to countries' economic development. Increasing the participation of representative organisations of people with psychosocial disabilities is needed for state parties to fulfil their reporting obligations. While there has been progress in improving organisations of persons with disabilities capacity to be heard at the global level, the findings suggest low levels of participation in CRPD processes at the national level in many countries. State parties must actively include these groups to ensure implementation of the CRPD principles.

Bezug: <https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2469/2021/06/Dryer.pdf>

UNICEF

Combatting the Costs of Exclusion for Children with Disabilities and Their Families

Compared with other children, those with disabilities are less likely to receive an education, less likely to be employed as adults, more likely to be victims of violence, less likely to start their own families and participate in community events, and more likely to live in poverty. The exclusion of children with disabilities affects not only them but imposes costs on the whole community. If these children lack the opportunity to be productive, society loses out on what they could have produced. The barriers faced by people with disabilities can also create more

responsibilities for their family members, which can limit their opportunities to work or get an education. Moreover, the impact of exclusion extends beyond the economic cost. If people with disabilities are absent from public discourse, the community cannot benefit from their ideas. If they are excluded from political participation, the government cannot truly represent the interests of all citizens. A growing body of research suggests that the costs of exclusion are high. Fortunately, evidence also demonstrates that there are effective ways to ameliorate these costs. A strong case can be made for the social and economic benefits of inclusion. This paper is an effort to begin making that case.

Bezug: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/combating-costs-exclusion>

Sightsavers

Disability-Related Stigma and Discrimination in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia: A Systematic Literature Review

This systematic literature review was undertaken to understand the extent, quality, and findings of published and unpublished literature on interventions designed to tackle disability-related stigma and discrimination in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The primary focus of this review was to identify studies that describe the effectiveness of interventions. The secondary set of objectives focused on understanding the individual, interpersonal, organisational, community and public policy factors that are associated with stigma and discrimination. The review sought to identify the various ways in which stigma and discrimination have been reported to manifest, the extent and range of their outcomes on the lives of people affected, and how they may intersect with other individual characteristics and types of stigma. Finally, it sought to identify toolkits and good practice guidelines for

addressing stigma and discrimination, as well as validated tolls and metrics for measuring them.

Bezug: <https://research.sightsavers.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/05/Sightsavers-systematic-review-into-stigma-and-disability-FINAL-1.pdf>

Naomi Likumbo/Tania de Villiers/Una Kyriacos
Malawian Mothers' Experiences of Raising Children Living with Albinism: A Qualitative Descriptive Study

Approximately 7000–10 000 Malawians of all ages are affected by albinism. Children with these features face extreme forms of human rights abuses, even death. This study aims to describe Malawian mothers' experiences, perceptions and understanding of raising children with albinism (CWA). It was conducted in 2018 using a qualitative descriptive design. Emerging themes confirmed the existence of myths and stereotypes regarding albinism but from the mothers' perspectives. Mothers reported some experiences of emotional pain, initially, but also love and acceptance of their children, despite adverse reactions of others, their experiences of stigmatisation of their children and themselves, and of intended harm to their children, and their own lack of knowledge and understanding of albinism. The study highlights the need for educational programmes on albinism at national level, particularly for families with a CWA, health professionals and educators.

Bezug: <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/693/1537>

Inclusion International
A Global Agenda for Inclusive Recovery: Ensuring People with Intellectual Disabilities and Families are Included in a Post-COVID World

During the pandemic, Inclusive International's network has been united

in calls for a more inclusive response to COVID-19. This report draws from the experiences and the advocacy of their members around the world and links the priorities to create a single agenda for real change after COVID-19. The agenda explains what actions governments should take to better support people with intellectual disabilities and their families. The report includes insights into Inclusion International's global agenda for COVID-19 recovery, recommendations for governments on building back better, the link between the global agenda for recovery with the work of their allies in the disability movement and strategies for mobilising around an inclusive COVID recovery.

Bezug: <https://inclusion-international.org/a-global-agenda-post-covid/>

Maria Kett/Jessie Meaney-Davis
Disability Inclusion in Climate Change Programming in the Middle East

This document provides guidance on how to incorporate disability inclusion within climate change programming in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs), Syria, Turkey, and Yemen. It is intended to inform the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) climate change programming in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. For everyone else, it offers a compact overview over the situation for people with disabilities in the named countries, the connection of disability and climate change, broad principles for incorporating disability inclusion into climate change programming and some key recommendations.

Bezug: <https://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/2181/disability-inclusion-helpdesk-query-no-56-climate-change-and-disability-in-middle-east.pdf>

Sophie Mitra/Wei Chen/Justine Hervé et al.

Invisible or Mainstream? Disability in Surveys and Censuses in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

This paper examines to what extent household surveys and censuses in low- and middle-income countries include disability questions and the types of questions under use. A pool of 734 data sets and 1,297 data set-years from 133 low- and middle-income countries from 2009 to 2018 were screened for disability questions. Only 31 percent of the data sets under review had at least one disability-related question and 15 percent of the datasets of low- and middle-income countries have functional difficulty questions that meet international standards. The most commonly found disability question is the general question "Do you have a disability?" which does not produce meaningful and internationally comparable data. The adoption of functional difficulty questions in national censuses and surveys and in international surveys is needed to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Bezug: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35448>

Fleur H. Boot/Callista Kahonde/John Dinsmore/Malcolm MacLachlan

Perspectives on Access and Usage of Assistive Technology by People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Western Cape Province of South Africa: Where to From Here?

Whilst assistive technology (AT) can play an important role to improve quality of life, health inequity regarding access to appropriate AT for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) is still very much present especially

in low resource countries. This study focused on exploring factors that influence access to and continued use of AT by people with ID in the Western Cape province of South Africa and to suggest potential implications of these findings and actions required to promote access to AT. People with ID within the study setting faced many challenges when trying to access AT and for those who managed to acquire AT, its continued usage was influenced by both personal characteristics of the user and environmental factors. Important factors that influence AT access and use for people with ID found in this study were attitudes from the community, knowledge, and awareness to identify AT need and AT training and instructions to support the user and care network. With the perspectives of both the providers and users of AT, this study identified priority factors, which could be addressed to improve AT access and use for people with ID in the Western Cape province.

Bezug: <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/767/1518>

Xuan Thuy Nguyen/Deborah Stienstra

Engaging Girls and Women with Disabilities in the Global South: Beyond Cultural and Geopolitical Generalisations

The article invites readers to engage with girls and women with disabilities in the Global South. It challenges the epistemological domination of Western disability studies in Southern bodies and contexts and provides one specific way to read the intersection between disability, gender, and ethnicity in the context of Vietnam. Drawing on the politics of engagement developed within the Transforming Disability Knowledge, Research, and Activism project, the authors argue for recognising the lingering impacts of colonialism and imperialism in producing disability and impairment in the South, while suggesting new ways of engaging with disabled girls and women through the

use of inclusive, decolonial, and participatory methods.

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/dgs_08_02_02.pdf

Giovanni Fiore

People With Special Needs (PWSN) Inclusion in Settlements in Humanitarian Action

This is not just one resource, but a collection of eight resources from different authors under the broad theme of people with special needs and their situation in humanitarian action. The collection includes a case study, a good practice, guidelines, a presentation, and a report on the inclusion of People with Special Needs (PWSN) in settlements in humanitarian action. Current guidance comes from leading organisations: Age and Disability Consortium, CCCM Cluster, CBM International, European Commission, Global Shelter Cluster, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Bezug: <https://www.humanitarianlibrary.org/collection/people-special-needs-pwsn-inclusion-settlements-humanitarian-action>

IOM Iraq

Persons with Disabilities and Their Representative Organisations in Iraq: Barriers, Challenges and Priorities

Iraq has one of the largest populations of persons with disabilities in the world. Despite this, there has been little consultation among persons with disabilities and their representative groups by government and humanitarian and development agencies. The document aims to improve the understanding of the barriers experienced by persons with disabilities, including the key challenges and priorities of their representative organisations, in order to inform humanitarian and development programming. The report is based on interviews conducted with

81 representatives of 53 Organisations of persons with disabilities across 18 governorates in Iraq.

Bezug: <https://iraq.iom.int/files/publications/OPDs%20report%20English.pdf>

John Gilroya/Margaretha Uttjek/Lavonna Lovern/John Ward

Disability and Indigeneity: Intersectionality of Identity from the Experience of Indigenous People at a Global Level

The authors of this paper have protested, fought, written extensively and represent the broader theoretical foundations of indigenous and disability research by focusing on their standpoint perspectives informed by their ancestral spirits and knowledge. Based on their knowledge, cultures, and advocacy skills, this paper collectively explores and compares the intersections of indigeneity and disability as an embodied identity in four countries: USA, Canada, Sweden, and Australia. This is accomplished by beginning with a brief synopsis of colonisation to provide context and then examine the consequences of Western assimilation practices, including academic support of the Western status quo. The paper then turns to the impact of both colonisation and academic constructs on indigenous epistemologies and ideas of self in disability dialogues. Finally, the paper focuses on indigenous concepts of difference to not only advance Western disability discussions, but also as a way for Western dialogue to overcome its predilection to hierarchical binaries.

Bezug: <https://asksource.info/topics/livelihoods/inclusive-futures-disability-confident-employers-toolkit>

11.11. – 12.11.2021

6th World Disability & Rehabilitation Conference 2021, Virtual Event

Information: <https://disabilityconference.co/>

Kontakt: WDRC

14th World Down Syndrome Congress Dubai 2021, Virtual Event

Information: <https://wdsc2020.org.ae/>

Kontakt: Emirates Down Syndrome Association, E-Mail: edsa@edsa.ae

Global Disability Summit Oslo 2022, Virtual Event

Information: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/gds-2022>

Kontakt: International Disability Alliance, E-Mail: summit@ida-secretariat.org

35. Jahrestagung der Inklusionsforscher*innen (IFO 2022), Online-Tagung

Information: <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/ifo2022/>

Kontakt: ifo2022@uibk.ac.at

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